



# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



**Struggle-La-Lucha.org**  
Vol. 5, No. 16 • August 29, 2022  
Suggested donation: \$1  
**Socialist Unity Party**  
**Partido de Socialismo Unido**  
Twitter: @StruggleLaLucha  
Facebook.com/strugglelalucha  
email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

# Largest arms transfer in history

## Biden escalates U.S. proxy war in Ukraine

By Gary Wilson

While announcing a minimal \$10,000 student debt relief plan, Biden announced another \$3 billion additional military expansion in Ukraine.

Earlier this month, when Senators Elizabeth Warren and Chuck Schumer said the debt relief plan should cancel \$50,000 per student borrower, most student borrowers found that to be inadequate.

The \$3 billion weapons package is the largest yet for Ukraine, according to Defense One, the Atlantic Media trade publication for the military-industrial complex. It will push total U.S. aid well past the annual budgets of at least eight federal programs, including the entire judicial branch.

Since most of the Pentagon budget and military spending is handled secretly, there have probably been larger weapons packages that were not announced or reported.

The announcement came just five days after a previous statement unveiled a \$775 million package of advanced missiles, armored vehicles, drones and artillery. The package includes additional HIMARS, the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, and Howitzers.

No mention is made in any of these announcements that the massive U.S. military spending has been one of the factors in the serious and, for some, devastating inflation rise this year.

The U.S. has been escalating its NATO proxy war against Russia, not just with the largest arms buildup in U.S. history but with covert and special forces operations such as the assassination in Moscow of Russian journalist Darya Dugina. The assassination had the earmarks of a special forces operation, like the drone assassination of an alleged al-Qaeda leader in Kabul, Afghanistan, that Biden announced on August 1.

Dugina and her father, Alexander Dugin, have been elevated from the fringes in the U.S. media. Neither are big capitalists with the power that would bring nor in any position of political power; they are an easy target. Dugin is known for his outspoken far-right Russian nationalism, a view that is not popular in Russia and is not espoused by any in the government, including Putin.

The assassination was most likely a test, a show by the imperialists that they could strike in the heart of Moscow.



Baltimore activists protest the racist criminalization of squeegee workers on Aug. 10.

Russian authorities have identified the killer of Darya Dugina as Natalya Vovk. Vovk is associated with the Azov battalion Nazis of Ukraine. The Azov battalion received training by the U.S. CIA.

Vovk escaped to Estonia, a NATO member state. Any action to seek her extradition puts Russia in a direct conflict against NATO, even more directly than the U.S. proxy war in Ukraine has.

### Amounts 'never seen before'

According to Defense One, the \$3 billion package Biden announced on August 24 would be the largest single chunk of the total of \$13.7 billion the United States has announced since February. Moreover, it will contain ammunition in amounts "we've never seen before."

As noted, the Defense One figures are limited to the officially announced military packages. But Congress approved a more than \$50 billion "Ukraine aid" package in May, which the Washington Post said was 60% military funds, which means the other 40% was probably for transportation and other support operations for the armaments. The \$13.7 billion figure cited by Defense One

is just a fraction of the total U.S. military spending on the Ukraine war.

Still, the \$13.7 billion package is more than the annual budget of some federal programs, Defense One admits, such as the National Science Foundation (\$9.2 billion) and the Small Business Administration (\$1.7 billion), according to Statista. It is larger than the annual budgets of the federal judiciary (\$9.7 billion), Congress (\$6.6 billion), or the Executive Office of the President (\$0.6 billion). It is creeping up on the budgets of the Environmental Protection Agency (\$15.9 billion), if not NASA (\$24.9 billion).

A timeline of all publicly disclosed major weapons shipments or funding packages going back to Feb. 24 was compiled by the think tank Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

This list only contains publicly announced information. The Pentagon admitted on August 11 to sending at least one type of missile that had not been previously mentioned in their press releases, so this list is not exhaustive.

To view the breakdown, see the online version of this article at [tinyurl.com/2pdvb9jn](https://tinyurl.com/2pdvb9jn).



**Eyewitness: Ukraine and Russia 8**



"Petal" mines  
**Donetsk besieged 9**

**Marxist analysis of inflation 7**

**U.S. crisis & threat of world war 6**

**U.S. war drive & Griner's release 2**

**Trans rights and socialism 4**



**Immigrants and reproductive freedom 4**

**U.S.'s Taiwan provocation 10**

**Washington tortures Afghanistan 11**

**Global warming = capitalist \$\$\$ 11**



**ALBERT WOODFOX PRESENTE!**

- ▶ **FBI: Hands off APSP and everyone targeted by bogus indictments! 3**
- ▶ **Reparations NOW! 3**
- ▶ **Sacramento: Solidarity with prisoners and formerly incarcerated people 5**

# Why does Washington prefer war drive over negotiating Brittany Griner's release?

By Gloria Verdieu  
and Melinda Butterfield

On Aug. 4, a Russian court convicted Brittney Griner of drug smuggling and possession and sentenced her to nine years in jail. She was arrested in February for carrying cannabis vaping cartridges through the Moscow airport.

Griner, an African American athlete, played during the off-season in Russia. Many WNBA stars take similar international gigs due to unequal pay compared to their male counterparts.

NPR reports: "The Olympian and [W]NBA champion says she must have put the cannabis in her bag by mistake. Her defense team notes that Griner has a medical marijuana card in Arizona to help her cope with injuries sustained over years of competition. But personal cannabis possession is illegal under any circumstances in Russia, similar to U.S. federal law."

Brittney Griner should be free. Instead, she has the misfortune of being one of the few diplomatic cards Russia holds at a time when U.S. imperialism is waging a global war against that country. Currently, it takes the form of a proxy war in Ukraine and economic sanctions. But like the recent U.S. provocations against the People's Republic of China, it threatens to spill over into a world war.

A socialist government, or even a progressive bourgeois-nationalist one, would understand the value of releasing Brittney as a gesture of goodwill to the Black community in

the U.S. Unfortunately, that is not the Putin government's orientation.

But the movement and community here need to know that there are nongovernmental organizations in Russia that oppose the U.S./NATO proxy war in Ukraine and support the cause of the Donbass republics, which have been working for Griner's release.

Among these groups is the Foundation to Battle Injustice headed by Mira Terada, an unjustly convicted Russian citizen kidnapped by the U.S., who spent two-and-a-half years in U.S. prisons. It was Terada who proposed the prisoner swap idea that the Biden regime is now taking credit for.

On Aug. 5, Russia Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia is ready to discuss a prisoner swap for Griner, "within the framework of the channel that has been agreed by the presidents. There is a specified channel that has been agreed upon by [Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Joe Biden], and no matter what anyone says publicly, this channel will remain in effect," Lavrov explained at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit.

Biden & Co. ignored Brittney Griner's plight for months, refusing to negotiate with the Russian authorities in good faith while they were busy setting up the war crisis in Ukraine and vicious sanctions on Russia. Griner's case might never have reached the point of a trial or conviction had Washington acted differently.



Brittney Griner during Game Two of the 2021 WNBA Finals.

It must be pointed out that many thousands of Black and Brown people have languished in U.S. prisons for years, even decades, for possession of marijuana and other recreational drugs. In 2020 Forbes reported, "An estimated 40,000 people today are incarcerated for marijuana offenses even as the overall legal cannabis industry is booming."

The best way we can support Brittney is to demand that the White House make serious concessions to gain her release and allow her to return home – including ending the multi-billion-dollar weapons shipments fueling Ukraine's war on Donbass that began more than eight years ago.

On the same day Griner was convicted, U.S./NATO-supplied long

range weapons were used to target a funeral in the capital of Donetsk, killing at least 8 people, including a 12-year-old girl. U.S.-supplied weapons have also recently been used to scatter anti – personnel mines across the city streets, killing and wounding civilians.

The people's movement in this country must fight to stop the brutal U.S.-NATO-Ukraine war that is killing people daily and end the sanctions and military threats against Russia's people. The billions of dollars being spent on the U.S. proxy war are dollars stolen from the Black community and other poor and working-class people here at home.

Tell Joe Biden: Free Brittney Griner! And stop the U.S. war on Russia and Donbass! [📢](#)

## Support squeegee workers: Self-defense against racism is not murder

By Lev Koufax

On August 2, a Baltimore City grand jury issued an eight-charge indictment, including first-degree murder, against a 15-year-old squeegee worker accused of killing a white motorist in downtown Baltimore. The shooting occurred after a 48-year-old white man, Timothy Reynolds, parked his car and approached a group of squeegee workers, most of whom were teenage Black men. Mr. Reynolds swung his bat at the group of teenagers, after which one of the workers shot him in self-defense.

From the moment the shot was fired, local media, politicians and police painted this young worker as a murderer. Baltimore City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby followed up this fervor by taking a first-degree murder charge to the grand jury. For now, this move ensures that the squeegee worker will be prosecuted as an adult, even though he was only 14 at the time of the alleged incident.

The prosecution of this young Black worker is another step in a long line of attempts by the local corrupt Democratic Party and its busi-



ness allies to criminalize Blackness and push the Black community out of commercial areas in the city. The Democratic nominee for Baltimore state's attorney, Ivan Bates, announced a plan to "clear the corners" of squeegee workers. At the core of Bates' plan would be lifting the restriction on individual officers that currently prevents them from citing or arresting squeegee workers without consulting a supervisor first.

Essentially, Bates' plan is to harass and intimidate these majority-young, majority-Black workers out of their jobs, using the city's brutal and racist police force to accomplish this task. In the recent

Democratic primary election, Bates defeated two-term incumbent Marilyn Mosby. Mosby is known for her decision to prosecute the cops who murdered Freddy Gray and to cease prosecutions of drug users and sex workers. Her successor brings a more traditional right-wing "law and order" pedigree to the office. Bates was elected with significant support from local restaurant owners and police unions.

Whether it is Marilyn Mosby or Ivan Bates, this squeegee worker will be prosecuted for a murder he did not commit. Whoever fired at Timothy Reynolds that day did so in self-defense after being charged by a white man nearly three times their age swinging a baseball bat.

In this city and this country, the police can murder with impunity and rarely face accountability. Their murders are called protecting and serving. Young white killers and rapists like Kyle Rittenhouse and Brock Turner walk away from their horrific crimes relatively unscathed. If a Black 14-year-old defends himself, that's called murder and they're

threatened with life in prison.

For some perspective, George Zimmerman, the Florida racist who followed and murdered 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in cold blood, was never indicted on charges of first-degree murder. A grown man can hunt and murder a Black teenager, but a Black teenager can't defend themselves and their friends against a grown racist swinging a bat. That's the real American justice system.

The real criminals are the people roaming the streets wearing badges and their fascist allies, not Black teenagers trying to help feed their siblings. End the criminalization of Black life! Down with racist police terror! We need a government that fights for the people, not restaurateurs and investment banks! [📢](#)



# We remain in solidarity: Hands off African People's Socialist Party & all those targeted by bogus FBI indictments!

**O**n July 29, the FBI violently raided the African People's Socialist Party's Uhuru House in St. Petersburg, Florida, and their Uhuru Solidarity Center in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as the private residence of APSP Chairman Omali Yeshitela using flash-bang grenades and then handcuffing him and his partner in their home.

Chairman Omali is 80 years old, and this unjustified intrusion was amplified by the violence of the FBI. He was never accused of possessing weapons or participating in violent actions to justify this terror against his family.

His supposed crime? Helping to disseminate "Russian propaganda," working with an alleged agent of Russia and taking his direction — not to plant bombs or pass on state secrets mind you — but simply for purportedly having the same opinion and giving a platform to words that counter the U.S. narrative about its wars.

Flimsy excuses like these were used by the FBI in orchestrating the violent slaughter of members of the Black Panther Party, some while they slept like Chairman Fred Hampton in Chicago. And more new evidence recently came out about the culpability of the FBI in the assassination of Malcolm X.

In fact, the history of this country is littered with false accusations, sabotage, and assassinations of Black political organizations. When J. Edgar Hoover led the FBI, his racism-inspired hatred of the civil rights movement and Black people in general, justified with his crusade against anyone he deemed a communist, is well documented.

As progressive organizations dedicated to building social justice in this country, we must especially be in complete solidarity with the Black victims of this latest attack against yet another Black organization by the FBI and reject the use of this newest anti-communism. Despite Russia now being a capitalist country, this Cold War propaganda from the Soviet era utilizes the same big lies and vilifications as an attempted club against solidarity.

These lies attempt to hide the hypocrisy of a government that uses the National Endowment for Democracy, USAID and others to sponsor to

sponsor regime change worldwide and encourage many to instigate violence against popular movements. In addition, the alleged Russian agent, Alexander Ionov, who is not accused of fomenting violence, is targeted for simply supporting the efforts of those who oppose U.S. imperialist policies abroad.

In response to the charges, he wrote: "Stop looking for enemies everywhere. No one threatens democracy in your country except those people who infringe on women's reproductive rights, create unbearable conditions for migrants, and also oppress people on racial grounds! You are now supplying weapons to Ukraine and other countries. You are interfering in the internal affairs of other countries. I have been and will be a friend of many Americans. If you see me as your enemy, then this is your right, but it is not on the side of justice!"

The U.S. capitalist class, which had hoped the trillions spent on war would solve its economic contradictions and growing political isolation — is now desperate to cover itself, threatening anyone mentioning its naked oppressiveness with arrest.

Instead of protecting the public against terrorist white supremacist groupings, the FBI is trying to stifle dissent to hide the fact that the U.S. is using the war in Ukraine to expand NATO and as a proxy war against Russia and China, recklessly flirting with World War III.

In demanding allegiance to its narrative, Facebook was pressured by the U.S. government into giving the reins of monitoring and censoring of posts over to the pro-NATO Atlantic Council. The Atlantic Council's board of directors includes former CIA Directors Michael Morell and Leon Panetta and former Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism and Homeland Security Frances Townsend. In a letter explaining the purpose of this and the recent hijackings of other social media, including TikTok, Twitter and Reddit, by U.S. intelligence agencies, Facebook explains, in summary, that it is to ensure that the narratives presented on social media correspond with U.S. foreign policy goals.

These "goals" are to distract us from the highest inflation rate in 40 years; the crumbling of

vital infrastructure; the lack of a functioning health care system; the rise in homelessness and the desperation of working and poor people in this country.

This must be a wake-up call to all our organizations and activists fighting for a better world. We must not let them isolate any of us and pick us off one by one. In this historical period, our most important task is to unite and fight the power of reaction. Today, the U.S. government's support for fascist movements abroad and their refusal to stop white supremacist terror here is a march toward fascism. And, as far away as it may seem for some today — as history informs us — that ideology and its accompanying terror could turn the desperation of workers into a tool used against themselves.

Not only is it urgent that we stand in solidarity with the APSP but also with all those affected by these FBI raids, which hope to use this attack to test and extend their political persecution more generally across our entire working class. In fact, although the FBI seemed to reserve their greatest violence against the APSP, other non-Black organizations have been indicted with the same ridiculous charges.

We remain in solidarity with the APSP and others targeted by the FBI and reject this new version of McCarthyism and racist terror.

FBI and the U.S. government, stop your racist targeting of Black organizations!

We the undersigned have the right to fight against the U.S. war, for liberation, and for social and economic justice!

**Socialist Unity Party**  
**Black Alliance for Peace**  
**Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater L.A.**  
**Partido Nacional de La Raza Unida**  
**Puerto Rican Alliance**  
**Harvard Boulevard Block Club**  
**Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice,**  
**Peoples Power Assembly**  
**Unemployed Workers Union**  
**Youth Against War & Racism**  
**Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha**  
**Prisoners Solidarity Committee**  
**Unemployed Workers Union**  
**Struggle-La Lucha newspaper**

## Brooklyn, N.Y.: Resistance and reparations!

By Stephen Millies

"When will we be paid for the work we've done?" That great song by the Staple Singers roared out in Restoration Plaza in Brooklyn, New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant community on Aug. 17.

"Resistance and Reparations" were the watchwords of the rally organized there by the December 12th Movement.

It was the 20th anniversary of the first U.S. National Reparations Rally in 2002 held in Washington, D.C. And the 135th anniversary of the birth of the Honorable Marcus Garvey.

D12 Chairperson Viola Plummer chaired the event that drew 150 people. D12 is demanding President Biden make a \$50 billion down-payment on reparations to meet the emergency medical crisis in the Black community.

For example, in New York City's zip code 11369 — the Black and Latinx neighborhood in East Elmhurst, Queens, where Malcolm X lived with

his family — one out of 114 residents have died of COVID-19. That's almost triple the U.S. average.

A series of militant speakers supported these demands. New York City Councilperson Charles Barron attacked capitalism and called for a socialist revolution.

Barron described how New York City was a center of slavery. In 1741, 34 people were executed for an alleged conspiracy of enslaved Africans. Thirteen of them were burned at the stake.

Last year, when he was a New York State assemblyperson, Barron sponsored a law establishing the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies. It passed in the assembly by a vote of 107 to 43.

What's unique about this bill is that the commission will have more representation from the Black community than from government-appointed officials.

But this necessary legislation is being held up in the state senate.

Fighting to get it passed is State



Omowale Clay, Viola Plummer, Pam Africa, Zayid Muhammad and members of December 12 Movement after rally at Brooklyn's Restoration Plaza, Aug. 17.

Senator Jabari Brisport, who spoke and declared himself to be a socialist.

City Councilperson Chi Ossé and Assemblyperson Phara Souffrant Forrest demanded reparations and justice.

Chi Ossé is a Black Lives Matter activist who is the youngest member of the city council. Phara Souffrant Forrest is a nurse and tenant activist

fighting to get more funds for health care and mental health in the state budget.

**Free political prisoners!**

Besides recorded music from the Staple Singers and Peter Tosh, an ensemble played with musicians

*Continued on page 7*

# Struggle for trans rights and socialism go hand in hand

Based on remarks at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13.

By Melinda Butterfield

On Aug. 12, the state of Florida announced new guidelines to end all gender-affirming care for trans adults and children who receive Medicaid. This will result in the forcible detransition of thousands of the most vulnerable, especially Black, Brown and Indigenous people. It will result in more deaths among a community that suffers astronomical rates of suicide when denied gender-affirming care.

It also means that private insurance companies are likely to begin denying gender-affirming care since the state rules give them a perfect excuse to do so. And that's clearly what's intended.

Gov. Rick DeSantis couldn't get a trans ban through the state legislature, so this was enacted by the Department of Health through the recommendation of a hand-picked group of anti-trans doctors. This follows the example of Texas, where earlier this year Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton unilaterally enacted criminal investigations of parents, teachers and health care workers who support trans children on charges of "child abuse."

While there are ongoing legal cases in these and other states, the political coup d'état by the U.S. Supreme Court in June makes clear that these kinds of abuses of power will ultimately be legally upheld, as will anti-trans legislation — unless the

working class intervenes to turn the situation around.

The combined attacks at the state and national level have unleashed an unprecedented wave of trans panic across the U.S. this year. The most serious escalation came during Pride month, when there were daily attacks aimed at trans people and the LGBTQ2S community generally, some spontaneous but many organized by the fascist right, often with police support.

Hundreds of incidents have been recorded in both so-called "blue" and "red" states, from coast to coast, north and south, but there has been almost no media coverage beyond the local level.

The demonization of trans people is merely the first wave of a fascist-inspired, ruling-class-supported campaign that will next target the broader queer community, women, and all workers and oppressed people. The ultra-right Supreme Court majority has already outlined its plans to eliminate constitutional protections for same-sex marriage, contraception, and protection from so-called "sodomy" laws that are still on the books in many states.

## Divide and rule from above

The speed with which the attack on trans people has escalated this year is truly frightening. From state bills in several Republican-ruled states, which often went down in defeat; to governor-imposed mandates; to



Protest against state ban on trans girls' participation in school sports at the state capitol in Salt Lake City. Laws like Utah's HB11 have been used as the starting point for broad attacks on trans people's rights.

fascist violence on the streets and in other public spaces; to the same anti-trans arguments and lies flooding the columns and airwaves of so-called liberal media outlets like the New York Times and megacorporations like Netflix and Starbucks; to the complete silence and inaction of the federal government — it's clear a large and growing section of the ruling class has enthusiastically embraced this particular course of divide and rule.

Another front in this war is the monkeypox virus. The CDC, after completely abandoning public health for COVID-19, has falsely portrayed monkeypox as a sexually transmitted disease, centered among gay men and trans feminine people, couched in stigmatizing language, while severely limiting the availability of

vaccines. Already there have been incidents of violence and threats tied to this, which are sure to grow if the virus spreads more widely.

To resist this onslaught from above, the unity of the women's movement, the broad LGBTQ2S movement, and the trans community is of the utmost urgency. Why is it important for us as communists to be front and center in this struggle? Because a revolutionary, class and socialist understanding of these issues is needed to build and protect that unity.

A major effort is underway to divide the women's movement, the broad queer movement, and socialists from trans people. Two forms this takes are TERFs (Trans-Exclusionary Radical Feminists) and so-called "patriotic socialists" (patsocs).

*Continued on page 10*

# Immigrants on front lines of reproductive and bodily autonomy

Based on remarks at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13.

By Lizz Toledo

Black women, Indigenous women, women of color and trans people have always fought for reproductive and bodily autonomy.

A man reported that a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent asked him to engage in oral sex and then threatened him with deportation after he refused. The ICE cop said he would be deported to Haiti, even though he is from the Bahamas.

In Texas, a Border Patrol agent was driving detainees between detention centers. After a woman performed oral sex on him, he let her go.

Many women and men in immigration detention centers all over the U.S. reported that routine searches turned into groping and fondling incidents. Many reported being propositioned, subjected to sexual innuendo, and threatened with retaliation if they reported anything.

These are only a few of the hundreds of complaints of sexual and physical abuse in immigration detention. Many of course go unreported and fewer get prosecuted. Reports obtained by The Intercept in 2018 included 1,224 complaints filed,

but only 2% were investigated and less than that were prosecuted.

Despite serious obstacles for filing complaints and getting complaints investigated, the information that has been gathered by immigration advocates is that sexual assault and harassment in immigration detention is not only widespread but systemic and enabled by an agency that regularly fails to hold itself accountable.

## Forced sterilization, blocked abortions

Over the course of a long history of abuses, both public and private actors in the U.S. target the poor, the disabled, immigrants, and racial minorities for forced sterilization.

The eugenics movement popular at the turn of the 20th century was largely responsible for states enacting laws beginning in 1907 that authorized the sterilization of the "feebleminded." More than 60,000 coercive sterilizations were performed throughout the U.S. pursuant to these eugenics laws.

It was not until Nazi Germany adopted U.S. eugenic theory and practice that public opinion shifted away from this anti-poor and anti-working-class policy in the United States.

But even though support for these eugenics-based sterilization laws started to decline, new justifications for coerced sterilization came into the consciousness of the ruling class. In the 1960s, sterilization abuse once again targeted the poor, the immigrant community, and people of color.

Many cases revealed how discrimination along intersectional lines of gender, race, poverty and immigration status coalesced to result in sterilization abuse.

A 2020 ACLU report about coerced sterilizations of immigrant women at the Irwin County Detention Center (ICDC), a private detention center in Georgia, is a perfect example. In this case immigrant women were taken to a physician who sterilized them without informed consent.

A whistleblower, nurse Dawn Wooten, described multiple forms of medical abuse, from failures to protect patients against COVID-19 to



Whistleblower Dawn Wooten (left) at a protest at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia, where immigrant women were subjected to forced sterilization.

forced hysterectomies. The reports of forced hysterectomies and other unwarranted gynecological procedures at ICDC were also intertwined with a pattern of lack of informed consent to medical treatment.

In connection with the hysterectomies, Ms. Wooten explained: "These immigrant women, I don't think they really, totally, all the way understand this is what's going to happen depending on who explains it to them."

Coerced sterilization in ICE detention is far from the only form of

*Continued on page 11*

# A day of solidarity with prisoners and formerly incarcerated people

Based on remarks at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13.

By Gloria Verdieu

This is the story of my experience going to Quest for Democracy 2022 on Aug. 8 in Sacramento, California's state capital.

I was offered the opportunity to go to Sacramento with All Of Us Or None (AOUON), a grassroots organization led by formerly incarcerated people, whose purpose is to strengthen the voice of people most affected by mass incarceration and the growth of the prison-industrial complex. Their goal is to build a powerful political movement to win full restoration of human and civil rights for incarcerated and previously incarcerated individuals.

I was told Quest for Democracy is a statewide lobbying day giving incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals and their families the opportunity to meet with state representatives and learn the process by which bills are passed. Most important, it is a chance to hold elected officials accountable.

We were given a list of bills and asked to choose a couple that interested us. When meeting with assembly members, we were to speak on why the bill is important and ask the representatives, "Can we count on your 'yes' vote on this bill?"

I was a bit hesitant, because I was told not to bring up other issues and stick to the issues on the list. I don't consider myself a lobbyist and I don't have any confidence in the capitalist criminal justice system or the politicians to do the right thing.

Early on the morning of Aug. 8, a group of seven activists, including me, boarded two flights from San Diego to Sacramento. We rented a van and drove to the capital, where everything was set up.

Some groups came the day before and received training on how to approach assembly members and present their concerns in a concise manner. The time you have is very limited, so you must make your point in 2 to 3 minutes or less.

There was a line at the AOUON booth to get t-shirts, a lunch ticket, a packet listing summaries of many bills on prison reform, and a package of "courage score sheets" for state representatives. We were asked to review this information before going to visit with our assigned representative. I knew little about what was going to happen when we sat with the State Assembly member.

## End involuntary servitude!

I was excited when the announcement was made from the capitol steps for everyone to gather in a semi-circle to prepare for a rally.

The rally began with a respected Indigenous community member acknowledging the land where we gathered and the ancestors whose shoulders we stand on. He emphasized that we stand together to do the work here today that will bring justice and dignity to all those in prison and those of us who are in transition, our families, friends and all our relations.

The first speaker was Dorsey

Nunn, co-founder of All of Us Or None, executive director of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (LSPC) and one of the organizers for Quest for Democracy. Nunn was sentenced to life in prison when he was 19 years old.

Nunn spoke about justice, dignity and humanity for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals, and the importance of ACA 3: the California Abolition Act – a bill which would amend the state constitution to end involuntary servitude in prisons.

Although more than 100 people came out and many groups were represented here, there was a great sense of unity, community and commitment to the issues of prisoners, families, reunification, support and education. It was very welcoming, and I could feel the gratitude towards everyone that came out on such a hot day.

Listening to the stories from the speakers, all former incarcerated individuals, I felt the heat was nothing compared to what those in prison go through every day.

I thought about the MOVE 9 and Sekou Odinga, who told their stories at the Malcolm X Library in San Diego. In my mind I compared their stories of life as formerly incarcerated people in the U.S. with that of the Cuban 5, who returned to Cuba as heroes after 16 years in U.S. prisons.

All the bills addressed issues that the Cuban people had already worked out through roundtable discussions and popular mobilization using the principles of socialism. Cuba is our shining example; Cuba has paved the way.

## Fighting for basic needs

Christopher, a 17-year-old completing his first year at San Diego City College, came with our group. His thoughts on the bills echoed mine when he said, "Why should there be a debate about a prisoner's right to call their family for free?"

Prisoners and families should be able to call without paying extortionate phone rates (SB1008). Families should be encouraged to visit and stay connected with their loved ones in prison (AB990). Families should be notified right away when an imprisoned son, daughter, father, mother, brother, or sister has a medical emergency (SB1139).

There are so many bills that resonated with me, like one to prevent children 12 years old from being tried in juvenile court (SB429). Or the bill to release medically vulnerable people who are the most expensive to incarcerate and least likely to re-offend (AB960).

I was somewhat surprised as one of the State Assembly members spoke. I didn't get her name, but I heard her say: "People just don't know about the inhumanity that is prevalent in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). Some think [imprisonment] is a vacation or a break.

"You spend months, years or decades in prison, and when you get out you get \$200. What the fuck can



SLL PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

Dorsey Nunn of All Of Us Or None (in red shirt) speaks at Sacramento rally Aug. 8.

you do with \$200?" she shouted.

She supported a bill that would raise the "gate money" given upon release to \$1,300, which she said is "still not enough." (SB 1304) What's needed is a path to reentry – training, counseling, housing, a job with a living wage, and compensation while you make that transition.

There were many bills that impacted incarcerated peoples' reentry into society. These are issues that Cuba has figured out. Yes, in Cuba you do the time, but the whole purpose is to come out restored, renewed, reunited with family and community, and hopefully you will do better. The system is not set up for you to fail.

As Gerardo Hernandez, one of the Cuban 5 who is now head of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), said: "Our purpose is to help. We talk with the family, we encourage the family to stay involved, because it is understood that the family suffers when a loved one is incarcerated.

"Prisoners need not be discriminated against because they went to jail. Our objective is not to make a repressive action against those persons but to help those persons, who are victims themselves in many cases."

Cuba's neighborhood CDRs number 138,000, with over 8 million members, and continue to work on programs and solutions to the problems of petty crime, drugs and mental illness.

## Solution to mass incarceration

I think about the remarks by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel on May 16: "In the United States, 2,000 children are arrested every day and 44,000 are in prison. We only cite this data to demonstrate, once again, the hypocrisy and double standards of those who presume to judge what happens around the world."

Díaz stated, before our people and the world, that in Cuba no one under 16 years of age is imprisoned!

There are coalitions such as those which organized Quest for Democracy 2022 throughout the U.S. The Socialist Unity Party's Prison Solidarity Caucus will work with these groups. We will support incarcerat-

ed and formerly incarcerated people, listen to their demands, support their efforts to reform this system and fight for their right to exist and live with dignity.

These organizers are aware of the hard, long struggle it's going to take to pass these bills, because it took 10 years just to pass "Ban the Box" – the box on applications that is used to deny formerly incarcerated people access to livable wages, decent housing, medical care and many other life-sustaining benefits.

When we had our 20 minutes with State Assembly member and Local Government Committee Chair Cecilia Aguilar and two of her staff, I asked about ACA-3, the amendment to end involuntary servitude. Aguilar said: "This is a hard bill to pass. My staff and I will research this bill. This is what we do with all bills."

Each person spoke about bills, and she expressed her support for all of them. We thanked her for taking the time out of her schedule to talk to us and she thanked us for coming.

We returned to our rented van and made our way to the airport for our 5:00 flight back to San Diego.

It was a learning experience. It didn't change my position on lobbying with the politicians, but I am glad I went. It just shows how much work we must do to educate our class about socialism.

Prisoners should be compensated for their labor while incarcerated and at the time of their release. They should have a path for reentry, be united with family and community, be treated with dignity, and not be punished or discriminated against because they went to jail.

With over 2 million people in U.S. prisons, affecting millions of families, this is a major concern.

Every hard-won reform and act of solidarity, however small, is important. But as Cuba shows, the only solution is a socialist revolution.

Abolish capitalism! Shut down the prison-industrial complex! End mass incarceration now!

For more information about LSPC, AOUON and Quest for Democracy, visit [PrisonersWithChildren.org/Policy-Advocacy/](https://PrisonersWithChildren.org/Policy-Advocacy/).

# How can we respond to U.S. crisis and threat of world war?

Based on opening remarks given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13.

By Sharon Black

A discussion on the continuing danger of imperialist war must lead our political discussion.

Nancy Pelosi's reckless and provocative actions in Taiwan could have easily touched off a military response that would have had wide consequences. I think it's accurate to say that the Communist Party of China's careful and measured response prevented that. This does not change the dangerous threat of war and the key importance of Taiwan.

The amoral servants of finance capital – who conspire in their think tanks and board rooms, or in the Pentagon war room and the White House – may well have differences about when and how to pull the trigger. But the one thing that remains constant is the necessity of capitalism to expand or die. They are servants to that.

China is now second to the U.S. in gross domestic product and that nagging fact keeps most of them up all night.

## Generals over the White House

I wanted to preface further remarks with a quote from Sam Marcy's "Generals Over the White House." It's good to review this pamphlet for both a historical perspective and as a guide to understanding the present.

"The military-industrial complex is an historically inevitable outgrowth of the inherent tendencies in capitalist production in the epoch of imperialism, that is, monopoly capitalism.

"Our view of the military differs fundamentally from the anti-militarism of the liberal and progressive elements in capitalist society. Their anti-militarism takes as its point of departure the split of political, social, diplomatic and military policy from economics.

"It fails to recognize that the structure of capitalist society, that is, the relationship between the basic classes, between exploiter and exploited, determines the politics of the capitalist state, no matter which policy the governing group may pursue. This policy is inevitably imperialist and today inexorably serves the military-industrial complex, which, willy-nilly, is propelled in the direction of imperialist war.

"Yet, revolutionary Marxists do not view the inevitability of imperialist war fatalistically. There are deterrents, of course."

## Afghanistan withdrawal

We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The U.S. military exit was more than just a political debacle for the Biden administration, as important as this is in calculating the trajectory of this past year, which shifted to a U.S. confrontation with Russia and the destruction of Ukraine.

Military contractors and U.S. banks made a fortune during the 20-

year war on Afghanistan. The war was financed to the tune of \$2 trillion. The U.S. Treasury will be paying the banks until 2050. With interest added, they will shell out \$6.5 trillion in costs. This is surplus value stolen from the working class both now and in the future.

The military-industrial complex profited off of the death of close to 150,000 Afghan people. U.S. withdrawal didn't end the pillage, destruction or misery. The U.S. immediately seized \$9.5 billion from Afghanistan's central bank held in the New York Federal Reserve. It enacted debilitating sanctions and prompted widespread starvation.

This scorched-earth misery has played out in U.S. proxy wars and occupation from Yemen to Palestine, from Iraq to Libya, and around the globe.

## Donbass, Russia and Ukraine

We should be proud of the work of our comrades – particularly of John Parker, who literally went to the front line in Donbass and Russia. And equally of the analysis and coverage that Struggle-La Lucha published and the actions we organized.

All of this took place under the most difficult avalanche of bourgeois propaganda and the capitulation of a significant segment of the anti-war movement.

This has to be attributed to comrade Melinda Butterfield, who may be credited as one of the very few communists in the United States who not only wrote about the war on Donbass consistently from the beginning in 2014, but also initiated and organized protests.

The NATO build-up has nothing to do with the so-called defense of Western Europe or Japan. Its purpose is to force upon them planes, guns, missiles and weapons systems made in the U.S. and sold at extortionate profits.

The European Union countries should keep in mind the words of Victoria Nuland, who is currently the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, the fourth-ranking position in the Department of State. At the time of her famous private conversation in 2014 she was Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs when she proclaimed, "F\*\*\* the EU."

That quip sums up the relationship that U.S. imperialism has with its junior imperialist powers.



On Aug. 18, a federal judge in Tennessee ordered Starbucks to reinstate seven fired workers following a union organizing drive in Memphis. Young workers are reviving the union movement by organizing at Starbucks, Amazon and other corporate giants.

PHOTO: THE MEMPHIS SEVEN

This same scenario is played out on the continent of Africa. The U.S. exports weapons, whether outdated or not, exacerbates divisions, plots coups and operates AFRICOM – while China is building infrastructure.

There is not enough time to go over the global debt crisis instigated by U.S. finance capital – as important as it is – that threatens most of the poorer countries around the world. We wrote about Sri Lanka, which is good, but a lot more can be said.

All of this is inexorably bound to what is taking place inside the U.S.

## Political and economic crisis in U.S.

Of course, the chickens come home to roost, as Malcolm X proclaimed.

We need to shift to some of the current problems that we are facing inside the U.S.

The Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and the Department of Justice Investigation is continuing to dominate the news cycle. It will be important to go over all of this, especially in relation to the response of the FBI raid at Trump's Mar-a-Lago mansion.

The attempted coup on Jan. 6 is just the tip of the iceberg. The domestic counterpart to war and militarism is the growth of the violent far right.

The attack on abortion and transgender rights that is in full swing is just one of its symptoms. Every effort to defend these rights and arouse the working class is critical.

In my opinion, it is likely that Donald Trump will run for president in 2024, short of some physical catastrophe for Trump or the possibility of his indictment, which could also spur another Jan. 6 type event prior to the elections.

This development may also subjectively push the Democratic Party establishment, particularly the Biden administration, toward open war with China – that is, if it doesn't happen sooner.

A fascist development, however you define it, will ultimately be aimed at the heart of the workers' movement. This is particularly true if there is a deep capitalist crisis, perhaps even collapse, and a broad response by the working class takes shape. Monopoly capitalism is inclined to turn to fascism as an alternative to working-class revolution.

This includes what is currently happening – the burgeoning development of young workers who are reviving the labor movement from Starbucks to Amazon and numerous other organizing efforts.

The gloomy prospect of a deeper capitalist crisis is trumpeted everywhere. Anyone who looks at Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has

to come away shaking their head at its hollowness.

We would be badly remiss not to take into consideration that an acute catastrophe, i.e. a major hurricane, flood, fire or other event, could become a social crisis which would figure into the equation prior to the 2024 elections.

How can we organize the working class and develop an immediate program of action around the climate crisis? It could be helpful for us to look at how the Cubans handle this.

## Put struggle for socialism on the agenda

I want to end by saying something about the World Marxist Political Parties Forum that took place on July 28, and the urgent need to put the struggle for socialism on the agenda.

This conference was hosted by the International Department of the Communist Party of China's Central Committee, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and President Miguel Diaz-Canel, and Chair of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Gennady Zyuganov.

More than 300 representatives from over 100 Marxist political parties, left-wing parties and political organizations in 70-plus countries attended the forum online. Chinese President Xi Jinping opened the forum with a congratulatory letter.

It's perhaps hopeful and interesting that this gathering is taking place in the context of the potential for world war. Whether this represents a realignment of Marxist forces or not, its message of socialist unity and affirmation of Marxism, especially from Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel, is welcome.

I wanted to read two quotes from his address:

First: "We are firmly convinced that socialism is the only way toward development with social justice, as a creative overcoming of capitalism, its unsustainable irrationality and the values that guide it."

Second: "The reality of today's world confirms that it is increasingly necessary and urgent for us Marxist parties to unite in order to face the great challenges that lie ahead. Only unity in diversity will assure us victory. Long live the emancipatory ideas of Marxism!"

The fight for revolutionary socialism must be high on our agenda.

Going back to Sam Marcy's pamphlet: "Revolutionary Marxists do not view the inevitability of imperialist war fatalistically. There are deterrents."

Class struggle is one of the most potent deterrents. And the fight for socialism, both practically and in theory, is the most important weapon of the working class. [📄](#)

# HIGH PRICES, LOW PAY: A Marxist analysis of inflation

Based on remarks at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13.

By Gregory E. Williams

The global working class is being hit hard by inflation. But what is inflation, and how can we understand both its causes and effects through a revolutionary Marxist lens?

According to Investopedia, “inflation is a rise in prices, which can be translated as the decline of purchasing power over time. [Emphasis added.] The rate at which purchasing power drops can be reflected in the average price increase of a basket of selected goods and services over some period of time.”

This basket of goods is another name for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There are different ways of calculating this kind of measure, and the U.S. Federal Reserve — perhaps for obvious reasons — prefers a different measure that gives a lower figure.

At any rate, the rise in prices is clear enough for anybody who has bought anything since last year. In June, the U.S. CPI hit 9.1%, the highest level since 1981. This seems significant for assessing the overall health of capitalism.

There may be some slight dip in the inflationary pressures, with CPI for July being at 8.5%. This may be largely attributable to a drop in fuel prices.

Nevertheless, the problem doesn't seem to be going anywhere any time soon. Workers are still experiencing a cut in real wages. For July, a monthly wage increase of only 0.5% was reported. Even with this tiny bump — with the inflation — wages are down 3% from last year.

Wages are down even as the median monthly asking rent for the U.S. as a whole exceeded \$2,000 in May. In Los Angeles, it's \$3,400. Formerly considered a haven for relatively affordable housing, Nashville rents rose 32% from last year to \$2,140. The soaring cost of housing is driven

by a takeover of the market by giant financial entities.

During an Aug. 10 White House press briefing, President Biden asserted that inflation in July was at 0%. This is a distortion. Overall, there was a 0% increase in inflation, meaning prices held steady at an already high level. Fuel costs went down a bit, while others went up, e.g., food rose by 1.3%.

Biden's triumphant messaging stands in stark contrast to the situation for working-class people. Household debt is up at a record \$16.15 trillion. Evictions are back to pre-pandemic levels. Homelessness is up.

## Inflation in U.S. and China

It's not only the U.S. that's being affected by inflation. Astonishingly, Argentina's inflation has exceeded 70%. There were large protests in the capital, Buenos Aires.

Pew Research found that inflation rates have doubled in 37 of 44 “advanced economies” over two years, as of the first quarter of 2022. The same report found that Turkey had a 54.8% inflation rate.

For China, CPI had only risen to 2.7% in July, thought to be driven in part by a 20.2% rise in the price of a food staple, pork. The small size of this increase is notable, especially considering that the International Monetary Fund still expects the Chinese economy to grow by 3.3% this year.

That's with major supply-chain and other economic disruptions that result from the Chinese government's continued commitment to a Zero-COVID policy; surely, the disruptions of Shanghai's two-month shutdown are not ideal from an economic perspective, but China is still



Mass protests fueled by inflation swept Haiti in late August. A month earlier, a Forbes headline asked: ‘Inflation protests span Sri Lanka, Albania, Argentina, Panama, Kenya, Ghana — how long before they hit the United States?’

able to keep economic development going and inflation under control. As of June, only 5,226 had died from COVID-19 in China.

Meanwhile, in the U.S. — where over a million people have died from the disease and the federal government seems to have given up any pretense of trying to stop the spread — we are still looking at a U.S. GDP contraction of 2.5% so far this year.

What GDP actually measures can be debated, especially from the standpoint of the working class. However, there is a clear difference between the two countries, even using bourgeois metrics.

It is probably useful to look at China's performance here and compare it to how economic planning enabled them to bounce back from the 2007-2008 financial crisis that affected the capitalist world economy as a whole, and moreover, how much of the growth and development since then has been driven by China.

Our party maintains that despite China's capitalist reforms that have threatened the gains of the Chinese Revolution, the economy remains fundamentally socialist. This is why the Chinese state, led by the Communist Party of China, has been able to respond to various global crises with effective social and economic planning.

## What causes inflation?

So, here we have a broad sketch of the current situation. But what is the cause of the inflation?

Economist Richard Wolff put out a video on June 17 arguing strongly against the assertion that “supply chain disruptions” are the cause of the current massive inflation. He says that instead, it's a case of companies across the board jacking up prices to recoup profits lost during the pandemic, which was also an economic disaster for the world economy.

And he says that the capitalists are raising prices in the context of system failure, of a general breakdown of capitalism — especially in the U.S. — characterized by an overwhelming degree of dysfunction throughout, and which can't be fixed by attacking or regulating individual aspects of the system.

This diagnosis seems mostly accurate. On the other hand, the fact of supply chain disruptions could be more significant, indicating the

deeper structural dysfunction and systemic decline alluded to by Wolff.

In October 2021, Labor Notes co-founder Kim Moody argued against “just-in-time” supply chains, which are the norm today. This could be called the logistics equivalent of the Taylor-Ford revolution in manufacturing and was the brainchild of Toyota engineer Taiichi Ohno in the 1950s.

The idea is that corporations can increase profits by delivering things in smaller quantities — just what is needed — and the corporate recipients could also cut costs by not having to maintain large inventories, meanwhile reducing the number of workers.

In the West, this started in the automobile industry and spread out. It mirrors the general process of the tech revolution in the 1980s and 1990s, which saw dramatically more automation in manufacturing and so on, pushing down wages and undermining the existing union organizations. Sam Marcy detailed this process as it was happening in the articles that make up the book “High Tech, Low Pay.”

All of this was contemporaneous with what has been called “neoliberalism,” which we can define from a revolutionary perspective as the great offensive of the capitalist class in the period of global revolutionary retreat (involving Western imperialist-backed counterrevolution in the USSR and more).

Moody points out that aside from being a driver of the shift to low-wage work, this logistics model involves vulnerabilities. It works really well for the capitalists when things are running relatively smoothly, but if there's a logistics bottleneck — as when a ship blocked the Suez Canal last year or with the effects of the pandemic — the result can be catastrophic.

This has also been the case with the global distribution of wheat as the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine drags on. Or we could point to climate-change disruptions in the form of fires, droughts, floods, hurricanes, etc. With worsening climate change, we should expect increasing supply-chain disruptions.

Read the full article at [tinyurl.com/mr3jzhcv](https://tinyurl.com/mr3jzhcv).

## Resistance and reparations!

Continued from page 3

from South Africa, Burkina Faso and Haiti.

Professor Raymond Winbush, director of the Institute for Urban Research at Morgan State University in Baltimore, reminded listeners that it was an enslaved African who brought smallpox vaccination to the colonial United States. Yet life expectancy for Black people in the U.S. dropped by almost three years between 2019 and 2020.

A speaker from the Uhuru Movement denounced the FBI raids against the African People's Socialist Party.

Zayid Muhammad of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee saluted Fidel Castro and Che Guevara in a fiery speech. Speaking of the need to free political prisoners, Muhammad demanded that Dr. Mutulu Shakur be set free.

Shakur was trained in acupuncture in the People's Republic of Chi-

na and used his skills to fight drug addiction. He is dying of cancer in a federal prison and must be given compassionate release.

Marcus Garvey was both a political prisoner and an immigrant. The Black leader was framed, imprisoned and deported to Jamaica.

Pam Africa came from Philadelphia to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners. She pointed out that Abu-Jamal was scheduled to be executed on Aug. 17, 1995 — Marcus Garvey's birthday.

It was the power of the people that stopped this murder. And it was people's power that won hepatitis treatment for prisoners in Pennsylvania, including Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Omwale Clay of the December 12th Movement helped close out the rally with the chant, “They stole us, they sold us, they owe us!” This great and true slogan was originated by D12.

Reparations now! [📌](#)

# Ukraine and Russia without the lens of Facebook & corporate media

By John Parker

What do the New York Times, Kiev Independent, Euromaidan Press, Twitter, Facebook, Reddit and the U.S. version of TikTok have in common?

They are all funded by or staffed by Western and U.S. intelligence members pushing the U.S. narrative about the war in Ukraine. This is why Struggle- La Lucha organized a fact-finding mission to Donbass and Russia to report on the suppressed information that challenges the narrative of NATO and its member states, led by the U.S. This is the second part of my report. (Read Part 1 at [tinyurl.com/ypwfdmrw](http://tinyurl.com/ypwfdmrw))

The social media outlets are an open door to organizations like NATO, military suppliers, and the Atlantic Council, with executives making decisions about what content is allowed to circulate widely on social media and what content is encouraged to support U.S. foreign policy goals.

Some of these same organizations sold us the misinformation about weapons of mass destruction regarding Iraq — like the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, funded by the U.S. government and its defense industry contractors. They partner with Twitter and others to allegedly stop misinformation and provide “alternate” information that counters or eliminates views that don’t agree with the Pentagon’s narrative on Russia, China or Ukraine.

In John Pilger’s 2016 documentary, “The Coming War on China,” he says: “ASPI has played a leading role — some would say, the leading role — in driving Australia’s mendacious and self-destructive and often absurd China-bashing campaign. The current Coalition government, perhaps the most right-wing and incompetent in Australia’s recent history, has relied upon the ASPI to disseminate Washington’s desperate strategic policies, into which much of the Australian political class, along with its intelligence and military structures, has been integrated.”

We are now being told that the Russian people are bloodthirsty and purposely targeting civilians and committing unspeakable war crimes in Ukraine. In part one, I mentioned the National Endowment for Democracy-sponsored Kiev Independent, published in Ukraine. That media’s reliance on unsubstantiated reports and videos given them by one of the fascist regiments, the Azov Battalion, is then passed on to Western media without any verification of its content.

## Euromaidan Press — U.S. sponsored media

Another media source out of Ukraine funded by Western intelligence sources — the Euromaidan Press — does a thorough job of keeping the U.S.-sponsored narrative alive.

For example, their accounts of what went on immediately after

the Russian intervention on Feb. 23 and the current situation in areas of Donbass liberated from Ukraine that I visited were completely different from my experience.

During the first month after the Russian intervention in Ukraine, the Euromaidan Press reported “evidence” and videos indicating that the main targets of the Russian military were civilians.

However, in an exposé published by Newsweek, “Putin’s Holding Back,” analysts and advisers working for the Pentagon became unlikely whistleblowers. Covering most of the same period Euromaidan Press was referring to — the first 24 days after the Russian intervention on February 23 — Newsweek quotes U.S. military officers and analysts. All were surprised at how little civilian loss there was on the part of the Russian military.

About two months before I arrived there, Euromaidan Press wrote about a village in the Lugansk region called Rubizhne. See what essential detail is twisted in this report. The article “How the Russian Invasion Destroyed My World” by Orysia Hrudka shares an account of someone who was in touch with relatives and friends in Rubizhne about two weeks after the Russian intervention in Ukraine:

“Since 8 March I have been unable to contact my close ones in Rubizhne. ... My grandmother, together with many other people from Rubizhne in Luhansk Oblast, was brought to the town nearby. The town was not yet ready to place the refugees in one of the buildings. Food and mattresses were just being brought there. ...

“On 11 March, at 10:56 pm, I learned that my friend’s husband’s parents had been shot at a checkpoint on the way from Rubizhne to Kreminna. Her husband’s parents were kind people and were bringing food from the village to Rubizhne because the city was cut off from food supplies. The mother died immediately, and the father was able to call his son and say his last words. The son talked with his father until his father’s heart stopped. We still can’t find the bodies of our friends’ parents. ...

“On 25 March, my friend’s mother was killed in the Russian shelling. She came to bring the water to the

South district in Rubizhne. Her body is still there.”

## What I saw in Rubizhne

This is a heart-wrenching account of brutality and neglect, the lack of water and food, danger in leaving and coming to Rubizhne at that time. It generally corresponds with what I heard from the people of Lugansk at the shelter where there were 350 people who had escaped as their homes were bombed by tanks. They were left with nothing and totally dependent on the humanitarian aid of food and water to survive and the protection of the military to stay alive.

However, they all said it was the Ukrainian military — not the Russian military — that shot into their homes with guns and tanks; that abandoned them with no food, water, or transportation. In fact, the residents of the shelter in Rubizhne I spoke to said if not for the protection of the Russian soldiers they would not have survived.

“Ukrainian soldiers did not help at all,” said a teary-eyed Larisa, who was in charge of the shelter and reflected on the hardship for the children there. “That is unacceptable. No one from the Ukrainian side asked us or visited us. I had supported Ukraine, but after I saw how they left these people I no longer supported them.”

The thunder heard around us while we were there was a constant reminder of how the area was still very dangerous. That thunder was not from lightning. It was the sound of exploding artillery shells that, like lightning, hit a nearby apartment building while we were there. And, to be clear, that artillery was fired from Ukrainian military positions.

When I arrived in Rubizhne on May 6, the area was under the control of the Russian military and the Lugansk People’s Militia, which brought in humanitarian aid. In my short time in Lugansk, from the border to the shelter, I witnessed many trucks bringing water, grains, diapers, milk, etc.

## How residents got aid

The Euromaidan Press account also left the impression that the Russian forces were targeting ci-

vilians at checkpoints and on the dangerous roads they controlled. However, this area only came under Russian control a little over three weeks prior to our visit on May 6.

According to Alexey Alba, an organizer with Borotba who accompanied me in Lugansk: “The roads here, although dangerous now, were even more dangerous during Ukrainian control, so leaving was not a safe option then. It became more possible after the area came under Russian control.”

Larisa added: “We tell people it is not safe, but if they want to leave here, of course, they can. No one will stop them.”

SLL PHOTO



John Parker (center) with fellow fact-finding participants Alexey Alba and Evgeniy Miroshnichenko at a restaurant dedicated to honoring the memory of the Soviet Union in the city of Lugansk, May 2022.

Alexey, once a resident of Odessa who moved with his family to Lugansk, was an elected member of the Odessa Regional Council and a former member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine. Alexey barely escaped with his life in the violence of fascists after the 2014 coup, financed by the U.S.

Instead of discouraging and shooting at civilians trying to bring food to Rubizhne, as the journalist from Euromaidan Press implied of the Russian soldiers, Alexey explained a different reality: “Because of the war, getting assistance to the shelter was difficult. The trade unions in charge of delivering food in Lugansk were unable to due to the area becoming a war zone. So, they had to hand over that task to the military.”

Despite the danger and the fact that the Ukrainian military still controlled the area, Alexey continued, “the Russian and Lugansk soldiers, at great risk to their own lives, were determined to get aid to the residents of the shelter even before the area was liberated.”

Why such a different view from Euromaidan Press, a view contradicted by U.S. military sources covered in Newsweek and my own live interviews and experience there?

## Funded by U.S. NED

Euromaidan Press is an NGO partly funded by the National Democratic Institute, one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy. Euromaidan Press is also partly funded by the British Embassy in Kiev. And Euromaidan Press is partly funded by the International Renaissance Foundation subsidized by the Soros Open Society Foundation, which funds regime change efforts and was heavily involved in funding the anti-Russian opposition in Ukraine.

Alya Shandra, the editor-in-chief at Euromaidan Press, and Christine Chraibi, an editor, both state in their profiles their wish for European integration, especially, said Chraibi, in terms of NATO membership.

Orysia Hrudka, the writer of this particular piece in Euromaidan Press, is also employed at the Agents of Change School, funded

Continued on page 9



# Donetsk besieged by U.S. proxy war

Continued from page 8

by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) — a U.S. government agency— and the U.S. Embassy Democracy Fund, which, according to their website, “supports unique and promising projects that promote the capacity building and self-sufficiency of NGOs in Ukraine.”

Since the first U.S.-sponsored coup in 2004, those NGOs were how the U.S. government poured billions of dollars into regime-change efforts, culminating in the second undemocratic 2014 coup in Ukraine.

Euromaidan Press also ran stories pushing the allegations of rape by Russian soldiers, “confirmed” by former Ukrainian Ombudsman Lyudmyla Denisova who said that 25 teenage girls were kept in a basement in Bucha and gang-raped; nine of them are now pregnant. After evidence showed those claims were false, the accusations called into question the legitimacy of other Ukrainian government claims. The Ukrainian Parliament promptly fired Ombudsman Denisova with the advice: “Check the facts before publication” and “disclose only information for which there is sufficient evidence.”

## Neo-Nazi Azov Battalion

Another staff person at Euro-maidan Press is Bohdan Ben. According to his description on the site, Ben is a researcher in the field of social and ethical philosophy and the field of local governance. He was among the winners of the program “Youth Will Change Ukraine” organized by the Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Foundation.

On November 4, 2019, Ben did a piece countering the letter circulated by 40 U.S. House members asking that the Azov Battalion be put on the terrorist list. In it, he characterizes the Azov Battalion as a mixture of various ideologies leaning towards far-right politics but stresses that they cannot be considered a neo-Nazi organization since they are an official part of the Ukrainian military.

However, his admissions in the article remarkably defeat his premises and lousy logic. In denying that the Azov Battalion has aided and abetted terrorists around the world he says, reflecting on the letter: “That the Azov Battalion ‘openly welcomes neo-Nazis into its ranks’ is true in some cases. Indeed, several radically far-right individuals were fighting or training in this detachment ... several commanders of the Battalion previously belonged to right-wing Ukrainian NGOs or political parties. Naturally, volunteers with nationalist political backgrounds preferred serving in Azov rather than other detachments, to have like-minded people around. This is entirely within the legal framework.”

It should be noted that the “legal framework” has been radically changing since 2014 to favor fascist organizations and ban and criminalize their greatest opposition — the communist parties.

He also states that the political entity most affiliated with the Azov Battalion, the National Corps, is a separate organization and cannot be assumed to represent the views of the Azov organization when they

Based on remarks at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Aug. 13

By Melinda Butterfield

For eight and a half years, people living in the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics have endured shelling, bombings, landmines, drone attacks, sniper fire, and acts of terrorism by the Ukrainian regime on behalf of U.S. imperialism. For those living in the capital of Donetsk and other nearby cities, the siege has never been more intense and unrelenting than it has been in recent months.

Since July, Ukraine’s military has been raining antipersonnel mines called “petals” on the streets of Donetsk and other urban areas. These small mines are easily overlooked. Anyone who steps on one is guaranteed to be killed or maimed for life. Most of the victims have been seniors, children, rescue and repair workers. The use of these mines in residential areas is banned under international law. But you will not hear or read a word about it in Western media.

Every day Ukrainian fascists shell residential areas of Donetsk and nearby cities. The allied forces of Donetsk, Lugansk and the Russian Federation continue to make steady progress in liberating Ukrainian-occupied areas of Donbass. However, as they advance, the Ukrainian forces have been driven back to high ground in a well-defended area west of Donetsk. This has resulted in more and more enemy fire concentrated on the capital.

Residents of Donetsk post updates on social media when they can, as do journalists in the city. What they share is harrowing. For months there has been no running water; drinking water is carefully rationed by the authorities to keep the population alive. Electricity and internet are out much of the time. Deaths from the mines and rocket attacks are a daily occurrence.

The population is incredibly de-

promote Nazism and terrorism. He then mentions that the Corps is led by Andriy Biletskyi, who he admits is “a far-right nationalist who espoused white supremacist views.” He also forgets to say that Biletskyi founded the Azov militia group in 2014.

Ben also quotes Biletskyi in 2010 saying the Ukrainian nation’s mission was to “lead the white race of the world in a final crusade ... against Semite-led Untermenschen.” Untermenschen is an unscientific term used by Nazi Germany, implying an ethnic designation. They are sup-



An example of the ‘petal’ antipersonnel mines scattered by Ukraine through the streets of Donetsk and other Donbass cities.

posedly inferior people who fall into a category of basically anyone not “accepted” by the German Nazis.

Ben also admits: “Azov Battalion and the National Corps Political Party indeed had contacts with persons who called for violence or committed crimes ... Olena Semeniaka, for example, acknowledged contacts with the American Rise Above Movement (RAM) and said that RAM members came to Ukraine to ‘learn how to create youth forces in the ways Azov has.’ ... However, there is little evidence of any calls for terrorism or violence by mem-

bers of the Battalion.”

After this meeting with RAM that Ben was referring to, three RAM members participated in and helped organize the August 11, 2017, Unite the Right riot of neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, North Carolina, where Heather Heyer was killed by a white supremacist driving into the counter-protest she participated in. Those three were arrested in Virginia for inciting and organizing violence there, and sentenced to a little over two years in prison.

terminated and strong, but there is growing despair. There is no light at the end of the tunnel right now.

Adding to the fear is that Ukraine is now starting to deploy high-range and more powerful weapons recently received from the U.S. and other NATO powers. Alchevsk, a city in central Lugansk, has largely been shielded from Ukrainian attacks since the start of the current phase of the war in February. But in the past three weeks, Alchevsk has been hit twice by high-powered rockets. One of those rockets hit a residential apartment building, killing a civilian and wounding 19, including several children. Similarly, areas in the east of Donetsk have been hit recently with new high-powered rockets.

Now Ukraine’s forces are targeting sites with dangerous chemicals (Donetsk, Gorlovka) and nuclear materials (Zaporozhye). They are toying with, if not actively trying to cause, a mass-death catastrophe.

Washington doesn’t care about the lives of Ukrainians. As a popular saying goes, “Biden will fight to the last Ukrainian” to advance Wall Street profits and U.S. global domi-

nation. The proxy war is not ending anytime soon. The recent FBI raid on Donald Trump’s Florida enclave is said to be centered around classified documents illegally removed from the White House, possibly including information on the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Whatever the truth behind this latest clash between two racist enemies of the working class, the groundwork is being laid with media speculation about “treason” for the Democratic administration to justify further aggression against Donbass and Russia. Democrats will use war mongering in the midterm elections, just as Republicans are campaigning by attacking the rights of women, trans people and people of color. Unfortunately, the established anti-war organizations in the U.S. and Europe have abdicated their responsibility to oppose the U.S.-NATO proxy war against Donbass and Russia. We must continue to seek out and build cooperation with allies who take a genuinely anti-imperialist perspective, not just in words but in actions. <https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>



## BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

commemorates 400 years of Black freedom struggle.

- ▶ This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — where the histories of African, Native and working people overlapped.
- ▶ **BLACK AUGUST** celebrates legacy and accomplishments of Black women.
- ▶ The book is dedicated to Black, Brown, oppressed, and poor people who have been imprisoned and killed by the U.S. criminal justice system.

<https://tinyurl.com/vn3qvn5>

Historical series by Matsemela-Ali Odom ▶ Edited by Gloria Verdieu ▶ Carl Muhammad ▶ Zola Fish ▶ Mary Lou Finley ▶ Dennis Childs ▶ Eusi Kwayana ▶ Mumia Abu-Jamal ▶ Curtis Howard ▶ Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telafaro

# Pelosi's Taiwan provocation: No U.S. war on China!

By Sharon Black

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the third highest ranking U.S. government official, landed in Taiwan on August 2. This reckless and aggressive move that infringes on the sovereign rights of over 1.4 billion Chinese people pushes the needle ever closer to a larger, more destructive global war.

The capitalist press portrays Pelosi as a lone individual, a political leader who single-handedly is defying the Chinese government. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Pelosi flew on a U.S. military plane flanked by Air Force F-35 fighters. Instead of flying directly over the South China Sea, her aircraft flew west around the Philippines. All the while, the massive nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan carrier strike group lay nearby. This battle group, armed to the teeth, includes a guided missile cruiser and nuclear submarines.

## U.S. violates "One China" policy

Taiwan is part of China, a fact that even the U.S. officially recognizes through the "One China" policy. The U.S. has signed three separate agreements with China confirming the One China policy. "One China" is also recognized by the United Nations

In response to Pelosi's hawkish actions, the Chinese government issued a statement on August 2 that reads in part:

"Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, 181 countries have established diplomatic relations with China on the basis of the one-China principle. The one-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community and a basic norm in international relations.

"In 1979, the United States made a clear commitment in the China-U.S. Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations – 'The United States of America recognizes the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal Government of China. Within this context, the people of the United States will maintain cultural, commercial, and other unofficial relations with the people of Taiwan.'"

Words and treaties are one thing with U.S. imperialism, but deeds are another. The Indigenous Nations could attest to this.



SPAR19 — a U.S. Air Force plane carrying House Speaker Nancy Pelosi from Malaysia to Taiwan, as seen on a Flightradar24 map.

## Pentagon seeks to turn Taiwan into military outpost

House Speaker Pelosi's visit, while publicly lighting the match, has not been the only action by U.S. imperialism egging on and propping up Taiwan separatism.

In November 2021, Struggle-La Lucha, reported: "On Oct. 7, (2021) the Wall Street Journal reported that about two dozen U.S. special operations and support troops were 'secretly operating in Taiwan to train military forces there for at least a year.'"

The Global Times points out, "Since the U.S. has exposed the news through anonymous officials, it has taken a step forward to undermine, from covertly to semi-overtly, the key conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Chinese mainland and the U.S."

From the same Struggle-La Lucha report: "The U.S. government officially recognizes that Taiwan is a province of China, not a separate nation. Therefore, what the Biden administration is now doing — secretly sending special forces into the Chinese province — is in violation of both U.S. and international law."

Additionally, in March 2021, Nikkei Asia reported that the United States was discussing stationing offensive missiles on Taiwan that would have violated the INF treaty.

## Taiwan is manufacturing center for semiconductor chips

Taiwan is a major manufacturing center for semiconductor computer chips that power cars, laptops, phones and appliances. It produces 92% of the world's advanced semiconductors.

China is Taiwan's largest trading partner. While China is building semiconductor plants on the mainland, breaking this supply chain is obviously intended to disrupt Chinese global production. The U.S. produces a mere 12%. It faces a shortage because it was more profitable for U.S. businesses to import from Asia.

That's what's behind the Chips and Science Act just passed by Congress on July 28. The act includes more than \$52 billion for U.S. companies to take over computer chip production. Reports indicate that the goal is to turn Taiwan production away from China and toward the U.S.

## China defends itself

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is presently continuing exercises blockading the island. The Global Times reported the details of China's response.

The headline reads: "PLA drills around Taiwan continue to 'rehearse reunification operation' amid Pelosi's visit, 'exercises blockading island to become routine.'"

According to the article: "Joint military exercises around the island of Taiwan by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) continued Wednesday with a joint blockade, sea assault, and land and air combat trainings, involving the use of advanced weapons including J-20 stealth fighter jets and DF-17 hypersonic missiles after the drills started on Tuesday evening when US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi landed on the island which seriously violates China's sovereignty.

"The exercises are unprecedented-

ed as the PLA conventional missiles are expected to fly over the island of Taiwan for the first time, the PLA forces will enter the area within 12 nautical miles of the island and the so-called median line will cease to exist, experts said, noting that by surrounding Taiwan entirely, the PLA is completely blockading the island demonstrating the Chinese mainland's absolute control over the Taiwan question."

The U.S./NATO proxy war — the 2014 U.S.-assisted coup and the consequent puppet regime in Ukraine — cannot be ignored by the Communist Party of China. Taiwan as a U.S. colony would be a clear existential threat to Chinese sovereignty.

China cannot allow this, and the Pentagon knows it.

## U.S. imperialism wants war — organize to stop it!

As the global capitalist crisis deepens, the U.S. imperialist system is propelled toward war. The drive toward war is independent of political administrations or individual intentions, regardless of how venial or corrupt.

The people of the United States have nothing in common with the multi-trillion dollar war industry that profits off of dumping its weapons on Taiwan and all around the globe. The capitalist system and its bankers seek global domination while workers' livelihoods are threatened by inflation and recession.

War brings nothing but more repression, misery, death and climate destruction.

Prepare now: This is not just Pelosi but the whole damn system. 🇺🇸

## Struggle for trans rights and socialism go hand in hand

Continued from page 4

TERFS claim trans women are "men" invading women's spaces. Some even claim trans women are to blame for the loss of abortion rights for supposedly diluting the definition of "woman." They claim trans

men are vulnerable lesbians who have been tricked into transitioning. Their arguments are then taken up and given weight by the centrist and liberal media and right-wing politicians on behalf of the ruling class.

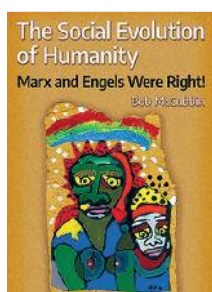
"Patriotic socialists" claim that

trans rights, queer rights and reproductive rights are a "distraction" from the class struggle. They said much the same two years ago about the Black Lives Matter movement. Their arguments can confuse young people who are interested in the class struggle but don't yet have a Leninist understanding of special oppressions and the working class.

We have a special role to play in combating these reactionary forces that seek to divide and disarm the movement. We have not only the lessons taught by Lenin and Engels, but Dorothy Ballan and Bob McCubbin, and also Leslie Feinberg, who

dispelled many of these anti-trans myths in the 1996 book "Transgender Warriors," which was recently reissued for its 25th anniversary.

It is not just because some of our party members and many members of our working class are threatened, although that is certainly true. It is because the struggle against trans, queer and women's oppression, like the struggle against national oppression, is central to the class struggle for socialism. Without upholding these struggles and incorporating them into everything we do, the communist movement will not be successful. 🇺🇸



Paperback or Kindle <https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

### 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' masterful work, 'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'

# A year later, Washington continues torture of Afghanistan

By Scott Scheffer

The U.S. occupation of Afghanistan ended a year ago. For a year leading up to the U.S. troop pull-out, Afghanistan's national army had been surrendering its weapons to the Taliban. The process was transactional – the Taliban paid the soldiers to walk away. Objectively though, it revealed that the U.S. puppet regime did not have the loyalty of their army and did not have any support at all from the Afghan population. The occupation had not in any way, shape or form improved the lives of the people.

But imperialist punishment and torture of the people of Afghanistan didn't end after the chaotic troop withdrawal. Economic starvation has simply replaced the expensive and pointless military presence.

The Biden administration seized \$7 billion in funds belonging to Afghanistan's central bank that had been held in British banks. They've already announced that half of the funds will be used to compensate families of those who died in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, and Biden's administration announced that there are no plans that the remainder will be returned.

During the 20 years of U.S. occupation, Afghanistan relied on humanitarian aid and poverty was deep and wide. Under imperialist pressure, even this aid that had barely kept the government functioning was ended.

## U.S. sabotaged progress

There was a moment in history when Afghanistan could have moved forward. The 1978 Saur Revolution that brought socialist leaders to power was an expression of growing sentiment among youth and students in Kabul and other cities for socialism.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) took over with support from a substantial part of the Afghan military. Immediately they worked to eliminate the crushing debt owed by agricultural workers to feudal landlords, and build up womens' rights and workers' rights, along with other progressive initiatives.

It was the CIA's Operation Cyclone that turned the attempts at progress back. The spy agency re-



The world witnessed images of desperation during U.S. troop withdrawal in 2021. Today Washington continues its decades-long sabotage of Afghanistan.

cruited among the most reactionary fundamentalists from the region to build the mercenary mujahideen army to overthrow the April Revolution. Later, in the 1990s, the Taliban emerged from among the mujahideen forces that had come to dominate Afghanistan.

From the time that Operation Cyclone was launched in 1979, until the retreat of U.S., NATO, and mercenary troops last year, direct warfare, sabotage and economic pressure have kept any reemergence of the ideals of the Saur Revolution from happening.

Desperation has replaced the hope of 1978. The consequences for the people of Afghanistan have been immense.

Officially, at least 71,334 Afghan civilians and nearly 70,000 Afghan police and military were killed directly by the 20-year war launched after 9/11. About 7,500 U.S. soldiers, NATO troops and mercenaries died. More than 50,000 Taliban were killed. Nearly 500 journalists and aid workers perished.

Today, after years of war and occupation and the imperialist theft of government funds after the withdrawal of troops, the country is in ruins. According to a United Nations report released in May, at least half of the Afghan population are facing acute hunger, and tens of thousands

in Ghor province in the northeast of the country are "facing catastrophic levels of hunger."

The economic warfare has been exacerbated by a long period of drought that has wrecked what agricultural activity existed. Many people in Afghanistan have resorted to selling their organs to survive.

## Execution of Al-Zawahiri

The troop withdrawal ordered by the Biden administration drew howls of condemnation. As U.S. troops beat a hasty retreat, thousands of people packed the airport. Many had collaborated with the U.S. occupation. Some had been U.S.-employed mercenaries. Others were desperately looking for an opportunity to escape the deep poverty. Amid the chaos, a suicide bomb killed some 200 people, including 13 U.S. troops.

Right-wing opponents and the mainstream capitalist press bashed the Biden administration. Among the many betrayals of campaign promises and myriad failures, the Afghan withdrawal contributed to the unpopularity of the administration.

The presence of Ayman Al-Zawahiri — the alleged leader of Al Qaeda

in Afghanistan — in a Kabul safe house has been cited by the administration as proof that the Taliban government has not lived up to its commitment not to "harbor terrorists" as part of the Doja agreement.

U.S. intelligence forces (now regularly carrying out military operations) executed Al-Zawahiri on July 31. The alleged breach of the Doja agreement is how the administration justifies its recent announcement that it will not release the Afghan government funds that were seized in spite of the widespread hunger.

But CNN reported that a U.S. intelligence assessment after the execution concluded that Al-Qaeda "has not reconstituted its presence in Afghanistan" since U.S. troops left the country last August.

Al-Qaeda has often been a proxy for the Pentagon in Syria and in West Asia. The execution of Al-Zawahiri was nothing more than a cynical ploy by the administration to justify the continued domination of Afghanistan, to blunt the criticism over the withdrawal, and try to establish some credibility among the most vociferous warhawks and right-wingers in the U.S. [🔗](#)

## Immigrants on front lines of reproductive and bodily autonomy

Continued from page 4

reproductive injustice inflicted upon immigrant women and men. Trump appointee Scott Lloyd attempted on several occasions to block teen migrants from accessing abortion care, even when their pregnancies were the result of rape.

And of course the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" policy forcibly separated parents from their children, including children under the age of 5.

As activists for reproductive justice, we have to continue to emphasize that the fundamental civil rights to abortion, procreation, bodily autonomy and parenting are deeply linked. All reproductive autonomy is simultaneously under attack, especially in the context of the poor, Black, Indigenous, migrants, trans people and people of color.

Reproductive justice advocates must work even more urgently to protect the reproductive and bodily autonomy of all marginalized people. [🔗](#)

## Greenland melts, billionaires profit

By Sharon Black

Did you know?

While the ice in Greenland is melting at an alarming rate, billionaires are figuring out how to make a profit out of this disaster.

Global warming is exposing precious minerals that were locked under previously permanent layers of ice. But Jeff Bezos, Michael Bloomberg and Bill Gates, so-called climate-conscious billionaires, aren't crying — they are busy trying to figure out how to

profit from what could be a bonanza for capitalists.

The hunt is already on for minerals like nickel, cobalt, copper, gold and zinc, believed to now be easily accessible to mining equipment and transport ships, according to a CNN report.

Kobold Metals, a California startup that counts Gates and Bezos as investors, has been very quiet about its activities. Profiting off of melting

Greenland isn't a very good look. Doesn't look like "green" capitalist billionaires are the solution. [🔗](#)



# PUERTO RICO: ¡FBI entrega a activistas solidarios con Cuba!

La presidenta del Comité de Solidaridad con Cuba (CSC) de Puerto Rico, Milagros Rivera, denuncia el operativo de intimidación desatado por agentes federales mediante llamadas y visitas a varios militantes del Comité e integrantes de la Brigada Juan Rius Rivera.

Alegando que estaban investigando al Comité de Solidaridad con Cuba intentaron conocer detalles sobre la portavoz del Comité y del reciente viaje a Cuba realizado por la Brigada bajo la categoría diversos tipos de apoyo al pueblo cubano. La brigada entregó sendas donaciones sanitarias para el control del covid a hospitales en su recorrido por el país, así también hizo intercambios culturales y educativos con el pueblo.

Desde hora tempranas de la mañana de este martes, 23 de agosto, agentes que se identificaron como del FBI visitaron más de una decena brigadistas y amigos de la solidaridad en distintos puntos de la isla, alegando una investigación contra el CSC, su presidenta y la militancia solidaria.

Llegaron al colmo que en el caso de una familia indicarle que citarían a sus hijas por haber acompañado a sus padres en el viaje.

El CSC hace un llamado a las autoridades a dejar de criminalizar las gestiones que hace la Brigada donde las campañas de ayuda humanitaria son esenciales y el intercambio con el pueblo cubano fundamentales. Las relaciones entre Cuba y Puerto Rico son más que centenarias y ese operativo no las detendrá ni nos va intimidar.

Le indicamos al FBI que invierta sus recursos en perseguir a la mafia criminal en el país, a los

corruptos y a investigar los asesinatos políticos que al día de hoy siguen encubriendo como el Carlos Muñiz Varela y el Filiberto Ojeda Ríos perpetrado por ellos mismos.

El CSC expresa que ningún militante, brigadista ni amigo solidario tiene que dialogar con el FBI. Si tienen alguna acusación que se comuniquen con los abogados que nos estarán apoyando.

Si quieren montar un show mediático en momentos como el que estamos viviendo advertimos que el imperio jamás podrá bloquear la solidaridad.

Exhortamos a la prensa y a los medios de comunicación social a investigar esta agresión del FBI contra nuestros jóvenes y personas que somos solidarios con el pueblo cubano y con toda causa justa de la humanidad.

Solicitamos a las organizaciones amigas se expresen contra este nuevo abuso del FBI. Prohibido olvidar.

**Milagros Rivera**  
Presidenta CSC  
San Juan de Puerto Rico,  
23 de agosto de 2022



## PUERTO RICO: FBI hands off Cuba solidarity activists!

By Cuba Solidarity Committee

The president of the Cuba Solidarity Committee (CSC) of Puerto Rico, Milagros Rivera, denounces the intimidation operation unleashed by federal agents through calls and visits to various members of the committee and members of the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade.

Alleging that they were investigating the Cuba Solidarity Committee, they tried to find out details about the committee's spokeswoman and the recent trip to Cuba made by the brigade under the category of various types of support for the Cuban people. The brigade delivered medical donations for the control of COVID to hospitals on its tour of the country, as well as cultural and educational exchanges with the people.

From the early hours of the morning of this Tuesday, August 20, agents who identified themselves as from the FBI visited more than a dozen brigade members and friends of solidarity in different parts of the island, alleging an investigation against the CSC, its president and the solidarity militancy.

They reached the height that in the case of a family they indicated that they would summon their daughters for having accompanied their parents on the trip.

The CSC calls on the authorities to stop criminalizing the efforts made by the brigade where humanitarian aid campaigns are essential and exchanges with the Cuban people are fundamental. Relations between Cuba and Puerto Rico are centuries old and this operation will not stop them or intimidate us.

We instruct the FBI to invest its resources in persecuting the criminal mafia in the country, the corrupt, and investigating the political assassinations that they continue to cover up today, such as Carlos Muñiz Varela and Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, perpetrated by themselves.

The CSC expresses that no militant, brigade member or supportive friend has to dialogue with the FBI. If they have any accusation, contact

the lawyers who will be supporting us.

If they want to put on a media show at times like the one we are experiencing, we warn that the empire will never be able to block solidarity.

We urge the press and social media to investigate this aggression by the FBI against our young people and people who are in solidarity with the Cuban people and with all just causes of humanity.

We request friendly organizations to express themselves against this new abuse by the FBI. Never forget.

**Milagros Rivera**  
CSC President  
San Juan, Puerto Rico, Aug. 23, 2022




<https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/>

 [facebook.com/strugglelalucha](https://www.facebook.com/strugglelalucha)

 [twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha](https://twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha)

 [Struggle/La Lucha PDF: tinyurl.com/y7coh85zPDF](https://www.tinyurl.com/y7coh85zPDF)

 Look for the audio link at the beginning of many SLL articles or check the list on the "Struggle - La Lucha audio articles" page: [tinyurl.com/4yusm2xv](https://www.tinyurl.com/4yusm2xv)

Check out the daily news links at: [www.struggle-la-lucha.org/category/links/](https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/category/links/)

**STRUGGLE** ★ **LA LUCHA**  
*for Socialism* | *por el Socialismo*

Vol. 5, No. 16 August 29, 2022

Vol. 5, Núm. 16 29 de agosto de 2022