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 kept secret from 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.

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 ($17 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 ($5.6 billion). It is creeping up on the budgets of the Environmental Protection Agency ($19.9 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/2pdvbjn.
**Why does Washington prefer war drive over negotiating Brittany Griner’s release?**

By Gloria Verdeu 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 cannabidiol oil through the Moscow airport.

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

NPR reports: “The Olympian and [WNBA] champion says she must have put the cannabis in her bag by mistake. Her defense team thinks 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 the 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 on the ropes globally and 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 unjutly 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’s 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 upon 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.

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 for allegedly 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 a 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 business 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 retail license for a commercial area in the city. The Democratic nominee for 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 rap singers like Kyle Rittenhouse and Brock Turner walk away from their horrific crimes relatively unscathed. If a Black 14-year-old defeats them, 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 himself 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! 📹

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**Brittney Griner during Game Two of the 2021 WNBA Finals.**

**Streuggle * La Lucha**
On July 29, the FBI violently raided the African People's Socialist Party's Uru-ru House in St. Petersburg, Florida, and their Uhuru Solidarity Center in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as the homes of APSP Chairman Omalii Yeshitela using flash-bang grenades and then handcuffing him and his partner in their home.

Chairperson Omali is 80 years old, and this unjustified intrusion was amplified by the violence of the FBI. He was never accused of possessing weapons of mass destruction — that is, 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 somehow “pollute” 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 I. 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 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 instigating 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, who create unbearable conditions for workers, who 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.”

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 taking 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.

We 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
Unionized Workers Union
Struggle-La Lucha newspaper
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 detention of thousands of the most vulnerable, especially Black, Brown and Indigenous people. It will result in more deaths among a community that suffers astronomi-cal rates of suicide when denied gender-affirming care. It also means that private insurance companies are likely to begin denying gender-affirming care since 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 police apparatus’ use 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 people and those who support them 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 one of the first waves of a fascist-inspired, ruling-class-support- ed 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

One of the ways in which the attack on trans people has escalated this year is truly frightening. From state bills in several Republican-ruled states, which try to cut down in defeat to governor-imposed mandates; to 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 severally 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 feminists to be front and center in this struggle? Because a revolution, 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.”

Struggle for 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 found to have been working out of 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 prostitutionally exploited by sexual innuendo, and threatened with retaliation if they reported anything.

-defense is one of the hundreds of complaints of sexual and physical abuse in immigration detention. Many of course go unreported and fewer get prosecuted.

Reported 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 coerced sterilizations were performed throughout the U.S.pursuant to these eugenics laws.

It was not until Nazi Germany adopted U.S. eugenic theory and practices that public opinion shifted away from this anti-poorn 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 in Georgia, where immigrant women were subjected to forced sterilization.

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

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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.

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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 feminists to be front and center in this struggle? Because a revolution- ary, class and socialist understanding of these issues is needed to build and protect that unity.

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

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

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A day of solidarity with prisoners and formerly incarcerated people

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 (AOUno), 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 that 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 interest us. I chose to do this 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. I was nervous. I had been told I should have a point in 2 to 3 minutes or less.

There was a line at the AOUno booth to get t-shirts, a lunch ticket, a packet listing summaries of many bills on prison reform, and a package of "vantage score sheet" for state representatives. We were asked to review this information before going to visit with our assigned representatives. We were told 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 that AOUno was holding a semi-circle to prepare for a rally.

The rally began with a respect struggle and popular mobilization using the Cuban people had already worked and hopefully you will do better. 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 my own: "Prisoners need not be discriminated against. They should be treated with dignity, and not be punished or discriminated against by those persons, who are victims themselves in many cases."

Prisoners and families should be able to hang up telephone rates (SH008). 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 (SH-229).

There are so many bills that resonated with me, like one to prevent children 12 years old from being tried in juvenile court (SB/L29). Or the bill to release medically vulnerable people who are the most expensive to incarcerate and least likely to reoffend (AB960).

I was somewhat surprised as one of the State Assembly members spoke. I didn't get her name, but she said: "People just don't know about the inhumanity that is prevalent in our prisons together with horrific conditions of incarceration and rehabilitation (CDCR). Some think [imprisonment] is a vacation or a break.

You could not imagine being out of prison for months, years or decades in prison, and when you get out you get $200. What the fuck can you do with it?"

She supported a bill that would raise the "gate money" given upon release to $1,300, which she said is "still not enough." (SB 1306). What's needed is a path to reentry — training, counseling, housing, a job with a living wage, and compensation while you make that transition. We need to recognize that by impeding incarcerated people's reentry into society. These issues are what 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 Diaz-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 summarize that country over what happens around the world."

Diaz stated, before our people and the world, that in Cuba no one under 16 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 we thanked her 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, AOUno and Quest for Democracy, visit PrisonersWithChildren.org/Policy-Advocacy/.
How can we respond to U.S. crisis and threat of world war?

By Sharon Black

A discussion on the continuing danger of imperialism and the need to 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 catastrophic consequences. It’s think it’s accurate to say that the Communist Party of China 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 Pentagon war room and the White House – may well have differences about President Joe Biden but they will pull the trigger. But the one thing that remains constant is the necessity of capitalism to expand or die. They are serving 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 prefaced future 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 the party. Their anti-militarism takes as its point of departure the split of political, social, and military policy from economics.

“Its failure to recognize that the structure of capitalist society, that is, the interrelationship between the basic classes, between exploiter and exploited, determines the politics of the capitalist state, no matter which political party is in governance, is part of its anti-militarism. It is the amoral servants of finance capital, who, 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 it was. It was also the trajectory of this past year, which shifted to a U.S. confrontation with Russia and the People’s Republic of China.

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, $1 trillion of which went to the banks until 2050. With interest added, they will shell out $6.3 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 $95 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 capitalization of a significant segment of the anti-war movement.

This has to be attributed to comrades 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 exorbitant prices.

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, “Ukraine is the EU.”

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

This same scenario is played out on the continent of Africa. The U.S. exports weapons, experts and money to war-torn or outdated or not, exacerbates divisions, plays 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 endangers 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 inextricably 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 show to some of the current problems that we are facing inside the U.S.

The Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol and the Jan. 6th select committee 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 rouse 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 or the possibles of his indictment, which could also spur another Jan. 6 type event prior to the elections.

This development may also sub- jectively push the Democratic Party establishment to moderate 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 deep capitalist crisis is trumped everywhere. Anyone who looks at Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act has to come away shaking their head at its holowness. We would be badly remiss not to take into consideration that an acute capitalist crisis, i.e. a major hurricane, flood, or fire or other event, could become a social crisis which would produce an explosive situation prior to the 2024 elections.

How can we organize the working class and develop an immediate program of action to end imperialism’s 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 two existent 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 interest ing that this gathering is taking place in a year with the potentials for world war. Whether this represents a realignment of Marxist forces or an attempt to prevent world war is not clear.

Class struggle is one of the most potent deterrents. And the fight for socialist and, both practically and in theory, is the most important weapon of the working class.
HIGH PRICES, LOW PAY: A Marxist analysis of inflation

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.”

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 staple food, 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% 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 the two-month lockdowns are not ideal from an economic perspective, but China is still able to keep economic development going and inflation under control. As of June, only 5,226 had died from COVID-19 in China.

While, 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 inflation rates, 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?

What GDP actually measures can be more significant, indicating the deeper structural dysfunction and systemic decline of the global capital.

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 Marxist 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 lower-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/mr3j2hcv.
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 agencies pushing the U.S.-sponsored narrative about the war in Ukraine. This is why Struggle-La Lucha organized a fact-finding mission to Donbas and Russia to report on the suppressed information that challenges the mercenary class, especially its member states, led by the U.S. This is the second part of my report. (Read Part 1 at https://struggle-la-lucha.org/archives/48916)

The social media outlets are an open door to organizations like NATO, military suppliers, and the Russian public. With motives making decisions about what content is allowed to circulate widely on social media, Alexey Alba 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 Western Strategic Policy Institute founded by the U.S. government and its defense industry contractors. They partner with Twitter and others to allegedly spread information and provide “alternate” information that counters or eliminates views that don’t fit with the narrative of NATO and its integration, especially, said Chraibi, an editor, both in their interviews and experience there?

A good description of the propaganda of the EU and its partners is Euromaidan Press, and its mission of its content.

Euromaidan Press — U.S.-sponsored media

Another media source out of Ukraine funded by Western intelligence agencies and 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 Donbas 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 Newweek, “Putin’s Holding Back,” analysts and advisers working for the Pentagon became unlike-ly whistleblowers. Covering most of the same period Euromaidan Press was reporting to — the first 26 days after the Russian intervention on February 23 — Newweek 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 ar-rived 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 Inva-sion Destroyed My World” by Orysia Hrudka shares an account of some-one 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 Kremin-na. 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 150 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 tear-y-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 sup-ported them.”

Another 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. My short time in Lugansk, from the border to the shelter, I witnessed many trucks bringing water, grains, diap-pers, 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 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, 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.”

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

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

Instead of discouraging and shoot-ing 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 shiel-der was difficult. The trade unions in charge of delivering food in Lugansk were unable to due to the area be-coming 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 contin-ued, “the Russian and Lugansk sol-diers, at great risk to their own lives, were determined to get aid to the residents despite the Trade unions in charge of delivering food in Lugansk were unable to due to the area becoming a war zone.

Why such a different view from Euromaidan Press, a view contra-dicted by U.S. military sources cov-ered 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 of the four core in-stitutes 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 Inter-national Renaissance Foundation subsidized by the Soros Open Soci-ety Foundation, which funds regime change efforts and was heavily in-volved in funding the anti-Russian operation in Ukraine.

Alya Shandra, the editor-in-chief at Euromaidan Press, and Christine Chraibi, one of the founders of the paper, profiles their wish for European inte-gration, especially, said Chraibi, in terms of NATO membership.

In this piece, the Euromaidan Press profiled its wish for integration, especially, said Chraibi, in terms of NATO membership.

In this piece, the Euromaidan Press profiled its wish for European inte-gration, especially, said Chraibi, in terms of NATO membership.
Donetsk besieged by U.S. proxy war

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 raids 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 instantly. Most of the victims have been seniors, children, rescue and repair workers. The use of these mines in residential areas is a war crime at the international level. 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 Donbas. However, as they advance, the Ukrainian forces have driven their population back to 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 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 determined and strong, but there is growing despair. There is no light at the end of the tunnel right now.

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 street.”

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.

Unfortunately, the established anti-war organizations in the U.S. and Europe have abdicated their responsibility to oppose the U.S.-NA- TO proxy war against Donbas 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. [Read the full article at tünstlr.com/2vd5dbb]

BLACK AUGUST 1619-2019

This book examines the construction of a racial capitalist venture — slavery — 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://tünstlr.com/vn34v5

Eusi Kwayana

Historical series by Matsemola Ali Odum

August 29, 2022

STRUGGLE & LA LUCHA

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© 2022 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 pointing out 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 further evidence showed those claims were false, the accusations called into question the legitimacy of other Ukrainian government claims. The Ukrainian parliament proudly 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 EUromaidan Press is Bohdan Ben. According to the 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 Hawryshlysyn 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 list of terrorism. In it, he characterizes the Azov Battalion as a mixture of various ideologies leaning towards far-right nationalism. He claims that they cannot be considered a neo-Nazi organization since they are an official part of the Ukrainian military. However, his admissions in this article remarkably defeat his premises and lousy logic. In denying that the Azov Battalion and abetting 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 radical far-right individuals were fighting or training in this detachment — several of whom 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 changed since 2014 to favor fascist organizations and ban and criminalize their greatest opposition — their own community.

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 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 Europe.” The quote goes on to say “the Ukrainian nation’s mission is to ‘lead the white race of Europe’ against Semite-led Untermenschen.” Untermenschen is an unscientific term for a category of basically anyone not of Aryan blood. This shows Biletskyi’s former Party indeed had contacts with the National Corps Political Party and the National Corps Political Party indeed had contacts with persons who called for violence or committed crimes … Olena Semenchenko, 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 members 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 Hye was killed by a white supremacist driving into the crowd—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.

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://tünstlr.com/vn34v5

Eusi Kwayana

Historical series by Matsemola Ali Odum

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Dennis Childs | Eusi Kwayana | Mumia Abu-Jamal | Curtis Howard | Poem by Sylvia Cameron Telefaro

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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 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.

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.

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 condition 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. The U.S. had previously suggested this was for defensive purposes.

China's response.

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

The headline reads: "PLA drills around Taiwan continue to reiterate reunification operation amid Pelosi's visit, 'exercises blocking 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 fighters, DF-21D anti-ship missiles, 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 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 blocking 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 is a potential 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 venal 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' struggles threaten international war.

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 women are "men" invading women's spaces. Some have even called for violence to be used against the trans community 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 people who are interested in the class struggle but don't yet have a Leninist understanding of special oppressions and the working class.

We need 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 released 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.
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 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 offer 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 had already announced that half of the funds will be used to compensate families of those who died in the 9/11 attacks. 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 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, Afghanistan has emerged from among the most reactionary andfanatical societies in the world. The Taliban have imposed gross restrictions on the lives of the people, 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 for survival.

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 sited 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.
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 rector de Cuba y Puerto Rico, Milagros Rivera, solidaria.

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

El compto de solidaridad 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, briga
dista 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 adver
timos 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.

Solicítanos a las organi
dizaciones 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 entrega a activistas solidarios con Cuba!

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.

Aleging that they were investigating the Cuba Solidarity Committee, they tried to find out details about the committee’s spokes
den, 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 crimi
alizing the efforts made by the brigade where humanitarian aid campaigns are essential and exchanges with the Cuban people are funda
damental. 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 Filiber
to Ojeda Ríos, perpe
trated 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 investi
gate 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

Puerto Rico: FBI hands off Cuba solidarity activists!

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