

MARCH ON FLORIDA Resist the ban on trans lives!

AS PRIDE MONTH begins, last year's anti-trans panic has grown into a full-blown campaign for trans extermination. We call on the whole movement for social and economic justice, against war and racism, for civil rights and immigrants' rights, to join the mobilization for a National March to Protect Trans Youth and Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7, 2023.

By Struggle-La Lucha

Queer people are under attack in the U.S. like never before, with Pride festivities curtailed and even canceled in Florida and other states at the instigation of bigots like Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, a candidate for the presidency in 2024 running on a platform of hate.

Among a raft of hate legislation DeSantis signed into law on May 17 – the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia –

is one that supports kidnapping trans children across state lines to forcibly detransition them.

Fear is widespread among trans people and the broad LGBTQ2S community across the U.S., especially in those states that have enacted laws cutting off lifesaving gender-affirming health care, revoking trans people's civil rights and the very ability

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Cuba's queer rights revolution



SLL PHOTOS: MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

A PRIDE MONTH WEBINAR

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Media slanders Jordan Neely & raises millions for his killer

By Stephen Millies

Richard "Watergate" Nixon declared, "I am not a crook." Subway vigilante Daniel Penny – who choked to death Black homeless man Jordan Neely – says, "I am not a white supremacist."

Penny made that statement to the New York Post which, like Fox News, is owned by Rupert Murdoch's me-

dia empire. The racist rag put Penny's picture on its Sunday, May 21, front cover with the headline "Nothing about race."

It was all about race when Daniel Penny strangled Jordan Neely for 15 minutes in a New York City subway car. That doesn't stop the capitalist media and politicians from defaming the dead victim and trying to make his killer a hero.

As Malcolm X pointed out, the media "...have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent." We have to use the power of the people to turn that around.

Over \$2.6 million has been raised for the vigilante on the GiveSendGo site, which describes itself as "the #1 Christian fundraising site."

GiveSendGo collected dough for the

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Solidarity fuels Writers Guild strike

By Scott Scheffer

May 25 – The Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike is in its 24th day, holding strong and gaining support from other unionized workers and allies, not only in the entertainment industry but even among others who have much in common with their members.

The billionaires that own the studios and streaming companies haven't budged in negotiations, but the strike is energetic and determined. The picket lines are dense and loud and film locations are dropping like flies because of the strikers' guerilla-style tactics. Shows are getting canceled one after another.

The growth of streaming has had a huge impact on writers' compensation and is one of the most important issues for strikers. Netflix, Apple, Amazon Prime, Hulu, Max and other big entertainment companies have shifted the way that entertainment

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PHOTO: WGA WEST

Writers Guild 'Trans Takeover' picket of Netflix in Los Angeles, May 18.

CUBA

► **CONGA: 'Socialismo sí, homofobia/transfobia no!'**

► **A drag show In Havana**

► **U.S. LGBTQ+ learn about Cuban Families Code**

► **National Assembly of People's Power**

► **Socialism advances biotechnology**

► **Amazon Labor Union: End U.S. Blockade of Cuba!**

► **Health care in East LA and South Central**

- **Justice for Andres Guardado!**
- **San Diego: Malcolm X Day**
- **'Work' for yacht owners?**
- **Reaction in Montana**
- **Judiciary bias vs. workers**
- **U.S. drops 'One China,' policy, uses Philippines for war drive**
- **Biden attacks migrants**

NAKBA = CRIME

- **TSQ: Palestine will win!**
- **Mandela on apartheid**

How about ‘work requirements’ for yacht owners? Ebenezer Scrooge is alive and well in Congress

By Stephen Millies

Using the so-called debt limit as a club, congressional leaders are pushing for more attacks on the poor. Don’t expect Joe Biden to fight back. That’s our job.

The current fiscal crisis is completely artificial. The debt limit, first enacted in 1917, is now set at \$31.4 trillion.

Since 1960 it’s been raised 78 times. It could easily be increased again.

With an approaching June 1 deadline – when Uncle Sam supposedly won’t be able to pay its IOUs – the wealthy and powerful are demanding more cutbacks. These include increasing work requirements in order to eat.

South Dakota Rep. Dusty Johnson is insisting people work until they’re 65 to qualify for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs) benefits, also known as food stamps. People 49 and under are already required to work 80 hours a month (or around 20 hours a week) unless they have young children or can prove they’re disabled.

If people could find good-paying, full-time jobs, they wouldn’t need food stamps. Households in 32 states receiving food stamps had them cut by at least \$95 per month in March as the COVID-19 emergency allotments were suspended.

Almost 45 million people use SNAP benefits and millions more qualify. This includes 9.5 million people 50 and over. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) thinks millions could have their food stamps cut.

Even the current work requirements have proven so harsh that many states suspended them during the last recession. They were halted by the U.S. gov-

ernment during the pandemic but are scheduled to be reinstated on July 1.

Worse is forcing people to work in order to qualify for Medicaid. After Arkansas imposed work requirements, 18,000 adults lost their access to health care.

Not known is how many people died or became seriously ill after being kicked off Medicaid in the second-poorest U.S. state. Meanwhile the Walton family – owners of Arkansas-based Walmart – are enjoying a \$173 billion fortune.

Denying hunger and poverty

The whole point of these so-called work requirements is to compel people to take the lowest paying jobs with the worst conditions. This allows bosses to lower wages for millions of other workers as well.

Capitalists want to be able to use these vulnerable workers as potential strikebreakers. The labor movement has to oppose these forced work programs.

How is President Biden resisting the latest demands for cutbacks? He’s bragging that he voted in the U.S. Senate for food stamp work requirements in 1996.

The alleged concern shown by the Wall Street Journal for U.S. government deficits is completely phony. Capitalists collected \$475 billion in tax-free interest off the national debt last year. U.S. Treasury bonds have no lack of buyers.

The obvious way to reduce the federal debt is to reduce war spending. Why aren’t the Democrats saying that?

The Biden administration is asking for \$886 billion for the Pentagon in its 2024 budget. Add the CIA and a dozen other spy agencies and the real war



From pandemic to surging inflation, food banks have been overwhelmed by the needs of impoverished families.

budget is around a trillion dollars.

At least \$75 billion has been spent on the proxy war against the Russian Federation.

Apologists for capitalism are no different from Queen Marie Antoinette, who, when informed the French people were starving, declared “let them eat cake!”

Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels claims that only 2.5% of people are really poor.

In a 1964 speech endorsing Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan denied there were any hungry people in the United States:

“We were told four years ago that 17 million people went to bed hungry each night,” said the washed-up matinee idol. “Well that was probably

true. They were all on a diet.”

Reagan’s well fed, prosperous and bigoted audience laughed heartily.

By 2021, 53 million people were using food banks. Millions more couldn’t afford supermarkets anymore and were shopping at dollar stores instead.

Only the people can stop Congress from cutting food stamps and other needed social programs. The AFL-CIO needs to call a new Solidarity Day to fight these vicious cutbacks.

It’s billionaire parasites like Jeff Bezos who need work requirements. Bezos should be made to clean the bathrooms in his Amazon warehouses.

And his \$500 million yacht should be seized to give homeless and other working-class children a vacation. 📷

San Diego celebrates Malcolm X Day

By Gloria Verdieu

The Sixth Annual Malcolm X Day Celebration was held on May 20 at San Diego’s Malcolm X Library, commemorating the 98th birthday of ancestor El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz.

Kim Phillips-Pea, lead organizer, stood by her commitment to continue hosting an annual celebration emphasizing the importance of commemorating Malcolm X Day and educating the community, especially our youth, by dispelling the myths and untruths about Malcolm X.

The theme for 2023 was “Do for Self” – not in a narcissistic way, but by way of self-care and self-love so that we are able to care for and love others.

The program began with drumming through audience participation, followed by libations led by JohnnieRenee Nelson, honoring our ancestors’ past, present, and future.

Phillips-Pea pulled together individuals from many organizations, local, national, and international, and throughout the San Diego community, to form a program that addressed the concerns and challenges we face in this difficult time.



Malcolm X Library in San Diego, May 20.

As the library’s performance annex filled, District 4 Council President pro tem Monica Montgomery, who is on the task force to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans, spoke on the importance of honoring the legacy of Malcolm X. Next came Baye Kesbamera, member of the International Elders Advisory

Board for the 8th Pan African Congress (PAC), who spoke about San Diego’s history of struggle.

Among the many community and organizational speakers was Brother Lee from the Nation of Islam (NOI), who spoke on mental health and wellness; a representative of the United Negro Improvement Association

(UNIA), who read a statement on the legacy of Malcolm X; and a representative of the Friends of Malcolm X Library, who spoke about the library’s history.

Cultural performances included students of Dennis Newsome, instructor in the Afro-Brazilian martial art of Capoeira, followed by an intermission where healthy food was served, and everyone had time to break bread, socialize, and browse the community vendor tables circling the room.

The program ended with a panel discussion with Professor Matsemela Odom, international president of International People’s Democratic Uhuru Movement (InPDUM) and Black is Back Coalition; Dahryan Muhammad, member of African Liberation Day 2023; and Sartteka Nefer, community activist.

Everyone was encouraged to read the “Autobiography of Malcolm X” and read his speeches, particularly those given after his trips abroad in 1964.

Everyone was invited to the African Liberation Day Rally and Conference to be held on the weekend of May 27-28 in San Diego. 📷

Guerrilla tactics, solidarity fuel Writers Guild strike

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is delivered. This strike is popularly called the “Netflix strike.”

Companies have used the growth of streaming – amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic – to cheat writers out of millions of dollars in pay. A shorter number of series episodes has become the new normal – miniseries.

The writing for miniseries content has been relegated to what are called “mini-rooms” where a smaller number of writers work on a series that will go direct to streaming, bypassing the normal process of writing a pilot. Those writers are paid only scale instead of the higher pay for longer, traditional television series. If the miniseries isn’t picked up for a second season, they get no residuals.

Shut down production

The guerrilla-tactic picket lines of WGA strikers as they’ve disrupted film shoots on location is exciting and impressive. Production locations are normally kept quiet, but strikers are getting tipped off and have shut down production.

They’ve hit studio filming too. Early in the strike, Apple’s series “Loot” was put on hold indefinitely. By week two of the strike, “Power Book II: Ghost,” “Pretty Little Liars: Summer School,” “Billions,” and “Daredevil:

Born Again” all lost days of filming.

In mid-May, WGA picketers showed up before the film crew at Harlem and Bronx, New York, shooting locations for “The Penguin” and stopped filming. “FBI: Most Wanted” filming was shut down. When picket lines hit studios, Teamster trucks delivering equipment do a u-turn and head back to the warehouse.

Militant actions aren’t limited to disrupting film shoots. Variety reported that 200 trans writers and allies held a “Trans Takeover” picket on May 18 at the Netflix building in Los Angeles. Writer Jacob Tobia, a writer for the Showtime pilot “Sissy,” said, “Strikes are moments where you re-define who is at the table, and we want to be sure that we’re sending a really strong message to the world that we’re at the table now and we want to stay at the table.”

There has also been great solidarity by the Directors Guild of America, the IATSE stagehands’ union, and the California Gig Workers Union, organizers of Californians who work gig jobs like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Instacart and others.

A number of famed actors have joined the picket lines. Actor Drew Carey has pledged to pay for picketers’ meals until the end of the strike. Sean Penn and Mandy Patinkin both made the news with strong statements of support.

Looming on the horizon is the possibility of a Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) strike. Contract negotiations for 160,000 actors are set to begin ahead of the June 30 contract expiration. A strike authorization vote is already being planned.

A companion strike by actors could shut down everything for the industry.

CEO booted off stage

When Warner Bros. CEO David Zaslav showed up at Boston University to deliver the commencement speech, he was booed off the stage by students in solidarity with the strike.

College campuses have seen a lot of strikes in recent months. Student researchers, teachers’ assistants, cafeteria workers, and shuttle bus drivers have all won good contracts or union recognition.

The U.S. media and entertainment industry is worth \$717 billion, larger than the Gross Domestic Products of 162 countries. These profiteers could easily afford to pay what the writers are demanding.

The WGA’s website displays a list with information about the eight biggest companies where the union represents workers. The total revenue of these eight alone is more than \$1.3

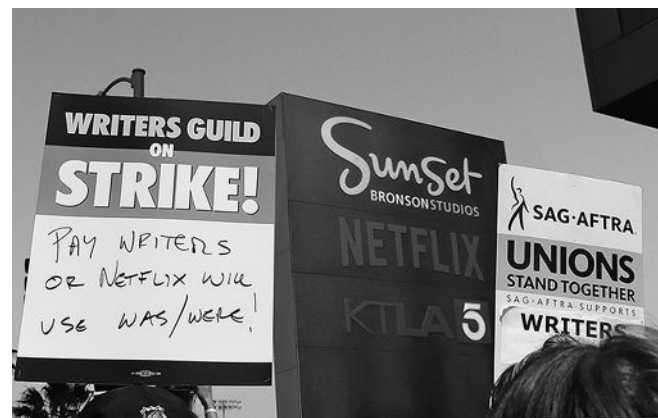


PHOTO: YUKI

WGA Trans Takeover, May 18.

trillion! The total cost of meeting the workers’ demands would be less than one-tenth of a percent of their revenue, at \$343 million.

But it isn’t only the super-rich studios that have been gorging on profits. Real-estate capitalists make a fortune from entertainment. According to Bisnow.com, “Blackstone, TPG Real Estate Partners, Bain Capital Partners and Square Mile Capital Management have spent billions combined buying and developing new studio space across the U.S.” These are some of the biggest real-estate investors in the world.

To be sure, the WGA strike is up against powerful interests. Like every strike, it is essentially a war of workers with the mega-corporations and banks that make up the U.S. capitalist ruling class – a war with Wall Street.

WGA’s website has a list of locations and times for picket lines that even includes a list of parking spots. New Yorkers and Angelinos should visit the lines at every opportunity. Film and TV writers are fighting for all of us! 📺

Nkosi Mandela speaks on apartheid and the Nakba

By Lallan Schoenstein

Upholding the legacy of Malcolm X and commemorating the Palestinian Nakba, Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela — grandson of Nelson Mandela — spoke to a gathering at San Francisco State University on May 19.

Mandela was on a tour of the U.S. commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Nakba. Nakba is an Arabic word meaning “catastrophe” that refers to the 1948 expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from their homes upon the formation of the settler-colonial state of Israel.

Today, nearly five million Palestinian refugees continue to demand their right to return to the homes and lands from which they were exiled.

To commemorate the Nakba, the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN) and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) arranged the U.S. tour.

The tour’s keynote speaker was political activist Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandela, an elected member of the South African National Assembly and chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council.

In an interview before speaking at a tour event in Milwaukee, Mandela said, “As South Africans, we have been in the struggle against colonialism for hundreds of years and 60 years against a brutal apartheid regime. We have been able to gain our freedom ... with support from the global community.

“We have been able, through the United Nations, to declare apartheid a crime against humanity. That should



Front: Chief Nkosi Mandela, Clarence Thomas, Monadel Herzallah and Sanyika Bryant. Rear: Dr Rama Ali Kased. San Francisco State University, May 19.

Photo: Delores Lemon-Thomas.

mean there would be no other apartheid state anywhere.”

He said his grandfather’s cause “that’s very close to me is being a voice for the oppressed. In 1995, on his visit to Gaza, Nelson Mandela said to the Palestinians that our freedom in South Africa is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.”

Mandela continued: “In my visit to the West Bank in 2017, I witnessed the daily lives lived by Palestinians under occupation. I could not look away from the clear evidence of the violence and atrocities made against ordinary men, women and children, political prisoners in detention without trial. I came away from that experience with the realization that Palestinians are witnessing the worst apartheid regime we’ve ever seen.”

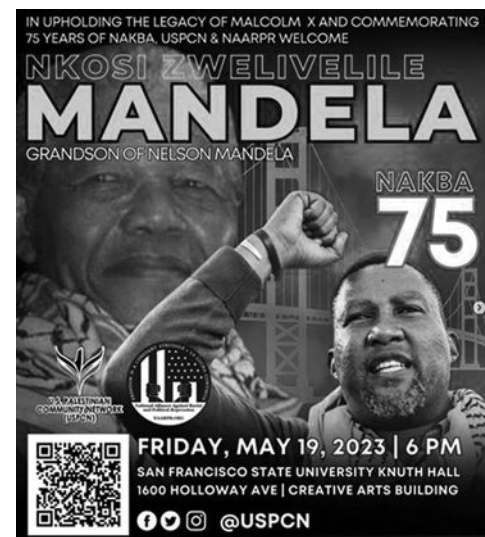
Another featured speaker on May 19 was Clarence Thomas, a retired International Longshore and Warehouse

Union (ILWU) Local 10 member in San Francisco.

In 1968, Thomas was a student at San Francisco State and a member of the Black Student Union Central Committee. They initiated the longest student strike in U.S. history and established the first Black Studies Department and a School of Ethnic Studies.

When Thomas spoke, he said, “The longshore workers are responsible for loading and unloading maritime cargo. We are some of the most important workers in the global supply chain. There is no labor union in the world that has provided more solidarity support for sisters and brothers of Palestine than ILWU Local 10.

“In 2010, following the Israeli commandos’ attack upon the Gaza flotilla Mavi Marmara, a labor-community picket line prevented the working of a vessel from Zim, an Israeli shipping



line. For 24 hours, longshore workers refused to work that ship in protest of the murder of humanitarian activists on their way to Gaza.

“In 2014, the ‘Block the Boat’ coalition kept the Zim ship Piraeus from unloading maritime cargo for four days. The Zim integrated shipping services website indicated that there were no more Zim dockings in Oakland beyond that date.”

Thomas continued, “Local 10 has been on the front lines in defending our sisters and brothers in Palestine. In June 2021 ‘Block the Boat 2’ took place at the Port of Oakland, and for several days, Local 10 dock workers refused to unload cargo from another apartheid Israel Zim ship.

“The Arab Resource and Organizing Center posted the following message: ‘After two blockades honored by ILWU Local 10, we have successfully turned away the apartheid profiteering Zim shipping line from the Port of Oakland. The international week of action continues to ensure that Zim is turned away everywhere!’

“That is the power of the working class at the point of production. An injury to one is an injury to all!” 📺

What's the matter with Montana? Deindustrialization and political reaction

By Stephen Millies

Why has the ruling class in Montana become so hateful? Transphobic bigots in the legislature banned Rep. Zooey Zephyr from speaking or even entering the chamber of the state's House of Representatives.

Montana Gov. Gregory Gianforte signed the anti-transgender bills that Zephyr objected to, despite pleas from the governor's child. "These bills are immoral, unjust, and frankly a violation of human rights," said David Gianforte, who is non-binary.

The vicious legislation denies gender-affirming care to minors and endangers legal protections for transgender people. Drag shows on public property or anywhere young people might be present will be prohibited. That's canceling everybody's First Amendment right to free speech and could even threaten Halloween parades.

Gov. Gianforte is a super-rich thug who should have been jailed for body-slammings Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs in 2017. Jacobs had dared to ask Gianforte, who was running for Congress, a question about health care policy.

Even though Jacobs was hospitalized, Gianforte was sentenced to just 40 hours of community service and 20 hours of anger management therapy. Nobody on Fox News said the judge was "soft on crime."

Gianforte sold RightNow Technologies, in which he had a large stake, to Oracle in 2011 for \$1.5 billion. That made Gianforte the richest member of the House of Representatives for a while.



Missoula, Montana, April 28.

Montana Sen. Steve Daines, who was then a RightNow executive, also made millions from the deal. The 100 employees who had their jobs shipped to Texas weren't so lucky.

The dynamic duo of Gianforte and Daines then pushed in Congress for "cybersecurity" legislation that could result in megabuck federal contracts for Oracle.

Even though Gianforte has a degree in electrical engineering, the moneybags bully is no supporter of science. On the contrary, his tax-exempt family foundation is a big benefactor of the Glendive, Montana, Dinosaur and Fossil Museum.

This misnamed museum claims the dinosaurs and human beings lived together and even shared space on Noah's ark. Apparently, none of the humans were eaten or died of the smell.

This junk is being fed to schoolchildren nearly 100 years after the Scopes "Monkey Trial," in which Tennessee teacher John Scopes was fined for teaching evolution. Yet it's Drag Queen story hours that are being banned.

Militant history of struggle

Plenty of people in Montana are disgusted by the bigots in the state legislature. In a state with a population that's less than half that of Brooklyn, N.Y., a quarter-million people voted against Gianforte in the 2020 election for governor.

The bigots running the state certainly don't speak for 75,000 Indigenous people living in Montana. State representative Johnathan Windy Boy, a member of the Chipewewa Cree Tribal Council, defended Zooey Zephyr. He schooled the legislature about transgender people in Indigenous nations who are often called two-spirit.

The Mountain State's lurch to the right betrays the militant history of the working class there. The Butte Miners Union was founded in 1878. Butte was known as the tightest union town on earth.

These unions, including the Western Federation of Miners, the Industrial Workers of the World, and the Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, waged strikes for decades.

IWW organizer Frank Little was lynched in 1917 for organizing a strike against Anaconda Copper. Future communist leader William F. Dunne carried on the struggle and founded the socialist Butte Miner, which became a daily newspaper.

Dunne, like Zephyr, was elected to Montana's House of Representatives but was arrested on state sedition charges because of his opposition to World War I. His attorney was future U.S. Senator Burton K. Wheeler. Dunne was convicted, but Montana's Supreme Court threw out the charges.

Havre, Montana, was the center of the American Railway Union's 1894 strike against the Great Northern, forcing James J. Hill to rescind wage cuts.

When the former locomotive fireman and ARU president Eugene Debs ran for president in 1912, the Socialist Party candidate got nearly 14% of the vote in Montana. In 1932, Communist presidential candidate William Z. Foster and his running mate James W. Ford got nearly 18% of the vote in Sheridan County, in Montana's north-eastern corner.

Foster had been the organizer of the 1919 steel strike. Ford had been a Black postal worker in Chicago.

The Sheridan County sheriff's office was decorated with a poster calling for the freedom of union organizers Tom Mooney and Warren Billings. The two were framed for a bombing in San Francisco and sentenced to death by hanging.

There was worldwide outrage and protests. Lenin and the Bolsheviks surrounded the U.S. embassy in 1917. President Woodrow Wilson was com-

pelled to beg California Gov. William Stephens to commute their sentences to life imprisonment. The labor movement finally forced California to free Mooney and Billings in 1939.

Dispersing the working class

The ruling class always tries to poison public opinion. As late as 1959, Anaconda Copper owned seven daily newspapers in Montana. All of them parroted Anaconda's lies.

A big reason for the rise of political reaction in Montana is the dispersal of the working class. Many of the mines have closed. Unions have shrunk.

Only 1,500 people in Montana still have mining jobs. Butte has a smaller population today than it did in 1920.

Anaconda is exploiting copper miners in Chile instead. The corporation celebrated the bloody overthrow of elected President Salvador Allende on Sept. 11, 1973, in which thousands were killed.

With the help of the CIA and Henry Kissinger, the corporation took back the mines that the people of Chile had taken over.

The massive 90% drop in railroad workers since 1947 particularly hurt states like Montana, which are large in land area with thousands of miles of track but sparsely populated.

The Northern Pacific, now part of Warren Buffet's BNSF, closed its shops in Livingston, Montana. The tracks of the Milwaukee Road line to the Pacific Northwest were largely abandoned.

Montana and neighboring Idaho have also attracted a certain number of racists and neo-Nazis. They have a nightmare vision of creating an all-white state in western Montana, northern Idaho, and nearby areas.

Idaho is even more in the grip of reaction than Montana, but it, too, has a history of labor struggles. U.S. troops were sent to crush miners' strikes in the 1890s.

In the 1940s, Idaho Sen. Glen Taylor was the running mate of Presidential candidate Henry Wallace in the 1948 elections. They ran against racism and the Cold War.

For defying segregation laws during the campaign, U.S. Senator Taylor was clubbed by Bull Connor in Birmingham, Alabama. As a result, Taylor was arrested and convicted for violating the segregation laws. Connor would later use dogs and fire hoses against Civil Rights Movement demonstrators in 1963.

We look forward to future struggles in Montana and Idaho as part of an upsurge of workers and oppressed peoples. Walmart employs nearly 5,000 employees in Montana. Organizing drives will win union contracts for Walmart's workers and thousands of others in Montana and Idaho.

Solidarity with Zooey Zephyr! 📢

MARCH ON FLORIDA Resist the ban on trans lives!

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to exist in public without threat of arrest or violence.

The murderous attacks by far-right governments in state capitals and by neo-fascist gangs in the streets must be met with militant resistance in the spirit of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising and the movement to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS in the 1980s.

Waiting for the next election, banking on the protection of a president and Democratic Party that show no inclination to defend even the most basic rights of LGBTQ2S people, women, immigrants, and BIPOC communities, is not an option.

Only the people, organized and mobilized in the streets in a way that threatens the profits of Wall Street and the billionaire class's ability to govern, can turn the situation around.

And it is possible to do so – we need only look at the massive outpouring of anti-racist resistance following the police murder of George Floyd three years ago, which shook the political elites and their billionaire backers to the core.

In school, before the current wave of book and history bans, many of us learned a variation of the poem "First They Came" by Pastor Martin

Niemöller about the rise of German fascism in the 1930s:

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.

Today they are coming for trans people – and the outlines of the next targets are already clearly drawn on the backs of cisgender queers, working women, immigrants, Black and Brown people, union members, socialists, communists, and ultimately every worker.

For many of our siblings, our rights and very lives are on the line today – and they are coming for you next.

It's time to fight. It's time to resist with boldness and courage.

Join us in the streets – in the spirit of Stonewall! 📢

CUBA'S QUEER RIGHTS REVOLUTION

A PRIDE MONTH WEBINAR

THURSDAY **JUNE 15**

- Just 90 miles from Ron DeSantis's Florida, socialist Cuba is making huge advances in LGBTQ+ rights with its new Families Code.
- How did Cuba achieve the 'most advanced policy in the world'? Why isn't the U.S. media reporting it? Why does Biden maintain Trump's punishing blockade measures and keep Cuba on the state sponsors of terrorism list?
- Hear from LGBTQ+ activists from across the U.S. who went to Cuba to see for themselves.
- Learn how queer rights are being prioritized from the grassroots to the National Assembly. Why U.S. queers should work to end the U.S. blockade of Cuba, and how you can join next year's delegation.

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE ★ MUJERES EN LUCHA

An affiliate of the Women's International Democratic Federation



‘Cuban health assistance could make a huge difference in South Central and East LA’

By John Parker

Statement by Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice Coordinator John Parker at the Los Angeles City Council hearing on May 24.

Hello, my name is John Thompson Parker. I’m the coordinator of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice. I also ran for the U.S. Senate on the Peace & Freedom Party ticket in 2022, when I received 105,000 votes.

I was planning on running again for the U.S. Senate. Unfortunately, I may not be able to do that, because a few weeks ago I had a very dangerous stroke that required surgery to get a blood clot out of my brain. I temporarily lost the ability to move my right side. My communication ability is still challenged.

My surgeon said it would be important to be seen by a neurologist and a cardiologist, in addition to a speech therapist, as soon as possible. Unfortunately, my HMO medical plan made it impossible to schedule these specialists until more than a month after my stroke. This wait is a problem, since a stroke is more likely to repeat within a month, which could create dire medical consequences or death.

People who look like me share that same situation of lack of health care. The Los Angeles Times quoted a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association this month that showed the higher mortality rate among African Americans, which resulted in 1.63 million excess deaths relative to white people in this country over more than two decades. These deaths are fueled

by the higher rate of heart disease and the enormous number of Black people who died from COVID-19 in 2020.

But Cuba is making a difference for people who look like me in Latin America and on the African continent, because they’re getting health assistance from the Cuban government – especially during the COVID crisis. Vaccines and doctors and clinics. Cuba developed four new COVID vaccines along with a new diabetes drug that prevents amputations.

This makes a huge difference in the world, and it could make a difference in South Central and East LA, where your Black and Brown constituents reside. Cuba tried to show up for Black people here in the U.S. Remember Hurricane Katrina and the flooding in New Orleans? Cuba had hundreds of doctors and relief workers ready to help and could have prevented deaths, but then-President George W. Bush refused to allow that Cuban-provided aid.

We recently invited delegates of the Cuban Mission to the United Nations to talk, among other things, about the health care that could help your constituents. The mayor’s office found out the Cuban diplomats were in LA and the vice-mayor met with the Cuban delegates before our event at the Harriet Tubman Center.

Our meeting showed how our communities can benefit with more doctors and more clinics. Cuba can also provide urgently-needed diabetes drugs and preventive COVID medicine. Cuba even trains doctors for free – young constituents in your districts can go to Cuba, become doctors and

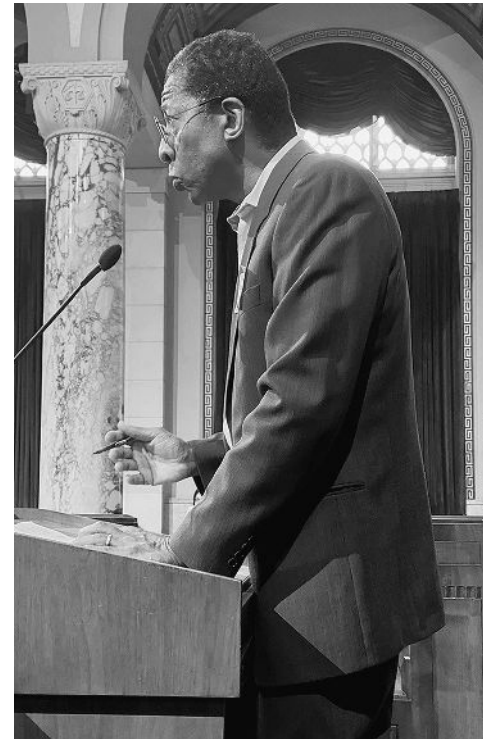
come back and serve in our oppressed communities, debt free.

The meeting with the two Cuban diplomats occurred on April 19, one day before I almost died from a stroke on April 20. I now understand how Cuban-provided health care that prioritizes the most oppressed communities would help me. I continue to be in jeopardy, waiting to see specialists. That is the same situation of Black and Brown members of your constituency and my community.

One thing that is stopping Cuba from being able to help us is the designation of Cuba as a State Sponsor Of Terrorism (SSOT). President Obama took Cuba off the list. The Trump administration put Cuba back on that list and unfortunately, President Biden has continued that policy. We are here today to ask you to join with others to call on President Biden to help Cuba, and help us.

I have a long list of 100 or so city councils, labor unions, and community organizations – including the city council of Washington, D.C., the capital of this country – that have passed resolutions that call on President Biden to take Cuba off of the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and lift the U.S. blockade of Cuba, policies that deeply harm the ability of the Cuban government and its people to carry on with the basic functions of life.

This request for the Los Angeles City Council to pass the resolution to take Cuba off the SSOT list and end the U.S. blockade is supported by many groups and individuals, including the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice;



SLL PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO

John Parker testifies before the Los Angeles City Council, May 24.

the Black Alliance For Peace; Unión del Barrio; Pastor William Smart Jr., president of the Southern California Southern Christian Leadership Congress; and Code Pink.

Hopefully this wish won’t be a dying request as I wait for the time when I can finally see the brain and heart specialists in June. Hopefully my experience will help you see that passing this resolution will benefit your constituents in our oppressed communities, who also suffer from the same life-threatening lack of health care. Take this resolution seriously. 📌

The People vs. LA Sheriffs: Justice for Andres Guardado!

By Jefferson Azevedo

Almost three years after the murder of Andres Guardado by a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Deputy, the officers involved in his assassination have not been indicted. Guardado was an 18-year-old teenager who studied at LA Trade Technical College and worked as a security guard to help his family.

His murder took place in the City of Gardena, a place that, like its neighbors Compton and South Central, has a history of police brutality.

The killing of the Salvadoran-American teenager occurred weeks after the murder of George Floyd in May 2020. Floyd was a Black man whose killing by a white cop in Minnesota sparked some of the biggest mass demonstrations against police brutality in U.S. history.

If it wasn’t for the demonstrations, Floyd’s killer Derek Chauvin and the other officers who watched him slowly murder his victim would not have been sent to prison. The protests were not only a way to demand justice for another Black victim of the police; they were also a call for justice and a denouncement of racism and other kinds of violence that poor Black and Brown communities regularly suffer in the U.S.



SLL PHOTO

Protest after police killing of Andres Guardado, June 21, 2020.

Though not as big as the protests for George Floyd, demonstrations were also held to demand justice for Andres Guardado and show solidarity with his family and loved ones. A march and rally called by Unión Del Barrio and the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and supported by other organizations was held in Compton and Gardena, near the spot where Andres was killed.

Protesters denounced the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, the cops involved in the murder, and demanded the imprisonment of Deputy Miguel Vega – who shot Guardado five times in the back – and his partner, Deputy Christopher Hernandez.

A pattern of brutality

Vega and Hernandez no longer work for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. On April 13, 2023, the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California released a note stating that the former deputies were scheduled to be arraigned that day on federal charges that they violated the civil rights of another young man at a skate park by falsely imprisoning him, then obstructing justice to cover up the illegal detention.

A May 19 Los Angeles Times article reports the difficulties encountered by county watchdogs investigating the participation of LACSD deputies in gangs, among other things. They have found that nothing has been done despite new Sheriff Robert Luna ordering the deputies to cooperate with the ongoing investigation on law enforcement gangs led by LA County Inspector General Max Huntsmen.

Among the alleged gangs being investigated are the Banditos, to which the former deputies involved in the murder of Andre Guardado allegedly belonged, and the Executioners, a gang that recruits potential members based on their history of violence against the

people in their area and does not accept Black people or women.

At the time of Andres Guardado’s murder, Miguel Vega was said to be an “ink chaser” – someone trying to be admitted to one of the police gangs. Admission would allow him to have the gang’s tattoo. After someone is killed by a member of their gang, the deputies celebrate by going out to drink.

Maybe Andres Guardado was murdered just because a deputy wanted to prove to a police gang that he was capable of killing and was a good candidate for membership.

The deaths caused by police actions since the murder of Guardado are a sign that police officers don’t need to be ink chasers or form their own gangs to terrorize and kill poor people and people of color. They already have the support of the institutions set up to oppress their victims and the working class as a whole.

Police departments are gangs that operate to protect the interests of the capitalist class. Therefore, investigations – even on the rare occasions when they result in punishment for individual killer cops – won’t do much to stop police terror in poor communities or bring justice to their victims.

Ultimately, justice for Andres Guardado and all the victims of police terror can only be achieved with the abolition of the police and capitalism. 📌

U.S. LGBTQ+ delegation travels to Cuba to learn

By Gregory E. Williams

On May 8, the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation, led by Women in Struggle – Mujeres en Lucha, met with Cuban activists at the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX) headquarters in Havana. These activists represent multiple LGBTQ+ organizations, including TransCuba, La Red HSH (the Network of Men Who Have Sex with Men), and the Network of Lesbian and Bisexual Women in Cuba. These are autonomous organizations of people from these communities that work closely with CENESEX, which is under the Ministry of Health.

Before departing for Cuba, our delegation began learning about Cuba’s revolutionary new Families Code. But it was incredible to be among these activists — to hear about their work, life experiences, and analysis of the ongoing revolutionary process in Cuba. These activists vividly conveyed how far Cuba has come, rising from a legacy of colonialism and patriarchal values, even while impeded by Washington’s criminal blockade.

They were completely candid about problems of homophobia and transphobia in Cuba, with resistance to progressive change coming especially from the U.S.-funded evangelical movement. An activist with the Network of Lesbian and Bisexual Women in Cuba explained the problems with these reactionary forces, putting them in historical context. Nevertheless, these problems of backward mentalities in some people are not



Cuban and U.S. LGBTQ+ activists have discussion at CENESEX headquarters in Havana.

SLL PHOTO

comparable to the neo-fascist attacks in the United States on LGBTQ+ people, women, people of color, and the working class more broadly. There is a stark difference between the social systems in the two countries, and this accounts for the difference in the political situation.

In the U.S., there is an imperialist capitalist class that can exist only so long as the people are divided. This tiny class of exploiters has a material interest in spreading division and alienation. For them, it is a necessity. They accomplish this task not just through rhetoric — that is, by talking about divisive issues in the misnamed “culture war” — but by materially carrying out attacks that cost lives. For example, now, the billionaire-funded fascist politicians are

cruelly blocking access to gender-affirming care for children, youth, and adults, when this is shown to reduce suicide; these politicians know very well that their policies are a form of violence against some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

By contrast, in Cuba, the working class is in power. There, the government uses all available science to develop its stance toward LGBTQ+ people, as with other social questions. We learned from doctors when visiting a Cuban polyclinic later in the day that CENESEX’s work is integrated across all health institutions as part of the Ministry of Health. The Communist Party, the mass organizations of the Cuban people, the autonomous networks, etc., work together to transform society in a progressive way.

This is demonstrated by the way that the new Families Code was developed through countless hours of outreach, with people meeting in every part of the island to discuss this important step not only for the Cuban people but for the social evolution of humanity.

A continuation of the Cuban Revolution

One activist emphasized that this process can’t be exported. That is because this is a continuation of the Cuban Revolution, which has stood against imperialist aggression since 1959. In the United States, there is no close connection between the government and the people. We do not have progressive mass organizations that can develop, through ongoing conversation, a shared vision for moving forward as a society. On the contrary,

‘Socialismo sí, homofobia/transfobia no!’ Cuba’s Conga celebrates advances in LGBTQ+ rights

By Melinda Butterfield

Conga, the traditional music and dance ensemble of Cuban carnival, with its pounding percussion, colorful costumes, and swirling dance, is beloved throughout the Caribbean and around the world.

A very special Conga took place in Havana on May 13 — the Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Much like Pride Month celebrations in the U.S., Conga is both a proclamation and celebration of Cuba’s LGBTQ+ community.

This year was the first in-person Conga held since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. With 95% of Cuba’s population vaccinated with the country’s excellent locally developed vaccines, the event was able to go full-steam ahead.

The sweltering heat and threatening clouds of previous days had relented, and there was much to celebrate. Last autumn, Cubans overwhelmingly approved a national referendum on a new Families Code — one that vastly expands the legal rights of queer families and all families.

That victory was encapsulated in the theme of this year’s Conga, “Por todas las familias, el amor es ley”: For all families, love is the law.

Conga in Havana and Sancti Spiritus are highlights of the annual Cuban Days against Homophobia and Trans-



SLL PHOTOS: MELINDA BUTTERFIELD

phobia, marked this year from May 3-20. A visiting delegation of LGBTQ+ activists from the U.S., organized by Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha, joined the Havana march.

As a crowd gathered near the Malecon in the late afternoon, friends old and new embraced, groups held aloft banners and flags, and activists posed for photos. A huge orange truck festooned with blue, white, and pink Trans Pride flags rounded the corner, carrying loudspeakers and drag performers, waved in by Malú Cano Val-

ladares, coordinator of the Transcuba Nacional network.

Conga musicians and dancers took their places and warmed up while dozens of hands took hold of the massive rainbow flag brought by Cenesex — Cuba’s National Center for Sex Education.

At the front of the march, holding a long banner nearly the width of the street, an array of activists from Cenesex, Transcuba, HSH gay men’s network, and the Network of Lesbian and Bisexual Women, were joined by international guests, including

Puerto Rican trans matriarch Dianne Trinidad and Deirdre Deans, a Black lesbian member of the U.S. delegation.

They marched alongside Cuban First Lady Lis Cuesta Peraza, Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín, Vice Minister of Public Health Carilda Peña, and Jorge Luís Broche, head of the Department of Attention to the Social Sector of the Communist Party of Cuba.

As the march stepped off, families, neighbors, and coworkers gathered on sidewalks and leaned out of windows to watch and cheer on the Conga. Some brought signs and banners of support. Parents hoisted children on their shoulders to watch. No hate groups were jeering or protesting from the sidelines — only solidarity and joy.

The day’s most popular chant was “Socialismo sí, homofobia/transfobia, no!” — yes to socialism, no to homophobia and transphobia. Other chants celebrated the Families Code and denounced the U.S. blockade that causes grave harm to Cuba’s queer community and all Cuban people.

As the march concluded, the thousands of participants joined a festival prepared in their honor. People ate, danced, talked, and flirted long into the night. Tomorrow, the work continues to educate and enact “the most advanced family code in the world,” in the words of Cenesex’s Castro Espín. 🏳️‍🌈

about new Families Code



SLL PHOTO

we have a growing crisis of legitimacy in all existing institutions and not just the strictly political ones.

A legal advisor for CENESEX, Sonia Zaldivar, explained to us that this Families Code “was conceived and resulted from many years of fighting and the study of science. ... By combining every type of knowledge – from the streets, from the academy, from other countries – [a Families Code was crafted] that stayed true to our conception of life. After 26-27 versions of the document, which changed with discussions across society, the Code went into effect with over 60% approval.”

While U.S. lawmakers are attempting to prevent discussion of LGBTQ+ life in schools, Cuba is ensuring that schools include lessons about sexual orientation and gender identity in the curriculum. The law affirms that parents have a responsibility to teach their children about these things and to respect their children’s identities.

Cuba has redefined marriage and the family structure to include all types of actually existing families, from those with LGBTQ+ parents to households led by grandparents. The patriarchal nuclear family does not capture the reality on the ground, and in Cuba, it is no longer privileged in the legal framework. The new Code even gives more rights to step-parents (including step-fathers or step-grandparents) who have dedicated themselves to the care of a child.

Even though this process cannot be exported, we can learn from the tremendous experience of the Cuban people about how to make a revolution for a humane society. We have to make our own revolution. And we should understand that the blockade is not only an economic one targeting the Cuban people and causing them to suffer. It is also a blockade of knowledge, with people in the U.S. being denied information about Cuba’s achievements – not to mention solidarity and material benefit, for example, if U.S. people could access Cuba’s lung cancer vaccine.

In the U.S., there is a near-total media blackout on the new Families Code, as with other matters. The imperialists do not want us to know about this achievement. But, as the Biblical saying goes, “you cannot light a candle and hide it under a bushel.” This Families Code is a light, and it is vital that people in the U.S. and other countries learn what is possible in this time when the bourgeoisie and their fascist shock troops attempt to roll back every right we have gained. The Cuban experience teaches us the necessity of struggle. We must and will struggle.

End the blockade! Build solidarity between people in the U.S. and Cuba! 📌

Amazon Labor Union: End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba!

ON MAY DAY, I joined a delegation of organizers on a trip to Cuba to show solidarity with the Cuban people and call out the injustice that is an economic blockade designed to harm workers and the people on the island.

Let’s make one thing very clear: The blockade isn’t designed to hurt the political leaders in Cuba or whatever nonsense people say to defend a Cold War-era policy. The blockade is designed to hurt the people – full stop.

Our group had to fill our suitcases with medical supplies like syringes and antibiotics because hospitals literally cannot access even basic life-saving instruments. Just imagine losing a friend or a family member just because American politicians are still so stuck in the past. They are willing to let folks die.

Enough. Show solidarity with the workers of Cuba and all of the people who have suffered for literally no reason, and join us in demanding an end to the blockade.

Nearly every country in the United Nations has called out the United States for its brutal economic sanctions on Cuba, all because they want to propagate the lies spread by massive corporations about



Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel and Amazon Labor Union President Christian Smalls in Havana on May 1, 2023.

the island. Massive companies are actually that threatened by even just a small society that dares to exist without their profiteering.

Throughout its history, Cuba has been a bastion of workers’ rights. And that’s exactly why the rich and powerful are so dedicated to keeping the people there down.

But worker solidarity doesn’t stop at the border – or any border. After decades of completely avoidable economic struggle, it’s time for the United States to listen to the rest of the world and end this pointless blockade.

In solidarity,
Chris Smalls
President, Amazon Labor Union

A drag show in Havana

By Gregory E. Williams

May 13, Havana — Almost the moment we arrived at the corner next to the club Las Vegas a car with one of our friends from the National Center for Sex Education (Cenesex) stopped by. She called us over to say hello before going on her way; she had just returned from airing a television roundtable with Mariela Castro Espín and others.

The place was nearly empty because we arrived too early, at 11:00 p.m. But by 1:00 a.m. and the start of the drag show, it was absolutely packed.

I was moved to see community members as well as foreign guests enjoying themselves. We experienced a brief blackout earlier in the night, reminding us of the blockade.

(The electricity came back online quickly, though; this is the only one we have witnessed since being here.)

There was a wide age range represented, from very young to elders. In the crowd, we saw another friend from Cenesex — a trans woman whom we happen to know is 74 years old! Congratulations to her for being a model of strength and determination, as well as grace.



Havana, May 13.

SLL photo

With all the people gathered at tables sharing drinks, there was little room for dancing, though some did. People sat talking and laughing with their arms wrapped around one another. Some kissed.

The drag performers regaled the people not only with style but affection. Throughout their performances, people got up on stage to give them money, hugs, and kisses.

The patrons were relatively mixed. There were masculine-presenting people as well as feminine ones throughout the bar.

Overall there was a strong impression of affection and community. 📌



**TRANS PEOPLE
WON'T BE ERASED**

**BIGOTS SAY GET BACK
WE SAY FIGHT BACK!**

**Women in Struggle /
Mujeres en Lucha**



NATIONAL MARCH TO PROTECT TRANS YOUTH

ORLANDO FLORIDA ► OCT 7 2023

& SPEAKOUT FOR TRANS RIGHTS

Build a People’s Tribunal to put anti-trans bigots on trial

Transgender, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people are under siege. So far this year, more than 400 anti-trans bills have been introduced at the state and national levels. Fourteen states have banned or severely restricted life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth. Attacks, both legislative and violent, are growing by the day, while national elected officials who claim to support LGBTQ+ community remain silent and do nothing. **Bigots say get back – we say fight back!**

Reach out to info@womeninstruggle.org for updates and to get involved.

WomeninStruggle.org [Facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle](https://www.facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle)

Cuban socialism advances biotechnology

By Gregory E. Williams

Twentieth anniversary of the Human Genome Project

April was the 20th anniversary of the official completion of the Human Genome Project (HGP). This was an international collaboration to identify all the DNA sequences comprising the human genome.

Planning for this colossal effort began as far back as 1984. The execution took 13 years, from 1990 to 2003. In actuality, the identification of nucleotide base pairs making up the genome was only 92% complete in 2003, when the project was declared completed. It was not until 2021 that the genome was sequenced, with only 0.3% of base pairs remaining undetermined.

The achievement by 2003 was astonishing. Countless hours of human labor combined with advances in computing power resulted in a nearly complete picture of the human genome only 50 years after the DNA structure was determined. The project was driven primarily by public collaboration – not market forces – with a relatively free exchange of information. Researchers worked in some 20 institutions in six countries, including China.

Since 2003, major milestones have been reached. For example, as of March this year, a Mississippi woman named Victoria Gray is experiencing a complete cessation of all symptoms of sickle cell anemia, a painful disease mainly affecting Black people. She began receiving experimental gene therapy using CRISPR technology in 2019. This would not have been possible without the HGP and other recent advances in genetics.

Advances hampered by profit motive

The full potential of these and other scientific advances is hampered by the profit motive inherent in the capitalist mode of production. Consider that recombinant human insulin has been on the market since 1982, yet 1.3 million diabetic people in the U.S. rationed insulin in 2021; the Biden administration has moved to bring down prices, but, again, this is 41 years after the product became available.

In a period marked by anti-intellectualism, academic and even journalistic information remains behind paywalls. On the other hand, disinformation – as with the far right's anti-vaccine propaganda – is often free.

And on top of the more “normal” limitations placed upon scientific development are imperialist blockades and sanctions. The anti-imperialist movement should be clear that sanctions are war by other means. The blockade of Cuba is designed to put maximum pressure on the population to force regime change, benefiting foreign capitalists. It is designed to hurt common people, especially children and older people. The Cuban government estimates that as of spring 2022, they have lost more than \$150 billion because of the blockade. That is \$150 billion that could have gone toward health care, housing, or combatting climate change. It could have gone toward improving infrastructure to withstand the frequent hurricanes that batter the island.



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U.S. LGBTQ+ delegation visits the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba.

Cuba develops biotechnology industry

Cuba is known around the world for its medical professionals. Cuban nurses and doctors go where there is need, to any country where they can travel. But Cuba is also distinguishing itself with world-class biotechnology research and manufacturing.

In Havana, our delegation visited the Centro de Ingeniería Genética y Biotecnología de Cuba – in English, the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology in Cuba, established in 1986. Multiple staff were gracious enough to take a couple of hours out of their workday to explain the history of this industry in Cuba, detailing achievements made despite seemingly impossible conditions imposed by the blockade. This demonstrates how seriously they take internationalist solidarity. As with everywhere else we went, the staff emphasized the importance they give to interchange with people from the U.S.

This institution had humble beginnings when, in 1980, Fidel Castro met with U.S. oncologist Dr. Randolph Lee Clark and others to discuss the promise of interferons and other cutting-edge medicines. Fidel had a grand vision for this industry in Cuba. He understood how it could improve people's lives, developing alongside the free, comprehensive health care system.

Today, this sector can manufacture over 70% of the medicines used on the island. This strengthens the resilience and sovereignty of the national economy and assures access for the population. Since 2012, the biotechnology industry has been grouped principally under the state-owned BioCubaFarma, uniting multiple pre-existing entities. According to the presentation we saw, BioCubaFarma has 996 products on the national market, with 76% relating to public health.

By prioritizing this sector and integrating it with on-the-ground health care through socialist planning, Cuba has radically decreased the incidence of infectious diseases. The entire population up to 40 years old has been immunized against Hepatitis B, which kills up to 1 million people worldwide each year. As of 2021, Cuba has fewer than 100 cases of acute Hepatitis B. No cases have been reported for people 15 years old and younger.

This is just one example. Cuba is also on track to eliminate meningitis.

BioCubaFarma has produced a recombinant human epidermal growth factor – a drug called Heberprot-P – which improves healing of advanced diabetic foot ulcers. Around the world, patients with diabetic foot ulcers have a mortality rate of almost 50% within five years, making this condition a significant public health concern, including in the U.S.

To date, this industry has produced five vaccines against COVID-19, with Cuba's Abdala being the first COVID-19 vaccine developed in Latin America. Abdala has a 92.28% efficacy at three doses. Importantly, these vaccines do not require special refrigeration, making them suitable for wide distribution in the developing world.

In all, the presenter explained the development and impact of around 13 different biotechnology products. All of these are the result of heroic efforts in the face of the blockade. He was clear that the full development of the sector is impossible so long as the blockade is in place. As a worker in a U.S. molecular biology lab, this writer knows that all of the materials and equipment needed to carry out even the most basic research in these areas are expensive. It is difficult for laboratories in Cuba to replace non-functioning equipment or to obtain chemical reagents. He described these difficulties as “a continual nightmare.”

For these reasons, biotechnology development is held back. This harms the Cuban people, who are deprived of income and more rapid scientific development. But it also harms people worldwide who could benefit from access to Cuba's products. That includes people in the U.S., especially the working class and oppressed.

For the free exchange of information

The Human Genome Project showed that great advances in knowledge and technical ability are possible with international collaboration and a free exchange of information. That project itself was nearly thwarted by forces representing a different vision – one which saw genetic therapies and even genes as exploitable for profit. This is emblematic of science under capitalism. Fortunately, the public project won out. But in general, the existence of capitalism and imperialism thwart the full flowering of human potential, including scientific advancement.

Cuba's scientific achievements under present circumstances are enormous. BioCubaFarma does have collaborative projects in some countries, including China and Spain. But without the blockade, much more would be possible. Imagine if researchers from Cuba and the United States could work together without this interference. Imagine how much poor and oppressed people in the U.S. would benefit from Cuban medicines and aid from their incredible medical professionals. Imagine the benefit to Cuba if its products were widely available in the U.S.

The working class in the U.S. has no interest in continuing the blockade. For us – as for the working class in Cuba – it is a detriment. What will benefit us, again, is the free exchange of knowledge and expertise. What will benefit us is internationalist collaboration. 🌐

Media slanders Jordan Neely & raises millions for his killer

Continued from page 1

fascists who were allowed to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Another recipient was Kyle Rittenhouse, who killed two anti-racists during a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Super bigot Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, now a presidential candidate, wants to ban Black history and has banned gender-affirming care for transgender youth. He's urging his followers to donate for the killer.

So have fascist members of Congress Marjorie Taylor Greene and Matt Gaetz. Greene calls the vigilante a “hero.”

The campaign to defend Penny comes right from the filthy top of capitalist society.

“Free Daniel Penny” was the title of William McGurn's May 15 column in the Wall Street Journal, another Murdoch publication. McGurn was chief speechwriter for war criminal George W. Bush, who lynched Iraq. At least 280,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed since the U.S. invasion.

Capitalism's last refuge is hate

Food prices are soaring, rents have gone through the roof and an inevitable economic recession is coming sooner than later. So how can apologists for capitalism hope to defend their rotten system?

Hate is their weapon, including hatred against homeless people like Jordan Neely. The greatest crime under capitalism is to be poor.

The New York Post claimed that 20 homeless veterans were kicked out of two Orange County, New York, hotels to make room for immigrants. The May 13 story was a complete hoax intended to stir up hatred against migrant families and their children.

Every bigoted politician is targeting trans folk, particularly children. The capitalist war drive needs you to hate Russia and China.

“The United States of Lyncherdom” was how Mark Twain described the U.S. in 1901. The year before, South Carolina Senator Ben Tillman defended lynching before the U.S. Senate.

The first Hollywood blockbuster was “Birth of a Nation,” which showed and justified a lynching. It was shown in the White House to President Woodrow Wilson, a racist who segregated federal office buildings.

The film glorified the Ku Klux Klan and was used for decades by the cross burners to recruit more members.

The five “Death Wish” movies starring Charles Bronson hailed vigilante violence. The New York Post and racist politicians celebrated the vigilante Bernard Goetz, who shot four Black youth in a subway car in 1984. Today they're hailing the vigilante Daniel Penny.

Like Ben Tillman did a century ago, the defenders of Penny are supporting lynching. Poor and working people have to reject their slimy campaign and demand that Daniel Penny be jailed. 🌐

In Cuba, National Assembly of People’s Power truly represents the people

By Lizz Toledo

Havana – The first thing you notice coming from the U.S. to the beautiful island of Cuba is how chill the people are. They hang out late into the night, chatting, playing dominoes, listening to music, or just watching the sights.

The second thing you notice is that government officials do not fear the people they represent. It is truly a government by the people and for the people.

Unlike U.S. government officials who do not mix among the people, Lis Cuesta Peraza, wife of Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, and National Assembly Deputy Mariela Castro Espín marched among the people in the Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia without any security detail.

When we visited the Capitol in Havana on May 12, there were no armed guards surrounding the building where the National Assembly of People’s Power meets. At the entrance were two guards who waved our delegation of LGBTQ+ activists from the U.S. right in. We were escorted through the building by Sergio Martínez, a deputy of the assembly, who met with us and explained the Cuban political process.

The National Assembly has 470 elected deputies. They do not receive a salary for their service and are not allowed to get campaign funding. They are also subject to recall by the people of their districts at any time. Therefore they cannot be bought and they cannot betray the districts they are there to represent.

Deputies must maintain their jobs in their chosen professions. What a contrast with U.S. Congress members and other elected officials who are owned and controlled by corporate lobbyists and dark money!

At the Capitol, the president, vice president and secretary of the assembly, the presidents of the commissions and their staff, work throughout the year. But most elected deputies work in their communities and meet in Havana two times per year. If needed, the president can call a special meeting to discuss urgent matters.

At the end of May 2023, a special session will be held to discuss and approve the Social Communications legislation, to protect the Cuban people from the constant misinformation war waged by the United States.

The U.S. government hopes this misinformation war may work on Cuban youth, because they know it hasn’t worked on older Cubans, who remember what the country was like under Washington’s thumb before the revolution – where children died of hunger and other curable diseases, people lived in shacks, and the majority of the population was illiterate.

But even the Cuban youth, especially those in the Union of Communist



Deputy Sergio Martinez meets U.S. LGBTQ+ delegation, May 12.

SLL PHOTO

Youth and Federation of University Students, continue to defend their revolution and their homeland. “Although we are grateful for the solidarity the world has shown us, we can’t wait for anyone to defend our revolution; we have to continue to build our revolution and a better Cuba today,” asserted a young woman leader of the federation.

Elections in Cuba

When it comes to the electoral process in Cuba, you immediately notice that lies and misinformation are also propagandized to the people in the U.S. regarding “corrupt” elections in Cuba.

There is only one political party, the Communist Party of Cuba. But anyone can run for office. Candidates are selected by the community they live and work in. Each neighborhood gives from 2-8 nominations for delegates that are well-known and respected by their community, so capitalist-style campaigns are not allowed or necessary. They represent their neighborhoods in the Municipal Assembly.

From these, the candidates for the National Assembly are selected. Fifty percent of the candidates go through this process. The other 50% of the nominated candidates come from the mass organizations of civil society, where one will find the Federation of Cuban Women, Committees for Defense of the Revolution, Cuban Workers’ Central, and others.

All the nominations then go to the National Candidacy Commission, where they are thoroughly vetted. There is no requirement that a candidate be a member of the Communist Party, although many are. This totally debunks the U.S. government’s assertion that Cuba’s Communist Party selects the legislature.

U.S. capitalist politicians can never understand integrity, honesty, or service to the people, because they are put into power to serve the needs and wants of the ruling class.

The National Candidacy Commission proposes a final list of candidates, which go back to the Municipal Assemblies for approval, and finally to the general elections. Anywhere in this process, Cubans can reject a can-

didate, but must provide evidence as to why they believe the candidate is unable to serve.

Currently 55% of the National Assembly delegates are women. Some 73% of people voted in the last election. Compare that to the U.S., where just over half of the voting population participated in the 2020 general election.

After the National Assembly is seated, the deputies elect the president, vice president and secretary of the parliament, and also the president and vice president of the Republic, and members of the Council of State.

By law a member of parliament carries the vote and the issues from their community, meeting with their constituency once a month. The work of a member of the National Assembly is one of service with no pay. They live in their communities and may be called upon to respond to a neighbor constituent in the middle of the night after a long day at their job. They are required by law and by duty to respond promptly. The people have the right to request the removal of any elected official.

The role of the Communist Party is to develop the guidelines for the development of a socialist society. The Party’s mandate is to meet the needs of the majority of Cubans, to have social justice for all, and to ensure that every Cuban can express and participate in the development of the type of society Cubans want.

Contrary to the stated role of “representatives” in the U.S., the reality for people here is no social justice, homelessness, no medical care, hunger, and state-sanctioned violence.

Legislative process

For legislation to become law, it must be approved by the National Assembly. In the case of laws that affect the entire population, the people must vote for it.

The Council of State meets between the two annual sessions. Twenty-one deputies are elected by the National Assembly to serve on the council. Their charge is to serve the legislature by organizing and gathering information on issues brought by their constituents or mass organizations.

Legislation is prepared by a group of experts who develop a draft proposal. Then it goes to the respective sectors for input – for instance, farmers will have input in any legislation that affects farmers. Anyone who has an interest in the topic can request inclusion in the discussion and development.

After the National Assembly approves major new legislation, it may go to referendum for the people to vote yes or no. Such was the case of the Families Code, passed in Cuba last year, a law that is far ahead of any country, especially the United States, as it relates to families and the LGBTQ+ community.

The interest of the Cuban people is paramount for the National Assembly. Imagine if we in the U.S. could truly have leaders that make our interests more important than the interests of Big Oil, Big Pharma, or Big Banks. Imagine our representatives working towards the development of a better life for all people in the U.S.

These scoundrels, our so-called “representatives,” know nothing about sacrifice, service, or commitment. They will never willingly give up their millionaire donors, their mansions, and their paid expensive vacations.

Only socialist revolution in the U.S. will wrench power from them and give it back to the people, where it belongs.

Impact of U.S. economic blockade

Deputy Sergio Martínez ended our meeting as most of the people we met ended their meetings – with a discussion on how the longest sanctions imposed on any country have impacted and continue to impact the people of Cuba. He spoke of its impact on energy production, agriculture, and medicine.

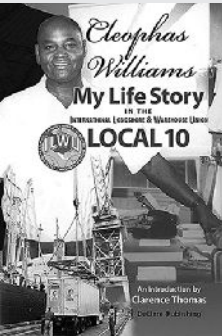
“The Biden administration has not been friendly and in fact has been more harmful with misinformation, the blockade, and now putting Cuba on the list of state sponsors of terrorism,” Martínez explained.

When we visited the Denunciation Memorial in Havana, I was disgusted by the gall of the U.S. imperialist government in having a list of so-called “state sponsors of terrorism.” This same U.S. government has rained torture, rape, and murder on Cuba, all over the world, and upon its own citizens. Calling anyone else a terrorist is simply hypocrisy at the greatest level.

A recent meeting of Latin American countries voted against the exclusion of Cuba and demanded an end to the blockade, as well as taking Cuba off the terrorist list.

“We cannot wait for the U.S. to end the blockade. We have to develop our country with it still in place. Sovereignty is a right we will not renounce no matter what or at any cost,” the humble, revolutionary servant of the Cuban people stated. 📌


‘Cleophas Williams, My Life Story in Local 10’ released on May Day 2023



The history of African Americans in the Int’l Longshore & Warehouse Union in San Francisco is indeed worthy of documentation. Such an individual is Cleophas Williams, whose distinguished career as a member of Local 10 spanned 38 years. Cleophas Williams’ election as president of ILWU Local 10 in 1967 made him the highest elected African American to serve as an officer in the entire ILWU. He was amongst the leaders who placed Local 10 into the vanguard of the labor movement by engaging in civil-rights unionism and other social movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Order online at MillionWorkerMarch.com

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



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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.*’

McCubbin is the author of ‘Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.’ Published in 1976, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ2S movement, McCubbin’s unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ2S oppression developed.

U.S. judicial system’s bias against workers

By Lallan Schoenstein

There are various concepts of the law. One often hears reference to “Constitutional law.” The U.S. Constitution, with the passage of the Judiciary Act of 1789, did not extend equal rights to people kidnapped from Africa, the Indigenous population, women and other oppressed genders, or those without property — only white men with substantial property holdings. Constitutional law was written primarily to protect the rights of private property. This “Constitutional law” is presented as intractable rules carved into marble, with the upholders as sacrosanct.

At the same time, others call on the law to protect and support the advance of human society. Recently this concept of the law was affirmed in Cuba by the passage of the 2022 Families Code. In a 2022 referendum, over 60% of voters approved a constitutional reform that provided for the protection of all forms of families, including chosen families; the rights of children, elders, and the right of people with disabilities to independence, dignity, accessibility; the right of gender equality, including for trans and nonbinary Cubans; and a duty to contribute to the family and recognition of the value of domestic labor; and finally the institutional and community responsibility to uphold these rights.

In a debate on the U.S. judiciary, various U.S. Republican and Democratic think tanks raise the difference between elected and appointed judges. While they acknowledge that elections are a more democratic option, they claim that judges and judicial rulings should be based on an “objective interpretation of the law and therefore must not be influenced by public opinion.”

U.S. federal judges, Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, and District Court judges are nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate. State judges are chosen by appointment or an election.

Corporate lawyers who become judges

A study conducted by Emory University found that former prosecutors and corporate lawyers make up nearly 7-in-10 judges in the federal district courts, which consider cases over employment, immigration, the environment, and other topics.

Judges appointed by former President Barack Obama who have a back-

ground as prosecutors are most likely to decide in favor of employers. Obama-appointed judges with corporate backgrounds are 36% less likely to rule on behalf of employees.

Further, former President Donald Trump’s judges are overwhelmingly white and male, with one-quarter coming from the country’s 200 biggest law firms.

After an investigation of judicial stock holdings in the U.S., the Wall Street Journal reported in 2022 that 152 federal judges improperly heard 1,076 court cases between 2010 and 2018 in which they or their family members owned shares of companies that were plaintiffs or defendants in the litigation. In two-thirds of those cases, they ruled in favor of the company.

The Supreme Court

Public opinion on the nature of the Supreme Court has sunk to an all-time low, and in December, Chief Justice John Roberts urged, “We must support judges by ensuring their safety.” However, he notably said nothing about the revelations of the judges’ gross breach of ethics.

A ProPublica report on April 6 centered public attention on Harlan Crow, a Dallas, Texas, real estate magnate who has given more than \$13 million in publicly disclosed political contributions to right-wing political campaigns and judicial appointments.

Featured in the ProPublica report were Crow’s undisclosed contributions to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife, far-right activist Ginni Thomas. Ginni Thomas co-founded the secretive right-wing strategy group Groundswell with Steve Bannon.

ProPublica details trips gifted by Crow in super yachts and private jets for luxurious holidays at properties owned by Crow in Indonesia, New Zealand, California, Texas, and Georgia.

Harlan Crow is also involved in refurbishing and selling a Thomas property in Savannah, Georgia.

The mainstream media reports on the Thomas bribes often contrast them to the “untarnished ethical standards” of the other Supreme Justices.

Chief Justice John Roberts has declined to respond to a Congressional request to investigate Justice Clarence Thomas. Maybe he is overwhelmed with more revelations about the Supreme Court judges.

For example, Politico reported that Supreme Court Justice Neil M. Gorsuch gained nearly \$2 million in the sale of a 40-acre property on the Colorado River. It was sold to Brian Duffy, chief executive officer of the prominent law firm Greenberg Traurig in May 2017, just one month after Gorsuch was sworn in as a Supreme Court associate justice.

The Greenberg Traurig law office represented the state of North Dakota in a dispute over the Environmental Protection Agency’s authority in regulating carbon emissions as part of the Clean Air Act.

Gorsuch was part of a six-member majority on the Supreme Court that ruled last June in favor of North Dakota and other Republican-led states to cut back the EPA’s authority to regulate carbon emissions from existing power plants.

Funding a far-right agenda

Scalia Law School at George Mason University in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., was funded with \$30 million by Leonard Leo, an executive of the Federalist Society, in 2016.

Leo’s scheme is to shift the federal judiciary to a far-right agenda. He boasts of significant ties to the Vatican. He has spent millions of dollars in television advertisements attacking schools for teaching “critical race theory” and “woke agendas.” His initiatives are financially supported by an opaque, sprawling network of wealthy patrons such as the Koch Foundation, usually through anonymous donations commonly called “dark money.”

The network has spent nearly \$504 million, including grants to about 150 allied groups. Leo’s efforts have been turbocharged by an unusual \$1.6 billion infusion from Barre Seid, a Chicago electronics manufacturing (Tripp Lite) mogul, in late 2020.

Among the school’s most notorious alumni was William Consovoy, a Supreme Court clerk who helped persuade the high court to strike down key provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

The Scalia Law School faculty includes Justice Gorsuch, Justice Thomas, and Justice Kavanaugh.

Documents show how Scalia Law has offered the justices academic coocon, where their legal views can be promoted, where they are given top payouts and treated to “teaching”

trips abroad, where their personal needs are anticipated from lunch orders to – in Justice Gorsuch’s case – house hunting.

When the law school courted Gorsuch in 2017, it asked him to help choose the Italian city where he would co-teach a seminar on national security and the separation of powers. A memo offered options including Padua (a “first-tier city in a picturesque setting”), Venice (with a “seven-mile-long-sandbar known as Lido”), and Bologna (“Italy’s most prestigious academic city”).

“Fantastic!” Gorsuch responded. As a Roll Call report points out, the Supreme Court justices have no formal limits outside the annual financial disclosure requirement. “Other federal judges are bound by the Code of Conduct for U.S. Judges, which places strict limits on honorariums, gifts and political activity. But the code does not apply to Supreme Court justices.”

Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh each made salaries approaching \$30,000 for teaching summer courses that ran for up to two weeks.

Many justices have augmented their government salaries, roughly \$300,000, by holding classes at schools including Harvard, Duke, and Notre Dame.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Trump’s final appointee to the high court, recently felt obliged to say, in a speech at the University of Louisville, “My goal today is to convince you that this court is not comprised of a bunch of partisan hacks.” Barret is a longtime faculty member at Notre Dame.

The Scalia Law School creates the perks programs for the justices in far-flung locations. Justice Gorsuch has traveled to Iceland and Italy to teach; Justice Kavanaugh has taught in Britain.

Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Thomas regularly used the employees in their chambers to coordinate their outside academic duties in performing activities for which extra compensation was to be received.

“The school has also been able to entice the court’s liberals: Justice Elena Kagan, who has called for the court’s conservative and liberal wings to rediscover ‘common ground,’ Kagan joined Justice Gorsuch as a distinguished guest when he taught his summer course in Iceland in 2021. Justice Sonia Sotomayor spoke on a Scalia Law panel with him the same year,” the New York Times reported. [E]

Hundreds in Times Square declare: Nakba was a crime! Palestine will win!

By Struggle-La Lucha
New York bureau

New York City’s Times Square was filled with protesters on May 14. They marked the 75th anniversary of the Nakba – meaning “catastrophe” in Arabic – that was the founding of the apartheid regime that occupies Palestine.

“Israel” was founded in 1948 upon the massacres of hundreds of people at Deir Yassin and other villages. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled from their homes.

As a notice for the protest explained, “Israel” means “75 years of occupation, of apartheid, of settler colonialism, of massacres, of ethnic cleansing.”

The rally was called by NY4Palestine, which includes Al-Awda NY, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; American Muslims for Palestine; Palestinian Youth Movement; and Students for Justice in Palestine.

Other organizations endorsing the rally were the December 12th Movement; ANSWER Coalition; Bronx Greens; Brooklyn for Peace; Neturei

Karta (Orthodox Jews who denounce Zionism); Party for Socialism and Liberation; Socialist Unity Party; Veterans for Peace; and Workers World Party.

Colorful banners and loud chants attracted onlookers. Speakers reminded people that it’s the \$158 billion that the U.S. has given to the Zionist regime that keeps it alive.

Bill Dores from Struggle-La Lucha newspaper linked the lynching of Jordan Neely by a white supremacist



SLL PHOTOS: BILL DORES

U.S. drops ‘One China’ policy, uses Philippines for war drive over Taiwan

By Scott Scheffer

Pentagon strategists have been beefing up their military presence in Asia and building alliances in preparation for an all-out war against China. In recent months Taiwan has increasingly come into focus as the likely excuse to justify a war as terrible – or worse – than any in modern history.

They want to use Taiwan as a tool to “manufacture consent.” But the island is important for more than just war propaganda. Pentagon planners are readying plans for control of areas of Asia and in particular the South China Sea that would be of value in war.

In early April, CNN reported that U.S. forces would now be allowed to rotate troops to nine military bases in the Philippines, including four new bases. Three of the four are within a few hundred miles of Taiwan and close to military defense locations of China’s People’s Liberation Army.

The Philippines bases would facilitate a takeover of the channel between northern Luzon and Taiwan – the area called the Bashi Channel. Control of Taiwan would be instrumental in moving into the South China Sea.

Only weeks after securing access to the bases, the U.S. conducted war exercises jointly with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Annual Balikatan war exercises between the U.S. and the Philippines have been growing in size and scope in their decades-long history, and this was the largest ever, involving 17,600 troops – nearly double that in 2022.

More than 12,000 of the troops were from the U.S., a small number from



U.S. Army rocket system used for a live fire event during Balikatan 23 war exercises in the Philippines, April 26.

Australia, and the remainder from the AFP. They used live ammunition, F-16 fighter jets, the F-35B stealth bomber, Patriot missile batteries, and Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters. They included amphibious landing practice, and targeted and sunk a decommissioned ship close to the South China Sea.

Balikatan 2023 was an open threat and practice for war against China.

In another signal of the heightened war danger, Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. followed up with an announcement that the AFP would join the U.S. in ongoing naval patrols of the South China Sea. Marcos’ father was a brutal U.S.-backed dictator who was driven into exile by an uprising of the Filipino people in 1986.

War budget, arms sales

On March 9, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced President Joe Biden’s proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Budget of \$842 billion – which is \$26 billion more than 2023. Describing Biden’s proposal, Austin

said: “To sustain our military advantage over China, it makes major investments in integrated air and missile defenses and operational energy efficiency, as well as in our air dominance, our maritime dominance, and in munitions, including hypersonics.

“This budget includes the largest ever request for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, which we are using to invest in advanced capabilities, new operational concepts, and more resilient force posture in the Indo-Pacific region. It also enables groundbreaking posture initiatives in Guam, Mariana Islands, the Philippines, Japan, and Australia.”

Separate from the proposed defense budget, the Biden administration has approved \$19 billion in arm sales to Taiwan. Weapons-makers are energetically pushing for more of that.

Defense News reported May 3, “A delegation of United States defense contractors and a former senior leader of the U.S. Marine Corps pledged the beginning of deeper cooperation with Taiwan.

“Speaking at a public forum in Taiwan’s capital Taipei, retired Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder said the U.S. wants to be part of the defense capabilities of Taiwan and improve the supply chain resilience of the island. He also emphasized how critical the island’s position is for security.”

Taiwan was already part of China more than a century before George Washington was elected the first president of the U.S. Its unwarranted recognition as a separate country only happened in 1949 when Chiang Kai-Shek, the nationalist leader who

slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Mao Zedong’s revolutionary fighters beginning with the 1927 Shanghai Massacre, was finally chased out.

Chiang fled to Taiwan and was recognized by the imperialist U.S. as the legitimate government of China. Under pressure from the U.S., the United Nations didn’t even grant the People’s Republic of China a seat until 1971.

Since then, officially, the U.S. has adhered to the “One China” policy in recognition of the fact that Taiwan is part of China. The “Three Communiques” were mutually agreed on policies that the U.S. ostensibly accepted in exchange for the right to invest in China.

Two trends of thought have competed with each other among those billionaires who dominate U.S. policy toward China. There are those who want to maintain a stable profit-taking relationship.

But the spectacular successes of China in lifting more than 800 million people out of extreme poverty, China’s rise as a world scientific power, its global leadership in surviving the COVID-19 pandemic, and myriad other achievements, have emboldened those capitalist rulers who want to destroy China.

The anti-imperialist movement is facing its greatest challenge in many decades. The proxy war against Russia and the growing momentum for war against China have to be seen as one. A powerful people’s movement that takes militant action against U.S. imperialism can and must block another calamitous war. ☐

Biden attacks migrants, sends troops to border

By Alejandra Garcia

On March 27, a fire at a migrant center in Juarez City, on the border with the United States, brought the world’s attention back to a problem that has worsened in recent years. Forty undocumented migrants from various countries in the region died in the fire. They are just a small fragment of the thousands who die and thousands more who endanger their lives while seeking asylum in the United States, where they are not welcome.

What are the causes of the increasing migratory flows in Latin America? What are the situations faced by those who decide to leave their country? What public policies are being implemented? These questions are repeated year after year, the answers are almost always the same, and the “solutions” usually exacerbate the problem.

Migration has been increasing since the second half of the 20th century due to the rising inequality, decreasing labor supply, violence, food insecurity, increasingly fierce weather events, and the absence of public policies to help the most vulnerable to escape poverty. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic also accelerated the increase of migrants along the shared U.S.-Mexico border.

According to a December 2022 New York Times publication, U.S. Border Patrol agents recorded nearly 2.4 million apprehensions along the entire southern border in one year. In March of this year, the number of migrants apprehended by U.S. immigration authorities increased by 25% as the Joe Biden administration prepares for a major policy shift this May.

The policy known as Title 42, which allowed for the expedited deportation of undocumented immigrants due to health reasons, will cease to be in effect. The Trump-era order is set to lapse once the national COVID-19 public health emergency expires on May 11. This week, the Homeland Security Department offered a statement to the press on what “solutions” the Biden administration will seek to contain the possible increase in border arrivals now that the nefarious Title 42 will no longer be in effect.

“After May 11th, our court-compelled use of Title 42 will end, and we will once again process all migrants under Title 8 of the United States code. The return to processing migrants under Title 8 authorities will be swift and immediate,” Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas explained.



But what does this Title 8 mean? First of all, it will not offer a substantial change from the xenophobic policy implemented by former President Donald Trump, so often criticized by Biden during his 2020 election campaign.

In the second place, the regulation would disqualify migrants from asylum if they enter the U.S. illegally after failing to ask for protection in a country other than the one they fled that they traversed to reach American soil. According to CBS News, the rule is likely to be challenged in court by migrant advocates, who have denounced it as a Trump-like effort to gut U.S. asylum laws.

Biden also plans to deploy more than 1,500 military troops to the border to “contain” the flow of undocumented immigrants into the country.

Biden’s desperate and erratic actions and the death of 40 people in the migrant detention center, just a few

kilometers from the U.S. border, shows that the Biden administration is clueless and the crisis is far from being solved. What happened also proves that the fate of undocumented migrants, once they are quickly removed from U.S. territory, cannot be the sole responsibility of the Mexican government.

“What happened also speaks to the internal political tensions, of Central America and other southern countries, of the caravans and the dissonance between good intentions and reality. The border is a vital and bureaucratic abyss for tens of thousands of people waiting to define their status after a long and dangerous journey through the Darien jungle,” journalist Francesco Manetto described.

There is an urgent need for more diagnostic work and research on the situation of migrants, the “criminalization” to which they are subjected, the closing of borders to vulnerable foreign populations. There is a need to make visible that migration policies based on “national security” can hardly guarantee respect for the rights and needs of migrants who are human beings in the first place.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano* – English

En Cuba, la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular representa verdaderamente al pueblo

Por Lizz Toledo

La Habana – Lo primero que notas al venir de los EE. UU. a la hermosa isla de Cuba es lo relajada que es la gente. Pasan el rato hasta altas horas de la noche, charlando, jugando al dominó, escuchando música o simplemente pasando tiempo con sus vecinos.

Lo segundo que notas es que los funcionarios del gobierno no temen a las personas que representan. Es verdaderamente un gobierno del pueblo y para el pueblo.

A diferencia de los funcionarios del gobierno estadounidense que no se mezclan con la gente, Lis Cuesta Peraza, esposa del presidente cubano Miguel Díaz-Canel, y la diputada a la Asamblea Nacional Mariela Castro Espín marcharon entre la gente en la Conga Contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia sin ningún elemento de seguridad.

Cuando visitamos el Capitolio en La Habana el 12 de mayo, no había guardias armados rodeando el edificio donde se reúne la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular. En la entrada había dos guardias que dieron el pase a nuestra delegación de activistas LGBTQ+ de EE. UU. A través del edificio nos acompañó Sergio Martínez, un diputado de la asamblea, quien se reunió con nosotros y nos explicó el proceso político cubano.

La Asamblea Nacional tiene 470 diputados electos. No reciben un salario por su servicio y no se les permite obtener fondos de campaña. También están sujetos a revocación por parte de la gente de sus distritos en cualquier momento. Por lo tanto, no se pueden comprar y no pueden traicionar a los distritos que representan allí.

Los diputados deben mantener sus trabajos en las profesiones que eligieron. ¡Qué contraste con los miembros del Congreso de EE. UU. y otros funcionarios electos que son propiedad y están controlados por cabilderos corporativos y dinero oscuro!

En el Capitolio trabajan durante todo el año el presidente, el vicepresidente, el secretario de la asamblea, los presidentes de las comisiones y su personal. Pero la mayoría de los diputados electos trabajan en sus comunidades y se reúnen en La Habana dos veces al año. Si es necesario, el presidente puede convocar una reunión especial para discutir asuntos urgentes.

A fines de mayo de 2023 se realizará una sesión especial para discutir y aprobar la legislación de Comunicaciones Sociales, para proteger al pueblo cubano de la constante guerra de desinformación que libra Estados Unidos.

El gobierno de EE. UU. espera que esta guerra de desinformación pueda funcionar con la juventud cubana porque saben que no ha funcionado con los cubanos mayores, quienes recuerdan cómo era el país bajo el yugo de Washington antes de la revolución: donde los niños morían de hambre y otras enfermedades curables, la gente vivía en chozas, y la mayoría de la población era analfabeta.

Pero incluso la juventud cubana, especialmente la de la Unión de la Juventud Comunista y la Federación de Estudiantes Universitarios, sigue defendiendo su revolución y su patria.



El diputado Sergio Martínez se reúne con la delegación LGBTQ + de EE. UU., 12 de mayo.

SLL PHOTO

“Aunque estamos agradecidos por la solidaridad que el mundo nos ha mostrado, no podemos esperar a que nadie defienda nuestra revolución; tenemos que seguir construyendo nuestra revolución y una Cuba mejor hoy”, aseveró una joven dirigente de la federación.

Elecciones en Cuba

Cuando se trata del proceso electoral en Cuba, inmediatamente se nota que las mentiras y la desinformación también se propagan a la gente de los EE. UU. con respecto a las elecciones “corruptas” en Cuba.

Hay un solo partido político, el Partido Comunista de Cuba. Pero cualquiera puede postularse para un cargo. Los candidatos son seleccionados por la comunidad en la que viven y trabajan. Cada vecindario da de 2 a 8 nominaciones para delegados que son bien conocidos y respetados por su comunidad, por lo que las campañas de estilo capitalista no están permitidas ni son necesarias. Representan a sus barrios en la Asamblea Municipal.

De estos, se seleccionan los candidatos a la Asamblea Nacional. El cincuenta por ciento de los candidatos pasan por este proceso. El otro 50% de los candidatos postulados provienen de las organizaciones de masas de la sociedad civil, donde se encuentran la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas, Comités de Defensa de la Revolución, Central de Trabajadores de Cuba, y otras.

Todas las nominaciones luego van a la Comisión Nacional de Candidaturas, donde son examinadas minuciosamente. No se exige que un candidato sea miembro del Partido Comunista, aunque muchos lo son. Esto desacredita totalmente la afirmación del gobierno de los Estados Unidos de que el Partido Comunista de Cuba selecciona la legislatura.

Los políticos capitalistas estadounidenses nunca podrán entender la integridad, la honestidad o el servicio al pueblo porque se les pone en el poder para satisfacer las necesidades y los deseos de la clase dominante.

La Comisión Nacional de Candidaturas propone una lista final de candidatos, que vuelve a las Asambleas Municipales para su aprobación, y finalmente a las elecciones generales. En cualquier parte de este proceso, los cubanos pueden rechazar a un candidato, pero deben proporcionar evidencia de por qué creen que el candidato no puede servir.

Actualmente, el 55% de los delegados a la Asamblea Nacional son mujeres. Un 73% de la gente votó en las últimas elecciones. Compare eso con los EE. UU., donde poco más de la mitad de la población votante participó en

las elecciones generales de 2020.

Una vez instalada la Asamblea Nacional, los diputados eligen al presidente, vicepresidente y secretario del parlamento, así como al presidente y vicepresidente de la República y a los miembros del Consejo de Estado.

Por ley, un miembro del parlamento lleva el voto y los asuntos de su comunidad, reuniéndose con su electorado una vez al mes. El trabajo de un miembro de la Asamblea Nacional es uno de servicio sin remuneración. Viven en sus comunidades y se les puede pedir que respondan a un vecino constituyente en medio de la noche después de un largo día de trabajo. Están obligados por ley y por deber a responder con prontitud. El pueblo tiene derecho a solicitar la destitución de cualquier funcionario electo.

El papel del Partido Comunista es desarrollar las directrices para el desarrollo de una sociedad socialista. El mandato del Partido es satisfacer las necesidades de la mayoría de los cubanos, tener justicia social para todos y asegurar que cada cubano pueda expresarse y participar en el desarrollo del tipo de sociedad que los cubanos quieren.

Contrariamente al papel declarado de los “representantes” en los EE. UU., la realidad para el pueblo es que la justicia no existe, hay falta de vivienda, no hay atención médica, hambre y violencia sancionada por el estado.

Proceso legislativo

Para que una legislación se convierta en ley, debe ser aprobada por la Asamblea Nacional. En el caso de leyes que afecten a toda la población, el pueblo deberá votar por ellas.

El Consejo de Estado se reúne entre las dos sesiones anuales. Veintiún diputados son elegidos por la Asamblea Nacional para servir en el consejo. Su cargo es servir a la legislatura mediante la organización y recopilación de información sobre los problemas presentados por sus electores u organizaciones de masas.

La legislación es preparada por un grupo de expertos que desarrollan un borrador de propuesta. Luego va a los respectivos sectores para recibir aportes; por ejemplo, los agricultores tendrán aportes en cualquier legislación que afecte a los agricultores. Cualquiera que tenga interés en el tema puede solicitar su inclusión en la discusión y el desarrollo de la ley.

Después de que la Asamblea Nacional aprueba una nueva legislación importante, puede ir a referéndum para que la gente vote sí o no. Tal fue el caso del Código de Familias, aprobado en Cuba el año pasado, una ley que está muy por delante de cualquier país, especialmente de Estados Unidos, en lo que se refiere a las familias y la comunidad LGBTQ+. (Un artículo futuro sobre el Código de Familias explorará esto más a fondo).

El interés del pueblo cubano es primordial para la Asamblea Nacional. Imagínese si nosotros en los EE. UU. realmente pudiéramos tener líderes que hicieran que nuestros intereses fueran más importantes que los intereses de Big Oil, Big Pharma o Big Banks. Imagine a nuestros representantes trabajando para el desarrollo de una vida mejor para todas las personas en los EE. UU.

Estos sinvergüenzas, nuestros llamados “representantes”, no saben nada de sacrificio, servicio o compromiso. Nunca renunciarán voluntariamente a sus donantes millonarios, sus mansiones y sus costosas vacaciones pagadas por estos donates. Solo una revolución socialista en los EE. UU. les arrebatará el poder y se lo devolverá al pueblo donde pertenece.

Impacto del bloqueo económico Estadounidense

El diputado Sergio Martínez terminó nuestra reunión como la mayoría de las personas con las que nos reunimos terminaron sus reuniones, con una discusión sobre cómo las sanciones más largas impuestas a cualquier país han impactado y continúan impactando al pueblo de Cuba. Habló de su impacto en la producción de energía, la agricultura y la medicina.

“La administración Biden no ha sido amiga y de hecho ha sido más dañina con la desinformación, el bloqueo y ahora poniendo a Cuba en la lista de estados patrocinadores del terrorismo”, explicó Martínez.

Cuando visitamos el Memorial de la Denuncia en La Habana, me asqueó el descaro del gobierno imperialista norteamericano de tener una lista de los llamados “Estados patrocinadores del terrorismo”. Este mismo gobierno de Estados Unidos ha hecho llover torturas, violaciones y asesinatos sobre Cuba, en todo el mundo y sobre sus propios ciudadanos. Llamar a cualquier otro país terrorista es simplemente hipocresía al más alto nivel.

Una reunión reciente de países latinoamericanos votó en contra de la exclusión de Cuba y exigió el fin del bloqueo, así como sacar a Cuba de la lista de terroristas.

“No podemos esperar a que Estados Unidos ponga fin al bloqueo. Tenemos que desarrollar nuestro país con él todavía en su lugar. La soberanía es un derecho al que no renunciaremos a como dé lugar ni a ningún precio”, afirmó el humilde y revolucionario servidor del pueblo cubano. ☐

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