

► Honduras: Derecha perpetua ataques terroristas contra el pueblo

► Gobierno de PR intenta sustituir la población 8

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Vol. 6, No. 13 • June 26, 2023

Suggested donation: \$1

Socialist Unity Party  
Partido de Socialismo Unido

Twitter: @StruggleLaLucha

Facebook.com/strugglelalucha

email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org



Cuba and Florida: 90 miles and a world apart Page 5

## ‘A zone of peace, saving lives’ Demand grows to take Cuba off list of terrorism sponsors

*Bulletin:* As we go to press, the New York City Council passed a resolution June 22 calling upon Congress and President Biden to end the U.S. blockade and remove Cuba from the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism.”

By Cheryl LaBash

Testimony by National Network on Cuba co-Chair Cheryl LaBash at the International People’s Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism, Cuba country hearing, on June 10.

Thank you to the organizers of this timely International People’s Tribunal on U.S. Imperialism focusing on targeted sanctions and blockades that inflict such pain on millions of innocent people.

Greetings and solidarity, too, to our colleagues from Cuba who represent the resistance and resilience of the Cuban people.

We recognize that the unilateral U.S. coercive economic measures – the blockade – hurt the Cuban people and their aspirations for a better world, first and foremost. We know and recognize that the blockade is extraterritorial; it attacks foreign banks and businesses, Europeans who enjoy vacations in Cuba, Cubans living in other countries, and many others in numerous ways.

However, today I want to recognize that the policies of the U.S. government also hurt the people of the United States – ordinary working class and poor people, migrants, and farmers and growers who want to conduct business with Cuba – in short, the majority.

I want to speak about the pandemic, about travel, and show that the U.S. government is out of step with the people of the United States who, when they travel to Cuba or learn about the blockade, do not support these measures.

This is the reason the U.S. government hides its intentional plan to create hardship and desperation among the Cuban people, making its actions unseen, “as adroit and inconspicuous as possible.” The State Department’s Mallory-Rubottom memo, written on April 6, 1960, says it just that way.

The U.S. tries dangerous smoke-screens like the Wall Street Journal fabrication of a China-Cuba spy

center. In his quick rebuttal, Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío pointed out previous false accusations used to intensify the economic war: alleged acoustic attacks against U.S. diplomats, the falsehood of Cuban military troops in Venezuela, and the lie about imaginary Cuban biological weapons plants.

The only foreign military installation in Cuba is the illegal U.S. occupation of Cuban territory in Guantanamo. Why won’t the Wall Street Journal write about the Zone of Peace initiated by Cuba and Venezuela through the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in 2014?

### Drawn to Cuba’s example

A Zone of Peace. Saving Lives. That is what Cuba stands for. Is it any surprise people – especially youth – are drawn to Cuba’s example? We have found the generation born in this century quickly sees through the lies.

Imagine you are 20 years old. What does the future hold? Disastrous climate catastrophes; unaffordable education, health care, and rent; holding down multiple gig jobs just to exist; frequent mass shootings and police repression, combined with racist, homophobic and transphobic state government initiatives.

On May 3 and again on May 7, a total of 19 travelers returning from

Continued to page 4



SLL PHOTO

## Build National March for Trans Youth!

At the Los Angeles Pride Parade on June 11, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha, and Socialist Unity Party distributed thousands of leaflets and spoke to parade-goers

about the upcoming National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7. Many people stopped to take photos with the banner and find out how to get involved. [u]



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

► Pat Robertson: Preacher of bigotry

► Newark, N.J.: ‘REPARATIONS!’

► Longshore workers review union contract

► Galveston reenacts Juneteenth

► Teamsters fight back

Left, Amazon delivery drivers and dispatchers in Palmdale, California, joined Teamsters Local 396.



Rightwing attacks follow meeting of Honduran, Chinese presidents



# Good riddance to Pat Robertson: Preacher of bigotry came from the ruling class

By Stephen Millies

Does anyone care that hate preacher Pat Robertson croaked on June 8? Those inheriting his \$100 million fortune must have been waiting for the 93-year-old to die.

The loot came from Robertson's broadcasting empire, African diamond mines and other capitalist enterprises. One venture that didn't pan out was an oil refinery in Santa Fe Springs, California, near Los Angeles.

It wasn't allowed to spew benzene and other cancer-causing chemicals over South Central LA in the name of sweet Jesus and Robertson's bank account.

First and foremost, Pat Robertson was a worshiper of the slave owners' confederacy. He made sure that he was buried in the same Lexington City, Virginia, cemetery where Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson decomposed.

Much of his revenue came from those in pain and/or suffering from incurable diseases. Like other alleged faith healers, Robertson claimed to be able to intervene with god—in exchange for some blessed dollars, of course.

Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network helped elect scores of union-busting, women-hating, homophobic and transphobic politicians. War criminal George W. Bush welcomed Robertson's support.

One of Robertson's last outbursts attacked the teaching of Black history.

Here are more of Robertson's repulsive statements:

- He claimed that Haitian people made a pact with the devil when they overthrew the French slave masters. World capitalism—which was born with the African Holocaust—has never forgiven Haitians for their revolution.
- He predicted that hurricanes might strike Orlando, Florida, because of LGBTQ+ Pride activities. All the more reason to mobilize in Orlando in defense of transgender youth on Oct. 7.
- Robertson spread hate against Muslims. He labeled those in the government who were not his type of Christians as “termites.”
- He called the women's movement a “socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism and become lesbians.”
- Robertson called for the assassination of the elected Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez Frías.

Hugo Chávez, who died in 2013, believed in a Jesus who helped the poor and stopped a woman from being stoned to death. Pat Robertson would have given rocks to the lynch mob.

## Electrocuting seven Black men for revenge

Robertson wasn't known for his fiery sermons. He never built a megachurch with thousands of members.

Yet Robertson had the biggest business empire of all the right-



Pat Robertson walked in the footsteps of the Byrd political machine, which engineered the 1951 legal lynching of the Martinsville 7. These innocent Black men were posthumously pardoned in 2021.

wing preachers. CBN—the Christian Broadcasting Network—spread lies and hate in 70 languages. Robertson's flagship show, “The 700 Club,” still airs daily on basic cable network Freeform, owned by the Walt Disney Company.

Robertson also ran for president in the Republican primaries in 1988.

Liberty University, founded by Jerry Falwell, Sr., has a larger enrollment than Robertson's Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia. But Regent Law School has placed 38 judges on the bench.

The key is that Pat Robertson came right from the ruling class. His daddy, Absalom Willis Robertson, was for 20 years a U.S. senator from Virginia. He also spent 13 years in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A. Willis Robertson was the junior partner of Senator Harry Byrd Sr. in running one of the most racist political machines in U.S. history. Literacy “tests” and poll taxes kept Black people from voting.

In response to the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous 1954 ruling against school segregation, the Byrd machine shut down Black schools without any replacement.

Schools in Prince Edward County were closed for five years. Byrd called this “massive resistance.”

To terrorize Black people everywhere, the Byrd machine arranged the frame-up and execution of the Martinsville 7. These were seven young Black men, aged between 18 and 23, who were wrongfully convicted of raping a white woman in Martinsville, Virginia.

They were Francis DeSales Grayson, Frank Hairston Jr., Howard Hairston, James Luther Hairston, Joe Henry Hampton, Booker T. Millner, and John Clabon Taylor.

They were sent to the electric chair despite a defense campaign led by the Civil Rights Congress. Four were electrocuted on Feb. 2, 1951, and the remaining three were electrocuted on Feb. 5, 1951.

Seventy years later, in 2021, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam issued a pardon to these martyrs.

The Martinsville 7 were murdered in revenge for the successful defense of the Scottsboro, Alabama, defendants during the 1930s. These nine

young Black men were falsely accused of raping two white women.

A worldwide campaign led by Black churches, Black fraternal organizations, and the Communist Party saved their lives. But in 1951, during the anti-communist witch hunt, the Byrd machine was able to murder the Martinsville defendants.

## ‘That pack of God damn fools’

Pat Robertson was 20 years old at the time of these executions, while his father was a U.S. senator. If Pat Robertson had said anything in defense of the Martinsville defendants it might have saved their lives.

The Byrd machine was also a player in the military-industrial com-

plex. Norfolk, Virginia, is the world's largest naval base.

Harry Byrd's brother was Admiral Richard Byrd, a famous navy aviator who flew over Antarctica.

Admiral Byrd named a mountain range there after their cousin, David Harold Byrd. D.H. Byrd was a Texas oil man who co-founded the Civil Air Patrol, whose members included the young Lee Harvey Oswald.

D.H. Byrd also owned the building that housed the Texas School Book Depository in Dallas. The Warren Commission claimed that Oswald fired the shots from there that killed President John F. Kennedy, although many people believe that Oswald wasn't the shooter.

Regent University will probably erect a statue of Pat Robertson, but few will remember the bigot. Robertson is one of many who have served the wealthy and powerful in the name of religion.

He had nothing in common with Malcolm X or the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Pat Robertson was like those satirized in John F. Kendrick's poem “Christians At War,” whose last stanza follows:

“Onward, Christian soldiers!  
Blight all that you meet;

Trample human freedom under  
pious feet.

Praise the Lord whose dollar sign  
dupes his favored race!

Make the foreign trash respect  
your bullion brand of grace.

Trust in mock salvation, serve as  
tyrant's tools;

History will say of you: ‘That pack  
of God damn fools.’”

# Teamsters fight for union rights

By Lallan Schoenstein

## UPS Teamsters take a strike vote

On June 12, the UPS Teamsters reported that 97% of the members voted to authorize a strike. The overwhelming unity of the members gives the union negotiating committee maximum leverage to win their contract demands with United Parcel Service Corporation.

The vote allows the “UPS Teamsters Negotiating Committee to call a strike should UPS fail to come to terms on new contract by July 31, when the union's current Agreement expires. The Teamsters represent more than 340,000 UPS package delivery drivers and warehouse logistics workers nationwide,” the union said in a statement.

Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien said, “The strongest leverage our members have is their labor and they are prepared to withhold it to ensure UPS acts accordingly.”

Negotiations between the Teamsters and UPS began on April 17. Union representatives and rank-and-file members serve on the national negotiating committee. The UPS Teamsters Agreement is the

largest private-sector contract in North America. Full- and part-time UPS Teamsters are working together for a new five-year agreement that guarantees higher wages for all workers, more full-time jobs, an end to forced overtime and harassment from management, elimination of a two-tier wage system, and protection from heat and other workplace hazards.

The strike authorization vote sends a clear message to UPS that the Teamsters are determined to take necessary action to secure a decent contract. The union reports UPS corporation hauled in more than \$100 billion in profits just last year.

## Amazon Teamsters drivers walk out in first-ever strike

In late April, Amazon delivery drivers and dispatchers in Palmdale, California, organized a union with Teamsters Local 396 in Los Angeles. They walked out of the delivery facility on June 15 to demand that Amazon bargain with them. According to a Teamsters statement, the 84 drivers currently on strike have held picket lines before, but this is

Continued on page 3



# Longshore workers to review proposed union contract

By Lallan Schoenstein

In June, the union contract dispute between 22,000 longshore workers in 29 ports on the West Coast — members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) — and the port bosses — the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) — began to heat up.

ILWU members, angry that they had gone over a year without a contract, began to take steps to make their dissatisfaction known. It was then that they finally began hearing some results. On June 12, ILWU President Willie Adams announced to members of his union that the Longshore Caucus, the highest governing body of elected delegates, was preparing to review the terms of a contract just negotiated with the PMA.

Adams said: “We will discuss, we will debate and then at that point [the Longshore Caucus] will decide if this comes to you — the rank and file. We will be going through the contract and you’ll be asking questions. You’ll be debating it in our fair and true democratic process and you will vote it up, or you will vote it down.”

Overriding the democratic process of the union, the big business-controlled media leaked reports meant to strengthen the hand of the bosses in negotiations. The Wall Street Journal reported some terms of the proposed agreement as if it were a done deal and, at the same time, gave grossly inflated figures on the workers’ incomes. During contract negotiations, the press often reports on union workers’ incomes as a way to divide them from those who receive lower pay.

## Terminal bosses’ profits \$510 billion

The ILWU union contract expired 13 months ago. During the past year, the PMA has balked at contract negotiations. Their profits have been astronomical, according to a June 2 ILWU press release: “PMA member carriers and terminal operators made historic profits of \$510 billion during the pandemic. In some cases, profits jumped nearly 1000%. Even as shipping volumes return to normal in 2023, PMA members have continued to post revenues that far exceed pre-pandemic times by billions of dollars.

“ILWU workers risked and lost their lives during the pandemic to ensure grocery store shelves were stocked, PPE was made available, essential medical supplies were reaching our hospitals.” Record volumes of goods were moved, enabling the shipping industries’ astronomical revenues. “Despite this fact, from pre-pandemic levels through 2022, the percentage of ILWU wages and benefits continued to drop compared to PMA rising revenues.”

Gabriel Prawl, a longshore worker, a leading member of the Million Worker March Movement, and president of the Seattle A. Philip Randolph Institute, said that “longshore workers on the whole coast have been working above and beyond the requirements of their jobs, thereby violating their own safety rules to keep the supply chain moving.”

Longshore jobs are among the most dangerous. Clarence Thom-



ILWU Local 10 members shut down the ports of Oakland and San Francisco on Feb. 16 to demand that political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal be given a new trial. Left, Clarence Thomas speaking.

Local 10 in Oakland, California, stopped work and did not return over the weekend. CNBC reported that the port shutdowns

were expected to spread across the West Coast as workers protest over wage negotiations in contract talks with port management.

Perhaps the most decisive impact on the port bosses was the preparations initiated by the militant African American Longshore Coalition (AALC) in the Ports of Oakland, Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, for a “West Coast Stop Work Action to Commemorate Juneteenth” — June 19, 1865, the date that the last enslaved Black people in Texas were informed of their emancipation.

Thomas said, “It is a reminder that the job of ending all forms of slavery is not yet finished. The U.S. was built on the backs of enslaved labor. On Juneteenth, we celebrate the emancipation as our commitment to fight against the legacy of slavery, the long-standing impact of systemic racism and white supremacy, and all forms of discrimination which are used to keep the working class divided.

as, a retired ILWU member, said: “The waterfront tonnage is moved by cranes and container movement machines. If anything hits you it’s either going to maim you for life or it’s going to kill you. I have seen signs at maritime terminals that disclose there are known carcinogens on the premises such as particulate matter, which is soot from diesel fuel. Longshore workers work in rain, sleet, snow, day and night. They’re subjected to a number of health challenges. A longshore brother was found to be unresponsive in the crane and he subsequently died of a heart attack in the hospital. It took 45 minutes to access the crane.”

## Working safely antagonizes bosses

Up and down the West Coast after a full year of stalled contract negotiations, ILWU members began to follow the safety procedures designated for dangerous jobs, “working by the book.” Working safely antagonizes the carriers and terminal operators. It’s safer, slower, and it lowers profits.

In Seattle on June 2, port bosses fired ILWU Local 52 workers on the night shift and again on the morning shift. In response to the bosses’ attack in Seattle, the militant ILWU

Thomas concluded. [📍](#)

# Teamsters fight for union rights

Continued from page 2

the first time Amazon drivers have walked out in the U.S.

At Amazon’s “delivery service partner” — Battle-Tested Strategies (BTS) — workers had negotiated and ratified a union contract, the first agreement covering workers in Amazon’s massive delivery network. Despite the absolute control Amazon wields over BTS and workers’ terms and conditions of employment, it has refused to recognize and honor the union contract. Instead, Amazon has violated federal labor laws through dozens of unfair labor practices.

“Amazon has no respect for the rule of law, the health of its workers, or the livelihood of their families,” said Randy Korgan, Director of the Teamsters Amazon Division. “Workers are on strike today because the only thing this corporate criminal cares about is profits. We are sending a message to Amazon that violating worker rights will no longer be business as usual.”

Amazon drivers organized over concerns for their safety in extreme temperatures, which regularly exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit during Palmdale summers.

“The back of an Amazon van feels like an oven in the summer,” said

Cecilia Porter, an Amazon Teamsters driver. “I’ve felt dizzy and dehydrated, but if I take a break, I’ll get a call asking why I’m behind on deliveries. We are protecting ourselves and saying our safety comes first.”

“We are on the picket line today to demand the pay and safety standards that we deserve. We work hard for a multibillion-dollar corporation. We should be able to provide food and clothes for our kids,” said Raj Singh, another Amazon Teamsters driver.

## Supreme Court rules against Seattle Teamsters

All organized labor’s right to strike has been threatened by the June 1 Supreme Court ruling against Teamsters Local 174 in their fight with a Seattle concrete firm, Glacier Northwest, in Washington State.

The union called for a strike when contract negotiations between Glacier Northwest and the local Teamsters union broke down. Drivers walked off the job following the union’s instructions to bring their trucks back to Glacier’s facility and to leave the trucks’ mixing drums spinning so that the concrete could be dumped before it began to harden.



Southern California Teamsters who work at United Parcel Service (UPS) facilities throughout the region held a solidarity rally on April 15.

The company sued the union in state court for intentionally damaging its property. The state court initially dismissed the lawsuit, as the union’s strike actions are protected by federal law under the National Labor Relations Act.

The anti-labor Supreme Court overturned the lower court’s decision. The single dissenting Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, wrote: “Workers are not indentured servants, bound to continue laboring until any planned work stoppage would be as painless

as possible for their master. They are employees whose collective and peaceful decision to withhold their labor is protected by the NLRA even if economic injury results.”

Teamsters General President Sean O’Brien said in a statement that the ruling “opens the door for corporations to sue their own workers. The ability to strike has been on the books for nearly 100 years, and it’s no coincidence that this ruling is coming at a time when workers across the country are fed up and exercising their rights more and more.” [📍](#)



# 'A zone of peace, saving lives'

## Demand grows to take Cuba off list of terrorism sponsors

Continued from page 1

May Day in Cuba were pulled aside at four U.S. airports for additional scrutiny and intensive questioning. This treatment has not been widely experienced since the Obama administration re-established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba in 2015 and opened direct flights on U.S. carriers from U.S. airports, making travel to Cuba "legal" within certain changing rules.

Our experience this year follows the FBI visits to the Puerto Rican Cuba Solidarity Committee when they returned from July 26 celebrations last year. If the intention was intimidation, it only made the injustice of the blockade more real to these activists. It fired their will to fight harder. Their enthusiasm was not dampened.

The stepped-up intimidation at the borders is particularly troubling in light of the recent raids and indictments of the African People's Socialist Party for their political views and the raid on the Atlanta Bail Fund for assisting the Stop Cop City protests.

Although travel is said to be a right, travel to Cuba has been severely limited by the U.S. government. In 1964, Black revolutionaries had to first travel halfway around the world to Czechoslovakia to reach Cuba.

Some of the earliest Venceremos Brigades traveled by ship to and from Canada, having all their writings and literature seized on return at the U.S. border. Aggressive FBI visits to parents and employers followed. Later, indirect travel was okay if the trip was fully hosted and no U.S. money was spent.

Much about travel has changed. Now U.S.-based airlines fly regular routes to Cuba. Airlines, travel agencies and companies like Airbnb enforce the travel regulations under the threat of fines or loss of U.S. license to do Cuba-related business.

Every traveler, including non-U.S. citizens – another example of extraterritoriality – must sign a document declaring one of 12 "categories" under which they travel to Cuba. Without it, you cannot board the plane unless the traveler understands that a record of their full schedule of activity must be kept for five years in case a federal agent wants to know how they spent their time in Cuba.

Vacationing is strictly forbidden, as is staying at a hotel, drinking the wrong cola, or even buying a book from an entire Cuban publishing house. Honestly, the U.S. government spends our tax dollars making detailed lists of what is forbidden in Cuba. Such is the unique "freedom to travel" to Cuba.



Cuban health care workers went to South Africa and many other countries to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Often, we hear first-time travelers comment that Cuba is the first place they feel free. They experience shock returning to the land of advertising, anxiety, isolation and stress. Every week people email us to get on the list for the 2024 May Day trip.

And it is because the life experiences of working people in the U.S. sharply contrast with Cuba's human-centered priorities, as demonstrated by Cuba's medical internationalism.

### Medical internationalism

In 2005, how many lives could have been saved when hurricanes Katrina and Rita drowned New Orleans if the U.S. government had accepted Fidel Castro's offer of 1,586 fully-equipped health workers? They sat ready at the former Coast Guard base that is now the home of Cuba's Latin American School of Medicine – only 1.5 hours away by plane.

Of course, then we had no way to hear about it until a horrified world asked why Cuba wasn't helping and Fidel explained the offer was not accepted. How different it is now, with instant communication! In 2005, there was no way for us to know what Cuba had prepared and offered until later.

Even before vaccines, from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba's public health organization kept deaths to a minimum. From the first recorded case in March 2020 until December 2020, only 146 Cubans died. In Michigan, a state with about 1 million fewer people, some 9,269 died. In Detroit, a small city with less than 700,000 people, 1,500 people died in four months.

Unlike 2005, in 2020 we watched the Cuban television reports and saw Dr. Duran giving daily COVID re-

ports. We saw how Cuba was fighting for every life. There was still no vaccine then, but a robust public health organization had everyone cooperating to save lives. We could see the Henry Reeve Brigades, named during the mobilization for Katrina, now going wherever they were called.

Not only would the U.S. government not call for Cuba to help Detroiters, but it then used the pandemic as a weapon against Cuba, doubling down on the blockade measures.

Like travel, Washington intended for information technology to be used as a weapon against Cuba's self-determination and sovereignty. But it is also a powerful tool in our hands. Imperialism's lies can be torn to shreds before they become embedded in the public consciousness. And the solidarity movement can unite its voice across this very large country of many time zones.

### Resolutions challenge blockade, SSOT

Like the false accusation leveled against Cuba and China by the Wall Street Journal this week, the anti-Cuba strategists are using old playbooks in Congress.

Hoping that Cuba seems unimportant to the rest of the country, Rep. Salazar from Florida has introduced HR314, the FORCE Act, in the House of Representatives, while Senators Rubio, Cruz and Scott introduced S538, Fighting Oppression until the Reign of Castro Ends.

Talk about detached from reality. Don't they know that Miguel Diaz-Canel is president of Cuba?

These bills would freeze Cuba permanently on the list of state sponsors of terrorism until a president determines that a "transition [to capitalist] government is in power in Cuba." Using the Helms-Burton Act model, it is an attempt to checkmate any possible action by President Biden to use his executive authority to remove Cuba from the State Department list. Because that's all that is needed.

The National Network on Cuba recognizes through our activity that the U.S. government is out of step with the people of this country about Cuba. Even in the U.S. capital, Washington, D.C., the governing District Council unanimously passed

a strong resolution calling for Cuba to be removed from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, to end the blockade, and for relations with Cuba to be normalized. They are not alone.

Ninety resolutions by elected bodies representing an estimated 45 million people – city councils, county commissions, state legislatures, school boards, and labor unions – oppose U.S. policy on Cuba. Nearly one-third of those resolutions have been passed in the last six months.

This movement is growing, especially among young workers like the Amazon and Starbucks organizers who are fueling a unionization wave.

We call on President Biden to heed the voices of Cuban-Americans, labor organizations, and local elected officials calling for Cuba to be taken off the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism and for an end to the unilateral U.S. blockade.

President Biden has the authority to send a letter to Congress declaring he is removing Cuba from the State Department list. Being on the list is a switch that automatically sets into motion many additional hurdles to economic activity related to Cuba. It is harder for Cuba to function in the dollar-dominated international financial arena, and it makes it more difficult for U.S. and international solidarity activists, too.

The lies about Cuba that underpin the legal supports for the blockade are weakening. Cuba is a State Sponsor of Peace, as shown by the recent agreement between the government of Colombia and the National Liberation Army (ELN), assisted by Cuba.

We are winning, but we need everyone's help. This series of tribunals is an important contribution to a movement in the United States that is irresistible.

Our first national push to get Cuba off the State Department list is a day of protest on Sunday, June 25, corresponding with the monthly international car and bike caravans inspired by the Cuban Americans of Puentes de Amor and their call in the summer of 2020 to build bridges of love, not hate.

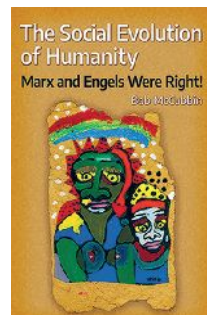
We are carrying that message to Congress with allied groups that specialize in Congressional work. So join us at the White House at 1 p.m. on June 25. If you can't be there, tell us what you can do in your local area. Sign up for news and updates at our website, NNOC.org.

I'd like to end with a quote published recently by Real News from another NNOC co-chair, Shaquille Fontenot from South Carolina.

"There are so many cultural, environmental, and educational exchanges that could happen if relations were normalized. We're in a moment here where people [in the U.S.] are seeing the parallels between our own experiences and what's done in our name to people abroad.

"People here need food, water, shelter—and people in Cuba need those things too. The same institutions are keeping those things from all of us. That's why it's critical for us in the United States to speak up about it. People around the world need to see the truth."

Solidarity cannot be blocked.



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

### The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

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

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.



# A trans person reflects on Cuba and Florida: 90 miles and a world apart

By Melinda Butterfield

Returning from 12 days in Cuba in mid-May, I spent an uncomfortably long six-hour layover at the Miami airport, waiting for my connecting flight to New York.

It wasn't uncomfortable just because of the usual inconveniences like overpriced food and crappy seats, but because I was a trans woman existing in the state of Florida, where the far-right anti-trans crusade has been centered this year.

As I sat in Miami, I was keenly aware that Gov. Ron DeSantis was preparing to sign several laws aimed at banning trans people from public life and getting the health care they need to live.

(DeSantis did sign these laws just a few days later, not by coincidence, on May 17 – the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia.)

One of those state laws bans trans people from using public restrooms that match their gender expression – including those in airports. When that law takes effect on July 1, trans women like me will be faced with the choice of risking arrest using the women's room or risking humiliation and violence using the other option.

During my six-hour sojourn, I used the airport restroom three times. Yes, I kept count; I was on guard for my safety and hyper-aware of everything around me. But as usual, no one objected to my presence or even noticed.

Waiting in Miami, I had plenty of time to reflect on the stark contrast between Cuba, where queer rights are advancing by leaps and bounds, and the United States, where they are being dragged backward by state-sanctioned violence.

That violence comes in the “official” form carried out by bigoted politicians like DeSantis and the off-the-books sort used by fascists coast-to-coast, who get a wink and a nod from the cops and big bucks and lavish media attention from the capitalists.

## International Trans Colloquium

In May, I was part of the LGBTQ+ delegation to socialist Cuba organized by Women in Struggle–Mujeres en Lucha in cooperation with the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and the National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX).

We went to learn about Cuba's revolutionary new Families Code, adopted by referendum last year. This document, described as the most advanced of its kind in the world, elevates the legal status of queer and other nontraditional families. It expands the rights of LGBTQ+ family members, children and youth, elders, people with disabilities, and more.

We also went to learn about the effects of the six-decade-long U.S.



Melinda Butterfield at International Trans Colloquium in Havana, May 4.

PHOTO: SERENA SOJIC-BORNE

blockade on LGBTQ+ Cubans and all Cuban people. Our mission was to bring back information to help educate our communities, encourage them to oppose the blockade, and understand that another world is possible.

Officially, our delegation lasted for one week, from May 7-14. But two of us, both trans women, arrived in Havana a few days earlier to attend the VII International Colloquium on Trans Identities, Gender, and Culture, held from May 4-6.

This annual event, organized by CENESEX, brings together experts, medical professionals, and academics from several countries to discuss the latest research on gender-affirming care and the social challenges facing trans communities. This year there were participants from Mexico, Italy, Argentina, the U.S., and other countries, as well as Cuba.

## Trans voices heard and respected

A lot of valuable information and views were shared throughout the colloquium. It was especially enlightening to hear how U.S. anti-trans propaganda is rippling throughout Latin America and Europe.

But for me, the most memorable moment came during the first afternoon's session, held in the beautiful building that is home to CENESEX.

A panel of doctors and researchers had just spoken about the medical challenges of gender-affirming care, from hormone therapy to surgery to mental health and treatment for trans youth. A group of trans women from Cuba, Uruguay, and Mexico had been sitting in the front row, listening intently to the presenters.

After the final panelist spoke, the women consulted among themselves, then demanded the floor. They objected to the tone and perspectives of some of the experts, who focused entirely on clinical research and standards of care divorced from the actual lived experiences and needs of trans people.

Mariela Castro Espín, CENESEX

director and convener of the colloquium took the floor to support the trans activists, emphasizing how Cuba's approach to all kinds of health care, and trans health in particular, can never be divorced from the social conditions of the people it serves.

I couldn't help but imagine what would happen if a group of trans activists demanded the floor at a medical or academic conference in the U.S. to object to statements by official presenters. In all likelihood, they would be dragged out by security, perhaps even arrested.

This has happened in several U.S. state capitols recently when people dared to speak out against anti-trans legislation in those supposed “houses of the people.”

But at this international event in Cuba, hosted by an official body of the Ministry of Health and in the presence of representatives of the country's media, trans people were not only free to take the floor and voice their concerns; their opinions were treated with respect and, in my view, helped change the tone of the rest of the conference.

## Conga and the future

Following the conclusion of the International Trans Colloquium, on the evening of May 6, we were invited to attend the Gala Against Homophobia and Transphobia at the National Theater near Revolution Square. The fantastic, colorful annual event featured well-known Cuban musicians, live theater and dance, and incredible drag performances.

Unlike the recent invitation-only Pride event at the White House in Washington, D.C., the gala was open to everyone, and the 3,500-capacity hall was packed with happy, cheering queer couples and families. Tickets cost the equivalent of 35 U.S. cents.

The following day, we welcomed the rest of the delegation, including activists from Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles, and New Orleans.

Over the next week, we attended several sessions at CENESEX to learn about different aspects of the Families Code and the development of queer rights; we visited a polyclinic to learn more about Cuba's primary health care system and how the recommendations made by CENESEX for trans health care are integrated into the system from top to bottom; toured the Denunciation Memorial, a museum that exposes the history of U.S. terrorism against the Cuban Revolution; and received a briefing at the biotechnology center about Cuba's development of groundbreaking vaccines.

We also met with the Federation of Cuban Women and learned about its long history of elevating LGBTQ+ issues (going back to the early 1970s); spoke

with district representatives about their responsibilities as elected community leaders; received a guided tour of the new Fidel Castro Center, documenting the life of the Cuban revolutionary leader; and finally, visited the national capitol to learn about Cuba's electoral and legislative process from a member of the National Assembly of People's Power.

One of the most exciting things I learned about was Cuba's constitutional “progress principle.” This means that once granted, rights cannot be taken away. How unlike the U.S., where every one of our hard-fought rights is liable to be rolled back like the right to abortion was a year ago!

On our final full day in Havana, we joined the Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia, marching through the streets shoulder to shoulder with our Cuban siblings, chanting, “¡Socialismo, sí! ¡Homofobia, transfobia no!”

The memory of the marchers' joy and political determination, of the happy neighbors and families cheering from apartment windows and sidewalks, of revolutionary political leaders in the front ranks, helped me get through the long hours in Florida, a state increasingly suffocated by censorious, repressive, and frankly murderous laws meant to keep workers down and the rich on top.

In Cuba, I was never misgendered, never worried about using a restroom, and never felt unsafe for being openly and unabashedly myself. I want that for myself and all my trans siblings, everywhere, every day.

As I boarded my flight home, I felt more determined to build a National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives in Florida this autumn – to give hope to our trans community there, to other communities under attack, to all of us. And more convinced of the need to show the LGBTQ+ movement that the Cuban path – the path of revolutionary socialism – is the way forward to trans and queer liberation. [📍](#)



# ‘What do we want? REPARATIONS!’ Celebrating Juneteenth in Newark, N.J.

By Stephen Millies

Over a hundred people rallied on Juneteenth in Newark, New Jersey, to demand reparations. The June 19 march and rally was organized by the People’s Organization for Progress.

People gathered at Market and Springfield avenues. Larry Hamm, POP’s chairperson, described the broken promise given to enslaved Africans during the U.S. Civil War.

Two hundred thousand Black soldiers and sailors fought in the Union Army and Navy. Over 40,000 were killed. In January 1865, General William Tecumseh Sherman issued field order No. 15, which turned over abandoned plantations to Black families. This order was later reversed by President Andrew Johnson, a former Tennessee slave master.

Hamm also reminded people that two days before, June 17, was the anniversary of the 2015 murder of nine Black people in Charleston, South Carolina, by neo-Nazi Dylann Roof. The massacre happened in the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. One of the church’s founders was the slave revolt leader

Denmark Vesey.

The day before these killings, Trump announced his presidential candidacy by denouncing Mexicans as “rapists.”

Another speaker at the Juneteenth rally was Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, whose father, the poet and activist Amiri Baraka, was brutalized by police during the 1967 Newark Rebellion.

Baba Zayid demanded reparations and justice. Dayvus Leesa denounced the attempted frame-up of Omali Yeshitela and other members and supporters of the Uhuru Movement for opposing the U.S./NATO war against Russia.

Dozens of drivers passing by the rally honked their horns in support. They could see the wonderfully large, banner-like signs that are a feature of POP’s activities.

One of the signs read, “Stop the Ban & Attacks on Black History.”

## Revenge for Newark Rebellion

People marched to the corners of Broad and Market, the center of Newark. They passed the site of the old Bamberger’s – later Macy’s



SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

– department store that closed 30 years ago. Larry Hamm has told of how Black shoppers weren’t allowed to use the fitting rooms there.

Department stores have been shut down in many Black-majority cities like Newark. The 2 million square foot Hudson’s department store in Detroit was closed in the 1970s.

Four department stores that were once at the corners of Lexington and Howard streets in Baltimore are

no more. Black and poor people are forced to go to the suburbs to shop.

A Dollar General store now occupies part of the 11-story, 1.2 million square foot Bamberger’s site.

The billionaire class has never forgiven the 1967 Newark Rebellion against racism. The closing of factories, like the Westinghouse plants, has helped impoverish the city.

But the people of Newark are fighting back. 📌



SLL PHOTO: DAVID CARD

By David Card

On June 19 in Galveston, Texas, a Juneteenth reenactment march to the county courthouse started at Reedy Chapel AME Church. Galveston is the birthplace of Juneteenth, which celebrates the beginning of the enforcement of the end of slavery in Texas and is now a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

At the courthouse, “General Order No. 3” was read. Issued in 1865, the order declared that all enslaved peoples in Texas were free. That was over two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation had legally freed them. The Emancipation

Proclamation was finally enforced by thousands of Black soldiers who had fled slavery and joined the Union Army.

After hearing the order read at the Galveston courthouse, the jubilant crowd marched back to Reedy Chapel, singing songs such as “Which Side Are You On?” and “We Shall Not Be Moved.”

At the church, a program was held featuring a descendant of a church member from the original Juneteenth, the city mayor, and a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by a community member. Speeches highlighted the fights for absolute equality that came before and the necessity to continue the struggle. ■

## The propaganda of history

By W.E.B. Du Bois

In 1935, W.E.B. Du Bois published “Black Reconstruction in America.” This is an excerpt from the final chapter, “The Propaganda of History,” on the way Reconstruction was being studied and taught at the time.

How the facts of American history have in the last half century been falsified because the nation was ashamed. The South was ashamed because it fought to perpetuate human slavery. The North was ashamed because it had to call in the Black men to save the Union, abolish slavery and establish democracy.

What are American children taught today about Reconstruction? . . . [A]n American youth attending college today would learn from current textbooks of history that the Constitution recognized slavery; that the chance of getting rid of slavery by peaceful methods was ruined by the Abolitionists; that af-

ter the period of Andrew Jackson, the two sections of the United States “had become fully conscious of their conflicting interests. Two irreconcilable forms of civilization . . .”

He would read that Harriet Beecher Stowe brought on the Civil War; that the assault on Charles Sumner was due to his “coarse invective” against a South Carolina Senator; and that Negroes were the only people to achieve emancipation with no effort on their part. That Reconstruction was a disgraceful attempt to subject white people to ignorant Negro rule . . .

In other words, he would in all probability complete his education without any idea of the part which the black race has played in America; of the tremendous moral problem of abolition; of the cause and meaning of the Civil War and the relation which Reconstruction had to democratic government and the labor movement today . . .

War and especially civil strife leave terrible wounds. It is the duty of humanity to heal them. It was therefore soon conceived as neither wise nor patriotic to speak of all the causes of strife and the terrible results to which national differences in the United States had led. And so, first of all, we minimized the slavery controversy which convulsed the nation from the Missouri Compromise down to the Civil War. On top of that, we passed by Reconstruction with a phrase of regret or disgust.

But are these reasons of courtesy and philanthropy sufficient for denying truth? If history is going to be scientific, if the record of human action is going to be set down with the accuracy and faithfulness of detail which will allow its use as a measuring rod and guidepost for the future of nations, there must be set some standards of ethics in research and interpretation.

If, on the other hand, we are going

to use history for our pleasure and amusement, for inflating our national ego, and giving us a false but pleasurable sense of accomplishment, then we must give up the idea of history as a science or as an art using the results of science, and admit frankly that we are using a version of historic fact in order to influence and educate the new generation along the way we wish.

It is propaganda like this that has led men in the past to insist that history is “lies agreed upon”; and to point out the danger in such misinformation. It is indeed extremely doubtful if any permanent benefit comes to the world through such action. Nations reel and stagger on their way; they make hideous mistakes; they commit frightful wrongs; they do great and beautiful things. And shall we not best guide humanity by telling the truth about all this, so far as the truth is ascertainable? 📌



# No pride in genocide: Boston rejects Zionist pinkwashing

June 21: We are writing as queer, trans, Two Spirit, non-binary, Palestinian, Arab, Black, Indigenous, white, Latinx, and Jewish people living in the Boston area on occupied Massachusett, Wampanoag, Nipmuc, and Wabanaki lands.

We were disappointed to learn that Boston Pride for the People chose to co-host a Pride event with the Israeli consulate and other Zionist organizations. This event, framed as a celebration of the experiences of queer Jewish community members, centers the experiences of queer Israeli settlers living on top of Palestinian villages stolen through violent expulsion and colonialism. This event is part of a broader strategy of recruiting support for the Israeli state by rebranding itself as queer-friendly in an effort to mask the Israeli state's ongoing violence against Palestinians—known as “Brand Israel.” The Brand Israel campaign intentionally markets Israel as a “gay-friendly” country and a gay tourism destination, a strategy that queer Palestinians and those in solidarity have termed “Pinkwashing.”

The Pinkwashing narrative that Israel is gay-friendly is not only harmful to Palestinians, it is also disingenuous and false. LGBTQ+ marriages are not legal in Israel. Egregiously, the Israeli military threatens and attempts to extort Palestinians based on private information about their gender, sexual history, and medical needs. This practice, which can include threatening to “out” LGBTQ+ Palestinians, displays the violent character of Zionism that is antithetical to queer liberation. As Al-Qaws, a queer Palestinian organization writes, “The open inclusion of gay officers in the Israeli occupation army is used as proof of liberal forward-mindedness, but for Palestinians the sexuality of the soldier at a checkpoint makes little difference. They all wield the same guns, wear the same boots, and maintain the same colonial regime.”

Despite being told why this event would be harmful, Boston Pride for the People still chose to co-sponsor this event with the Israeli Consulate. While professing to be progressive and inclusive of oppressed communities, BP4TP has chosen to exclude Palestinian queers and their allies, including other Indigenous people, members of other communities of color, and anti-Zionist Jews from the local LGBTQ+ community through their sponsorship of this event.

The harm behind this event is further illustrated by the actions of its cosponsors. For example, Combined

washing and Brand Israel events, obfuscate the daily violence committed against Palestinians. This week, nearly 100 Palestinians were wounded and six were killed by Israeli forces invading Jenin. Just last week the Israeli state raided the Ein Beit Al-Mai refugee camp in the city of Nablus, demolishing a home, injuring six Palestinians, and killing twenty-year-old Palestinian Khalil Yahya Anis. At least 170 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of this year, at least 21 of them Palestinian children.

As queer and trans people and colonized people who are allies of the queer and trans struggle, we know that our history is a history of struggle

and resistance. We are still resisting attacks on trans youth and violence against Black and Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+. Our struggle is also against imperialism and colonialism. Upon their arrival to Turtle Island, European colonizers not only attempted to destroy Indigenous connections to the land; they violently criminalized Two-Spirit, non-cisnormative, non-heteronormative, non-nuclear, non-monogamous experiences, reframing these natural ways of being as “deviant.” Resisting transphobia and homophobia means resisting colonialism, solidarity with Indigenous peoples, and rejecting these ideas that have been forced on us.

As Marsha P. Johnson said, there can be, “No Pride For Some of Us Without Liberation For All of Us.” We cannot claim to support queer and trans liberation while passively or actively supporting Israeli violence and colonialism.

For full list of sponsors, visit [tinyurl.com/mpmeaw2b](https://tinyurl.com/mpmeaw2b)



Jewish Philanthropies actively funds Israeli settlement projects and has provided \$661,100 to the Boston Police Foundation. Wider Bridge, whose events have been protested across the country, explicitly aims to build support for the state of Israel among queer communities in the US.

This event, along with all pink-

## NATIONAL MARCH



# To Protect Trans Youth

## & Speakout for Trans Rights

**ORLANDO FLORIDA**

**SAT | OCT 7**  
2023

## HANDS OFF PRIDE!

- ▶ **Reverse DeSantis's bans** on trans healthcare, restroom access, Black & Queer history
- ▶ **End attacks on marginalized communities** African Americans, immigrants, Chinese, LGBTQ+ people
- ▶ **Free, legal, accessible abortions**
- ▶ **Stop censorship & attacks on civil liberties** of teachers, students, books and people's history
- ▶ **Demand federal gov't enforce civil rights** in Florida, Texas, Montana, Tennessee & everywhere
- ▶ **Expand Medicaid and SNAP**
- ▶ **Stop voter disenfranchisement**
- ▶ **Drop charges on the Tampa 5**

Add your organization/name

**Get involved!**

Partial list of endorsers (list in formation): · Women in Struggle - Mujeres en Lucha · Queer Youth Assemble · Reclaim Pride Coalition, NYC · Real Name Campaign, New Orleans · The Queer Notion, Tampa · Transpired Media · United American Indians of New England · Red Berets for Queers · Pride at Work Eastern Massachusetts · Jordan David, Lavender Guard\*, Los Angeles · Andre Powell, retired delegate, Baltimore MD Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO\* · Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly · Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Los Angeles · ClassConscious.org · Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement. \*for ID only

**Sign up at: [ProtectTransKidsMarch.org](https://ProtectTransKidsMarch.org) | [WomenInStruggle.org](https://WomenInStruggle.org)**



[www.struggle-la-lucha.org/](http://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/)

[www.struggle-la-lucha.org/donate](http://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/donate)

facebook.com/StrugglelaLucha

twitter.com/StrugglelaLucha

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

**East Coast office**

2011 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218  
Phone: 410.218.4835

**West Coast office**

5278 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019  
Phone: 323.306.6240



# HONDURAS: Derecha perpetua ataques terroristas contra el pueblo

Por Lucy Pagoada-Quesada

La escritora es coordinadora del Partido Libre D19 Estados Unidos-Canadá.

La derecha recalcitrante hondureña está rabiosa con las nuevas relaciones diplomáticas de nuestro país con La República Popular de China y los acuerdos de colaboración logrados para beneficiar a las grandes mayorías.

Solo es cuestión de escuchar y ver a sus megáfonos y gargantas asalariadas por los medios de desinformación y a personeros completamente desfazados con un discurso 'anticomunista' que ni el mismo se lo cree, como el del arlequín empolvado de Nasralla, para darnos cuenta.

Y su respuesta es atacar ferozmente al gobierno del Socialismo Democrático, no solo a través de la guerra mediática, sino que hasta perpetrando crímenes como los ataques terroristas contra la Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica Hondureña (ENEEH) y produciendo fatales apagones que le causan terribles daños al pueblo, así como lo denunció el ministro Erick Tejada en cadena nacional el pasado, mar-



La histórica reunión de los presidentes Xiomara Castro y Xi Jinping ha enfurecido a la derecha respaldada por Estados Unidos en Honduras.

tes, 13 de junio.

El propósito de los ataques y sabotajes a la Empresa Nacional de Energía Eléctrica es indignar a la población y ponerla en contra del



Xiomara Castro

gobierno, crear caos, desestabilización, violencia y hacerlo ver cómo inoperante para de esa forma justificar un posible golpe.

Esto no es nada nuevo, en Venezuela la derecha hizo lo mismo en 2019. Perpetró ataques terroristas contra el sistema de energía eléctrica y produjo terribles apagones en todo el país como una forma de desestabilización del gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Pero les salió guaya en Venezuela y les saldrá guaya en Honduras. Los vamos a vencer esta vez como ya los hemos vencido otras veces. No podrán contra el pueblo.

El llamado al pueblo hondureño entonces es, a no caer en la trampa de la derecha y los grupos de poder que son los mismos golpistas de siempre. Por tanto que no se dejen manipular por las estrategias fracasadas de la derecha que no quiere y jamás ha querido el bien de las mayorías. Un ejemplo es que en Honduras desde que asumió la Presidenta Xiomara más de un millón de hondureños pobres no pagan energía. Pero claro de eso no hablan los megáfonos de la derecha.

Por ello y por todas las acciones importantes que está haciendo nuestro gobierno y que los medios de la derecha ocultan, hay que apoyarlo. Nuestra Presidenta Xiomara Castro de Zelaya, si está haciendo todo lo posible por resolver los problemas heredados por la narco dictadura aunque sea un gran reto. Ella trabaja sin descanso para asegurarse que al pueblo se le haga justicia.

¡Los golpistas no pasarán! 📌

## Gobierno de PR intenta sustituir la población

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Puerto Rico se acerca vertiginosamente a cumplir el abominable deseo de algunos políticos del patio, anexionistas nauseabundos que se avergüenzan de la puertorriqueñidad, y sueñan con un PR sin puertorriqueños. Y no es imaginación. Así mismo lo expresaron en el chat de la aplicación Telegram que se publicó durante la turbulencia del levantamiento popular que destituyó el gobernador Ricky Roselló en el verano del 2019.

Cuatro años han pasado desde entonces, pero las acciones del actual gobierno liderado por Pedro Pierluisi, otro corrupto anexionista que considera al invasor EUA como su amo y señor mientras desprecia a nuestro pueblo, han aumentado las posibilidades de que la población boricua se reduzca al mínimo. Ya sea por muertes por negligencias, por accidentes prevenibles en las car-

reteras, por suicidios, por la extrema violencia y los feminicidios que están arrojando al país, o por la eventual emigración forzada.

La situación para la gran mayoría del pueblo es insostenible sin que el gobierno intervenga a su favor. Al contrario, ha privatizado los servicios esenciales como la salud, y está en vías de privatizar la educación, ha permitido el desplazamiento de poblaciones pobres para dar prioridad a los arrendamientos de corto plazo y ha promovido las edificaciones de viviendas de lujo para extranjeros millonarios. A éstos les facilita permisos de construcción hasta en áreas protegidas por su valor histórico o ambiental.

El propósito final es sustituir la población.

Pero cada vez hay más grupos comunitarios, ambientalistas, de apoyo mutuo y de organizaciones progresistas que van uniéndose voluntades para enfrentar esta agresión,



En marzo, la Colectiva Feminista en Construcción llevó a cabo una conferencia de prensa en la que denunció el rol del estado en las políticas de desplazamiento que sufre la comunidad de Río Piedras.

tanto del imperio a través de la Junta de Control fiscal impuesta por el gobierno estadounidense, como de sus lacayos locales. 📌



Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

## HONDURAS:

# Expose right-wing attacks against the people

By Lucy Pagoada-Quesada

The recalcitrant Honduran right wing is enraged at the country's new diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and the agreements for collaboration reached by President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya to benefit the vast majority.

It is only a matter of listening to their voices and seeing their megaphones, paid for by the disinformation media and out-of-touch representatives with "anti-communist" discourse, to realize it.

And their response is to ferociously attack the government of Democratic Socialism, not only through information warfare, but even perpetrating crimes such as the terrorist attacks against the Honduran National Electric Power

Company (ENEEH) and producing fatal blackouts that cause terrible damage to the people, as denounced by Minister of Energy Erick Tejada on national television June 13.

The purpose of the attacks and sabotage of the ENEEH is to outrage the population and turn it against the government, create chaos, destabilization, violence, and make it look ineffective in order to justify a possible coup.

This is nothing new. In Venezuela the right wing did the same in 2019. It perpetrated terrorist attacks against the electrical power system and produced terrible blackouts throughout the country as a way of destabilizing the government of President Nicolás Maduro.

But they did well in Venezuela and we will do well in Honduras. We are

going to beat them this time as we have beaten them before. They will not be able to stand against the people.

Our call to the Honduran people, then, is not to fall into the trap of the right and the powerful groups composed of the same coup leaders as always. Therefore, do not allow yourself to be manipulated by the failed strategies of the right, which does not want and has never wanted the good of the majority.

An example is that in Honduras, since President Xiomara took office, more than a million poor Hondurans do not pay for energy. But of

course the megaphones on the right don't talk about that.

For this and for all the important actions that our government is taking and that the right-wing media hide, we must support it. President Xiomara Castro is doing everything possible to solve the problems inherited from the drug dictatorship, even though it is a great challenge. She works tirelessly to make sure the community gets justice.

The coup plotters shall not pass!

The writer is coordinator of Partido Libre D19 USA-Canada.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield

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

Vol. 6, No. 13 June 26, 2023

Vol. 6, Núm. 13 26 de junio de 2023