

# U.S. empire creates refugees, then criminalizes them

By Gregory E. Williams

With Nikki Haley out of the race, Trump and Biden are officially facing off in a presidential rematch. Both of these deeply unpopular politicians are attempting to get ahead by scapegoating migrants and refugees at the U.S.-Mexico border. In dueling publicity stunts, they both went to the border on Feb. 29., hundreds of miles apart in Texas.

Despite the polarized rhetoric, there is little substantive difference between their approaches to immigration. Biden seeks to present himself as a uniter who can “reach across the aisle” and get the job done, courting a supposedly reasonable section of the Republican Party less beholden to Trump. Trump depicts Biden as overseeing an open-border policy.

The reality is that the Biden administration has continued many of the more repressive Trump-era immigration policies.

Biden was Obama’s vice president from January 2009 to January 2017. Immigrant rights groups labeled Obama the “Deporter in Chief,” having deported three million people by the time he left office. Ultra-bigot Ron DeSantis even used these facts to try to make himself look more vicious than Trump, saying that he would deport more people than Trump, whose deportation stats trailed Obama’s.

Immigration legislation has been held up in Congress for months as different factions fight over the exact ways to manage U.S. imperialism’s borders. The legislation has been tied to funding for U.S. proxies in Ukraine, for example, which some Republicans oppose.

They do not oppose Ukraine funding on anti-imperialist grounds but rather because they represent the interests of different factions of the bourgeoisie who

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Soldiers put concertina wire on a border fence near the Brownsville and Matamoros Express International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas.

want to emphasize different theaters of conflict. Both parties are still absolutely united on continuing the U.S.-Israeli genocide of Palestinians and provoking China, risking World War III.

The bipartisan bill that has been held up – the showpiece of Biden’s “reaching across the aisle” – would enact further violence against asylum seekers. The bill would institute a trigger mechanism to

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- Black women’s resistance
- Uber & Lyft drivers demand minimum wage
- Layoffs surge

- Free Samaher Esmail – on trial for pro-Palestine posts
- Taiwan troops trained in U.S. drone warfare
- U.S. targets TikTok in a tech war on China
- Haiti PM now a U.S. prisoner?



► What do Cubans really need?

# Black women's history of resistance

By Amadi Ajamu

The December 12th Movement's Stop the Killing (STK) campaign organizers held a special tribute on March 17 for four women who have significantly impacted our community in the spirit of resistance. Majid Gadsden opened the celebration, giving a brief history of the STK organizing efforts and their commitment to building a stronger community. "We are proud to honor our Sisters, who have been on the frontline of our resistance."

The moderator, Keisha Lewars, then welcomed the distinguished panel, which included Mary Louise Patterson. Patterson introduced herself as a retired pediatrician, daughter of two political activists who were members of the U.S. Communist Party, and stalwart veteran of the civil rights movement.

Stephanie Zinerman, NYS Assemblywoman said "I am privileged to be representing the people of Bedford-Stuyvesant and Crowne Heights. I was born with three strikes, being Black, female, and poor, so I feel like I've lived a life of resistance from my first breath."

Sharon Christie, a community activist and tenant association organizer at the Louis Armstrong Houses in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Ms. Christie began with her history, "I am from Jamaica, I came here when I was 17 years old. There was a lot of resistance growing up in high school. They would say you don't talk like us. I'd say what do you mean? I talk just fine. My father was a fighter. I was a little timid, I had to learn, and he taught me to fight back. I've lived in Louis Armstrong Houses since 1996. I am happy to be here, and I want to share."

As an active STK member, Keisha add-



Photo: Amadi Ajamu

Sharon Christie, Stephanie Zinerman NYS – Assembly, Keisha Lewars (STK), Mary Louise Patterson, Fela Barcliff.

ed, "I just want to say a little more about Sister Sharon Christie. We've been doing a lot of work in Armstrong, and she has been in the forefront of the tenant's association. She is the first person we call. She is always there and she's always ready. And because of her those tenants now have access to the community center. We just want to thank you for being here."

Fela Barcliff, an educator, who has built an institution focusing on early childhood education – Little Sun People. "I am now retiring from running an early childhood center after 44 years. I came to Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn as a toddler from the southern United States and have been here pretty much all my life. From elementary school to college, I was educated in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Back then they were called ghetto schools, and they were. I hated those schools and educated myself in the library. Brooklyn Public Library was one of the gifts to me. Those schools did not teach anything

about Black people except that we were well taken care of happy slaves. Movies portrayed us as barbarians. When I was 11 years old, I heard Malcolm X. I was dumbfounded. This man was saying things that I have never heard before. That was a life changing experience."

The lively discussion covered a myriad of political, social, and economic issues. Ms. Patterson spoke extensively about the history of Black women in resistance. There was a dynamic discourse with audience members. Many young activists were in attendance, asking for direction and strategies for resistance in the current political atmosphere. The questions and answers sharpened the dialogue exponentially. It was a learning opportunity for everyone.

*For more information on how to get involved with the Stop the Killing campaign, contact Sistas' Place at (718) 398-1766 or email [StopTheKillingBedStuy@gmail.com](mailto:StopTheKillingBedStuy@gmail.com).*

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# Minneapolis drivers demand minimum wage, Uber & Lyft refuse

By Lev Koufax

Rideshare magnates Uber and Lyft announced on the afternoon of March 15 that both corporations would suspend all service in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as of May 1. Outside of the strange unity between supposed rideshare market rivals, the two companies issued a joint statement that announced the suspension of service and attacked the Minneapolis city government with one united voice of capitalist rage.

The suspension will put 10,000 workers out of a job. What was Minneapolis's great crime? The Midwest city had the unmitigated nerve to enact a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for rideshare drivers. The minimum wage legislation actually had to overcome a veto from Jacob Frey, the city's faux-progressive mayor. The City Council overrode Frey's callous veto with a vote of 10-3.

As a side note, Frey seems to be on a bit of a streak recently when it comes to vetoing progressive legislation. Just last month, the City Council was forced to override another Frey veto, this time on legislation demanding a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to all U.S. military aid to the Zionist regime. Frey claims to support a ceasefire but still vetoed the resolution and forced an override vote — some progressive.

In response to the City Council's approval of the \$15 rideshare driver minimum wage legislation, Lyft and Uber immediately condemned the new law as "deeply troubling." The two multi-billion corporations also asserted that the new minimum wage would make rideshare unaffordable for customers.

## Lyft, Uber lie

This is a classic capitalist red herring. They insist that any increase in working conditions will bring about the immediate and catastrophic collapse of the entire rideshare industry. But it isn't true. The idea that wage increases will lead to

unaffordable goods and services costs is based on total mythology.

Labor is only one of the costs for producing a good or service. Lyft and Uber spend far more on licensing, insurance, and advertising than they ever would or could on drivers. Yes, the cost to provide a rideshare service in Minneapolis will increase under a new minimum wage law, but so would the purchasing power and morale of 10,000 rideshare drivers.

Lyft and Uber's pleas of poverty are even more ridiculous when juxtaposed to Minneapolis area rideshare drivers' current working conditions. The Minneapolis Star Tribune investigated the economics of the rideshare magnates' claims. The investigation found that Minneapolis drivers only take home 25% to 60% of their fares as is, compared to 70% to 80% when they first started.

These workers drive the customers, maintain the cars, and provide their equipment ... yet the capitalists keep at the minimum 40% of the drivers' profits. Many drivers barely make a wage from their work after paying for maintenance and insurance on their vehicles. Meanwhile, Lyft and Uber make out like bandits.

In 2023 alone, Lyft made \$4.4 billion in revenue, up 7.5% from 2022. Uber had an even stronger 2023, with a revenue of \$9.9 billion, a 15% increase from 2022. The drivers suffer, and the capitalist bosses roll around in the dough.



Eid Ali, leader of the Minnesota Uber and Lyft Drivers Association, celebrates after the Minneapolis City Council voted to pass a bill increasing wages for rideshare drivers on March 14, 2024.

Photo: Aaron Nesheim | Sahan Journal

## It's about maximizing profits

Uber and Lyft's attempts to defeat the minimum wage law aren't about sustainable business, and they aren't about protecting the consumer. The cynical decision to withdraw from Minneapolis is simply about keeping the Minneapolis drivers at poverty wages while maximizing profits for rideshare shareholders as much as possible.

That is the cold calculus of the capitalist class: Pay as little as possible to make as much as possible, no matter the cost in life or limb to the worker. This has always been their sole calculus. It will always be their sole calculus. This is how they maintain their system of greed.

Meanwhile, over 10,000 workers will have to seek new ways to feed their families if the billionaire rideshare magnates follow through with their threat. This brutal development is just another chapter in a long list of reasons why we can no longer afford to live without socialism.

If we want to end the reign of terror by greedy corporations like Uber and Lyft, then we have to end the capitalist system. Workers will find justice when workers control the system.

In the meantime, we must support all workers who struggle for a better life and find themselves in the sights of the capitalist class.

Stand with the Minneapolis rideshare drivers! Make Lyft and Uber pay their fare share! #

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shut down the border if an average of 5,000 people per day in a given week (or 8,500 in a single day) attempted to enter the U.S. outside the woefully inadequate legal channels.

The bill would involve pumping billions more of our tax dollars into the border police apparatus at a time when Kellogg's CEO is telling us to just eat cereal for dinner because food and everything else is so expensive.

Sources close to the Biden administration have said that Genocide Joe is considering executive action to implement aspects of the immigration bill, bypassing the congressional morass.

In a special congressional election in New York, Democrat Tom Suozzi just won the House seat formerly occupied by George Santos. He scored this victory by bashing immigrants, calling the situation at the border an "invasion," in fascistic, dehumanizing language reminiscent of Trump.

## Biden's racist edge

Immigration was a focal point in Biden's March 7 State of the Union address, which marks the beginning of his campaign in earnest. Biden used racist terminology, referring to human beings as "illegals."

Marjorie Taylor Greene put on her own show – wearing a shirt that read, "say her name" – and disrupting Biden by yelling this slogan, which came from the Black Lives Matter movement. Greene and other Republicans are capitalizing on the tragic killing of 22-year-old University of Georgia nursing student Laken Riley. A Venezuelan national is being charged with the crime.

The Republican narrative, of course, is that this incident is part of an epidemic of immigrant crime and violence and that the Biden administration's policies are too lax. The immigrant crime wave is a pure myth. Very good data has come from multiple studies showing that there is no correlation between crime rates and immigration.

Stanford University economist Ran Abramitzky has even found that, since the 1960s, immigrants are 60% less like-

ly to be incarcerated than people born in the U.S. – and that's not because immigrants are treated more lightly. If anything, the opposite is probably true, as immigrants are criminalized in every aspect of their lives.

Since Greene and others have chosen to use the phrase, "say her name," we should note a huge, glaring difference between what she and her cohorts are doing and the BLM movement. While the immigrant crime wave narrative is a big lie, the constant murder of Black people by police is not. All the data backs this up.

Overall, the political situation for immigrants continues to worsen, with both parties relying on this tried-and-true method of dividing up the working class by pitting one group of workers against another.

## Who are the migrants?

But who are the migrants, and why are they coming in increasing numbers? U.S. Border Patrol claims to have had a record-breaking 250,000 encounters with migrants at the southwest border in December 2023. Books have been written on this topic, but the short answer is that

it is because of U.S. imperialism.

Forty-seven thousand Venezuelans were encountered in December. Washington has dealt Venezuela's economy deadly blows for many years, with sanctions that have increased dramatically since the Obama years. On March 8, 2015, Obama signed Executive Order 13692, declaring Venezuela an "unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States."

As with Cuba, the "threat" represented by Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution was simply that they pursued national sovereignty, making it more difficult for Wall Street to plunder the country's natural resources and exploit the people; they were pursuing a non-capitalist direction. The Venezuelan people held on firmly to the gains they had made and resisted repeated Washington-backed coups, but the sanctions were devastating. The country's economy contracted 24.7% between

2013-16.

Trump's administration pursued a "maximum pressure" campaign, especially targeting Venezuela's leading industry, oil and gas. As with all U.S. sanctions, from Venezuela to Cuba to Iraq, the goal was to immiserate the population, leading to social collapse. The Biden administration let up just a little bit when it comes to Venezuelan oil exports but is threatening to ramp up sanctions again.

In 2021, the largest proportion of migrants came from Honduras, some 200 families a day, according to Border Patrol. The Obama administration – remember, Biden was vice president – orchestrated a coup in Honduras in 2009, sending democratically elected President Manuel Zelaya into exile.

For years, the country was plunged into economic chaos and violence. Politically, Honduras is just now getting back on its feet, with progressive President Xiomara Castro being elected in 2022 – much to the dismay of Washington.

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## WHO ARE THE MIGRANTS?\*

### VENEZUELA

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### HAITI

The Border Patrol claims to have encountered **76,100 Haitians in the 2023 fiscal year.** Haiti is in the news now because of the **political and economic crisis** following the **assassination of President Jovenel Moïse** in 2021. **The bourgeois media typically depicts Haiti's troubles out of context** rather than talk about the **history of colonialism and slavery** and the U.S. imperialists' domination of Haiti. **The U.S. occupied Haiti militarily from 1915 to 1934.**

\* not intended to be exhaustive



# Washington's New Cold War: U.S. Special Forces train Taiwan troops in drone warfare

By Gary Wilson

On March 14, Taiwan Defense Minister Chiu Kuo-cheng confirmed that U.S. Army Special Forces, specifically the “Green Berets,” are permanently stationed in amphibious command centers in the Kinmen and Penghu islands.

The Green Berets are training Taiwanese forces on the use of military drones including the Black Hornet Nano, like those being used by U.S.-advised forces in Ukraine.

Previously, U.S. troops stationed in Taiwan were only temporary, not permanent. The permanent deployment of any U.S. troops to Taiwan breaches the “One China” policy.

China’s sovereignty over Taiwan is internationally recognized. In 1972, in a joint communiqué, the U.S. acknowledged that “there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China.”

While the U.S. officially recognizes that Taiwan is part of China, it has maintained a military presence on the island



**U.S. Green Berets will be deployed permanently to Taiwan islands.**

Photo: US Army

the BBC says. This is a departure from the earlier policy of only selling weapons to Taiwan.

The U.S. “is using its own money to send weapons to a

place it officially doesn’t recognize. This is happening under a program called Foreign Military Financing (FMF). ...”

The FMF, under the State Department and separately funded through the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, has been used to give some of the billions in military aid sent to Ukraine.

The BBC continues: “It has been used to send billions more to Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel and Egypt, and so on. But until now it has only ever been given to countries or organizations recognised by the United Nations. Taiwan is not. ...”

“After the U.S. switched diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China in 1979, it continued to sell weapons to the island under the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act. ... The U.S. State Department has been quick to deny [the FMF grant] implies any recognition of Taiwan.”

The BBC quotes a top Taiwan politician who “says the \$80m is the tip of what could be a very large iceberg and notes that in July, President Biden used discretionary powers to approve the sale of military services and equipment worth \$500m to Taiwan.” The report adds that Taiwan expects more than \$10 billion in military aid from the U.S.

The deployment of U.S. Army special forces near China’s mainland, where they are establishing and conducting exercises with reconnaissance drones used for offensive military attacks, is an escalation in Washington’s New Cold War against China. #

since the People’s Liberation Army’s victory in 1949, when the Chiang Kai-shek government fled to Taiwan. That presence was reduced in the 1970s after the adoption of the One China policy.

Now, as the BBC reported, “the U.S. is quietly arming Taiwan to the teeth.”

“U.S. President Joe Biden recently signed off on a \$80m grant to Taiwan for the purchase of American military equipment. ... The \$80m is not a loan,”

## U.S. empire creates refugees

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fiscal year. Haiti is in the news now because of the political and economic crisis following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in 2021. The bourgeois media typically depicts Haiti’s troubles out of context rather than talk about the history of colonialism and slavery and the U.S. imperialists’ domination of Haiti. The U.S. occupied Haiti militarily from 1915 to 1934.

SLL writer Stephen Millies says:

“The super-rich have never forgiven the Haitian people for overthrowing slavery. More than two centuries of revenge followed with the U.S. military occupying Haiti for 20 years, followed by support for the Duvalier family dictatorship.

“It was the CIA which was behind the coup that overthrew democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aris-

tide in 2004. Trump called Haiti, which helped liberate Latin America, a ‘sh—hole country.’”

Politicians like Trump and Biden orchestrate the poverty and violence that drive people from their homelands, and they repress them when they come to the U.S. out of desperation. Sanctions and coups are only the tip of the iceberg. Capitalist imperialism is a global system. Exploitation and oppression are structural. It is not defined by one policy or another.

But it is important that we grasp that it is the capitalist class – the filthy rich like Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk – who create these inhumane situations to amass more wealth, that is, to accumulate capital. The politicians work for capitalists. Workers have no interest in upholding their system or going along with the scapegoating campaigns. #

# U.S. economy on the brink: Layoffs surge and credit card debt soars

By Gary Wilson

The U.S. economy may be heading from a boom phase characterized by overproduction to a recession marked by rising unemployment and homelessness. This misery is part of the regular capitalist economic cycle, which moves through stages of recession, depression, average prosperity, and boom.

During a boom, industries operate at nearly full capacity, and unemployment is low. However, this leads to overproduction, which is initially hidden by inflated loans, speculation, and selling goods on credit rather than for cash. The approaching crisis is signaled not by falling profits but by a declining “quality” of profit as more people fall behind on their debt payments.

Banks try to keep the boom going by rolling over bad debts and hiding their losses while swindling and Ponzi schemes thrive in this environment. Eventually, credit reaches its limit and

dries up, exposing the overproduction and leading to widespread layoffs, shut-downs, and the failure of banks and finance companies. The economy is then in a recession.

Currently, the U.S. is experiencing the highest level of layoffs since 2009, particularly in tech, retail, and healthcare. Many major retailers, such as Macy's and Dollar Tree, are closing stores and cutting jobs. The U.S. Postal Service is in the process of slashing 50,000 jobs and closing hundreds of facilities.

Office vacancy rates are rising, while home rents and mortgage rates have reached record highs. Foreclosures and evictions are increasing, and homelessness has hit a record level. Credit card debt has surged to \$1.13 trillion, with more people falling behind on payments as they struggle to make ends meet.

The official unemployment rate is misleading, as it doesn't account for underemployed workers, those who have given up searching for jobs, and prisoners.

The real unemployment rate is closer to 10%, affecting millions of people and their families, according to the National Jobs for All Coalition. If prisoners, most of whom are forced to work for pennies, were counted as unemployed, the official jobless rate would rise by another one-half percentage point.

The U.S. economy appears to be at a tipping point, with signs pointing toward a potential recession. Rising debt, layoffs, and homelessness indicate that the current boom may be ending, exposing the underlying problems of overproduction and extended credit.

Recessions are already sweeping capitalist countries worldwide. Japan, Britain, Ireland, and Finland are in recession, as are Denmark, Luxembourg, Moldova, and Estonia. Near recession are Ecuador, Bahrain, Iceland, South Africa, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, Thailand, Romania, Lithuania, Germany, and Colombia. Can the U.S. be added to this list? #

## ‘War and Lenin in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’

### New book released on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lenin's death

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote **“Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism”** in 1916, more than a century ago. It is still one of the most influential critiques of imperialism.

After the first imperialist world war broke out, Lenin's main interest was promoting a socialist revolution to end the war. To this end, he exposed the war's economic roots and explained why the popular Social Democratic anti-war movement had crumbled. Lenin identified imperialism's key features: monopoly capitalism, finance capital, the export of capital, and colonialism, leading to the competitive division of the world among the imperialist powers.

#### Does Lenin's analysis of imperialism hold up today?

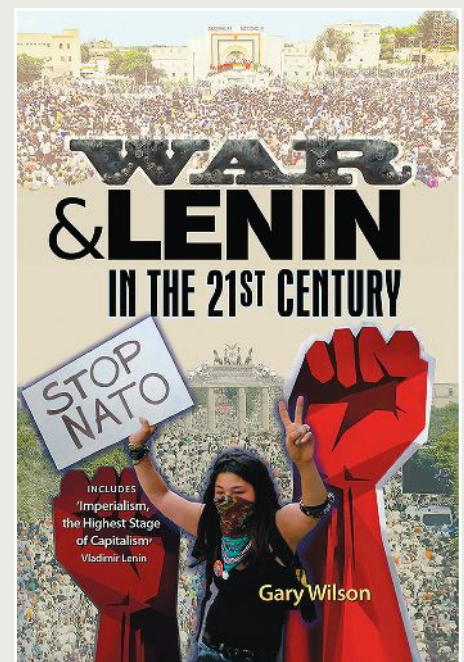
The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of European and Japanese empires in Asia and Africa. It established the U.S. dollar as the international currency and engaged in endless wars to maintain what the Cubans call **‘The Empire.’**

Unlike in 1914, the U.S. military-industrial complex dominates the imperialist world.

As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

This book includes Lenin's original pamphlet.

Available in paperback or kindle at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)





# What do Cubans really need?

By Alejandra Garcia

March 19 — This past Sunday, a group of Cubans took to the streets of Santiago de Cuba, in the east of the island, to show their dissatisfaction with the economic situation in the country. In recent weeks, fuel shortages have caused long hours of scheduled blackouts, especially in that city, which, along with food shortages and salaries strongly affected by inflation, have turned the daily life of Cubans into an odyssey of frustration.

Immediately after the news broke, the hegemonic media of the North and some sectors of the ultra-right-wing in Florida and other parts of the world tried to take advantage of the circumstances to bring about a change of regime in the country. They hoped that what began as a peaceful protest amid a painful economic situation would multiply throughout the island and turn into a social outburst that would lead Cubans to confront one another.

It hurts how they dismiss the real causes of the economic crisis in Cuba, which includes, above so many other reasons, the U.S economic blockade that has continued non-stop against the island for over 64 years, preventing us from establishing trade relations with the rest of the world and, therefore, our own development. The opportunists look at us from a distance with hamburgers in hand and want us to get heated up, with sticks in hand against the government, as if they were attending one of the battles of the U.S. bestseller *The Hunger Games*.

This Sunday, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel acknowledged on the social network X that people had expressed dissatisfaction with the current situation. He warned that this context is being taken advantage of by the enemies of the Revolution “for destabilizing purposes.” Their objective has nothing to do with the needs of the Cuban people.

Díaz-Canel denounced that terrorists based in the United States are encouraging actions against the internal order of the country. The president also reiterated



**My Country, Better Without the Blockade.**

Photo: Bill Hackwell

“How cynical and despicable to ask the government of Cuba to satisfy the needs of its people, when your government has been applying a brutal siege for +60 years to deprive my people of the essentials and cause its suffocation,” Cuba’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Josefina Vidal, denounced.

ed the willingness of the Cuban authorities of the Communist Party, the State, and the Government to attend to the demands of the Cuban people.

“We are willing to listen, dialogue, and explain the many steps taken to improve the situation, always in an atmosphere of tranquility,” he said and reaffirmed the government’s commitment to “work in peace to overcome the current situation, despite the blockade that seeks to suffocate the nation.”

While the president took the podium to assure the people that they are not alone and that the government understands, listens, and acts, the U.S. embassy took to social media to speak about “human rights.” On the official X account, the diplomatic headquarters in Havana posted, “We are aware of reports of peaceful protests in Santiago, Bayamo, Granma, and elsewhere in Cuba, with citizens protesting the lack of food and electricity. We urge the Cuban government to respect the human rights of the protestors and address the legitimate needs of the Cuban people.” Spoken like they are innocent concerned bystanders.

On Monday, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Benjamin Ziff was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Deputy Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío, who formally expressed Cuba’s firm rejection of the U.S. government’s and its embassy in Cuba’s interference and slanderous messages regarding internal affairs of the Cuban reality.

foreign Affairs, Josefina Vidal, denounced.

The destabilizing plan and its execution are obvious for all to see. It rests on the reinforcement of a ruthless economic war to provoke and exploit the natural irritation of the population. It is financed with tens of millions of dollars from the U.S. federal budget every year.

According to a statement issued by the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the plans have a powerful technological infrastructure to exploit digital networks from U.S. territory for aggressive purposes. They enjoy the complicity of important U.S. and international mainstream media and the mercenary support of people based mainly in South Florida, in the United States, whose only livelihood is the industry of aggression against the island.

What do Cubans need? To reject the suffocation to which we are subjected to, the lack of access to food, inflation, bureaucracy, corruption, and internal problems that can be solved but we will do that. And above all, we condemn the determination of the U.S. Government to limit and hinder every effort of the Cuban State to find solutions and provide answers to the economic and social needs of the country.

It is actually quite simple: as a sovereign country, we are resolute in our insistence that we will build our society without the dictates of any country.

Source: *Resumen Latinoamericano – English*

# Samaher Esmail faces trial over pro-Palestinian posts

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consciousness at one point.

The Zionist regime has let her out on bail but will not allow her return to the U.S. Her next trial date is March 31. The Zionists have no intention of giving her a fair trial. She's facing bogus charges, and this is a sham court. The military courts constitute a separate legal system designed for abusing Palestinians in the West Bank and have a 99% conviction rate. "Israeli" citizens are not tried in these courts.

But the movement in the greater New Orleans area has been fighting for her. During the Gulf Coast March for Palestine on Feb. 18, several thousand people from across the Gulf South and beyond chanted "Free Samaher Esmail" in the streets, as well as "Justice for Tawfik Abdeljabbar." Abdeljabbar was a 17-year-old Palestinian New Orleans area native who was killed by an occupation officer when he visited his homeland of Palestine on Jan. 19.

This action — the Gulf Coast March for Palestine — began with a rally in Armstrong Park, on the outskirts of the French Quarter. The park is the site of the historic Congo Square.

Many consider Congo Square a sacred site, particularly those who draw from the African diaspora religions. It was a unique site in North America through various periods of the slave economy (under the Spanish, French, and then

U.S. control). Because of peculiarities in Louisiana law, enslaved and free Africans here had some legal right to gather, and Congo Square became a place where masses of enslaved, free African, and Indigenous peoples were able to meet, celebrate, sell wares, and more.

This history is one reason Congo Square was chosen as the march's launching point. Many speakers invoked this history to highlight the continuities across time and among peoples regarding the liberation struggle. No one is free until we're all free.

The march was led by Masjid Omar mosque and some 20 other organizations. This broad coalition has continued to carry out actions since Feb. 18. We have to keep up the pressure.

## Justice for Tawfik! Free Samaher Esmail!

The campaign to free Samaher Esmail has requested that supporters contact the U.S. State Department and Louisiana Congressperson Troy Carter. Suggested wording and contact information are given below.

U.S. State Department, Office of Overseas Citizens Services: (888) 407-4747  
Script:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling regarding LA-District 2 constituent and U.S. citizen Samaher Esmail, who Israeli Defense Forces abducted in the occupied West Bank of Palestine on Feb. 5, 2024, and wrongfully imprisoned and charged. She is a cancer patient and has been denied essential medication. I am calling for the U.S. State Department to act immediately ahead of Esmail's March 31 trial and to designate Esmail as wrongfully charged by Israel and to demand Israel drop all charges against Esmail and allow her to come home.

Congressman Troy Carter (LA-District 2): (202) 225-6636

Script:

Hi, my name is \_\_\_ and my zip code is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling regarding LA-District 2 constituent and U.S. citizen Samaher Esmail, who Israeli Defense Forces abducted in the occupied West Bank of Palestine on Feb. 5, 2024, and wrongfully imprisoned and charged. She is a cancer patient and has been denied essential medication. I am calling for Congressman Carter to ensure that the U.S. State Department designate Esmail as wrongfully charged by Israel and to demand Israel drop all charges against Esmail and allow her to come home.

## Ralph Poynter Memorial Celebration raises funds for political prisoners



On March 21, hundreds gathered at Riverside Church in Harlem to honor Ralph Poynter. Funds raised at the event will go to the campaign for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier. Pictured from the left are Mike Africa, Betty Davis and Lisa Davis. Make an online donation by typing in 'Mumia and Leonard Peltier Campaign' on the form at <https://ifconews.org/donate/>

Photo taken from video of the event

**EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE  
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**AGAINST RAFAH GROUND INVASION**

in the event that US/israeli forces invade Rafah:

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**MLK BLVD and W MULBERRY ST**

**PEOPLES POWER ASSEMBLY.ORG**

**BALTIMORE, MD**



# U.S. targets TikTok in economic war on China

By Gary Wilson

TikTok has emerged as a dominant force in social media, reshaping not just online culture but also extending its influence beyond the digital realm. Since its launch in 2016, TikTok has become one of the most popular social media platforms in the world, surpassing Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and YouTube in terms of downloads and engagement.

Through its unique format of short, audio-driven videos curated through algorithms, TikTok has propelled numerous artists, like Lil Nas X and Noah Kahan, into the mainstream spotlight. Music from Africa has gained a global audience. Even the Biden campaign is on TikTok with "BidenHQ," hoping to appeal to a younger audience than its base of retirees and Wall Street bankers.

Facebook is considered to be TikTok's biggest competitor.

"Meta clearly sees itself in a battle against TikTok for the hearts, minds, and attention spans of millennials, a significant chunk of the social media market. TikTok has experienced a staggering growth of users since the onset of the global pandemic, taking over a huge chunk of its competitor's audience," the Guardian reported.

So why do the Biden administration and Congress want to ban TikTok?

Are they all just fans of Mark Zuckerberg? Or in Zuckerberg's pocket? For sure, they've all probably had a few clubhouse dinners with Meta.

But this goes beyond Facebook. The target, and they clearly say this, is China. The ban passed by the House of Representatives is called the "Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act." China is the "foreign adversary."

A day after the House passed the bill, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin (under Donald Trump) announced he is going to put together an investor group to take over TikTok. "This should be owned by U.S. businesses," he said.

TikTok's only "crime" is beating out Facebook and the others. They claim

TikTok is somehow working with the Chinese military, but there isn't even a sliver of evidence of that.

Facebook has ties to the Pentagon (google "Fake Facebook and Instagram accounts promoting U.S. interests had ties to U.S. military" or "Big Tech Has Made Billions Off the 20-Year War on Terror"). Maybe we should ban Facebook. But that's another discussion.

## Trump, Biden both target China

The U.S. government, under both the Trump and Biden administrations, has been escalating its economic war against China by imposing sanctions and restrictions on Chinese tech companies. The goal is to eradicate socialist China's entire system of advanced technology.

Reuters just reported on March 14 that while he was president, "Trump launched CIA covert influence operation against China." Reuters says that Trump had also given the CIA greater powers to launch offensive cyber operations against China and Russia. "Sources described the 2019 authorization uncovered by Reuters as a more ambitious operation."

The anti-TikTok propaganda is part of what Reuters calls a "covert messaging" operation. "Covert propaganda campaigns were common during the Cold War," Reuters adds.

Some call it the New Cold War. However, the New Cold War cannot reproduce the old Cold War. China has emerged as a major manufacturing power, including in advanced technology, and is the largest trade partner for 70% of the world's countries. The U.S. no longer has the same dominant position in the global market.

The global landscape has changed dramatically since the Cold War era, but capitalism's fundamental contradictions persist today, mirroring those of the 1960s during the Vietnam War.

Financially and militarily, the U.S. empire is dangerously overextended.

Before the genocidal invasion of Gaza, the Biden administration was seeking to consolidate its dominance in the region by brokering Saudi Arabia's recognition of Israel. Now, the U.S. is spending billions of dollars on bombs and weapons systems for the Zionist regime's war on the Palestinian people.

For two years, the U.S. has engaged in the largest arms transfer in history, sending to Ukraine some \$113.4 billion in "emergency funding" over and above the regular Pentagon budget. Growing war fatigue, however, has now reduced the funds.

The New York Times puts it this way:

"American support has sharply declined. House Republicans have blocked additional aid to Ukraine, and the Biden administration cannot send many more weapons. (The \$300 million package announced this week will likely help Ukraine for only a few weeks.)"

In fact, the Times almost says, it is only U.S. weapons and ammunition that started this war and have kept it going. "It falls on the U.S. to supply Ukraine," the Times says. "The war is at a stalemate." The funds have run out.

U.S. imperialism considers socialist China's economic rise as its most significant contemporary challenge. It is resolute in thwarting Chinese industry from dominating the global markets. This ongoing "New Cold War" raises the specter of a potential war in the Pacific. #



# Is former de facto Haiti PM Ariel Henry now a de facto prisoner?

By Kim Ives

In U.S. custody at the Army's Fort Buchanan in Puerto Rico, Ariel Henry, 74, once the king on Haiti's chessboard, has now become a pawn of the U.S. in its increasingly desperate bid to send a proxy intervention force into the rebelling Caribbean nation. This is the picture Haiti Liberté has received from a well-placed source with intimate access into and knowledge of the U.S. government.

Washington is now scrambling for the way to send a "quick reaction force" into Haiti, and Ariel Henry remains one of their most important bargaining chips, the source says.

After his chartered jet landed in Puerto Rico on March 5, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) interrogated Henry for three days, according to our source. (Within 48 hours, the U.S. deported to Egypt the four Egyptian mercenaries – previously mistakenly identified as Kenyans – who were acting as Henry's security detail, our source said.)

The first day of the FBI's interrogation was devoted to questioning Henry about his role in the Jul. 7, 2021, assassination of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, our source said. The remaining two days focused on Haiti's Feb. 23, 2024, payment of \$500 million to Venezuela to pay off the \$2.3 billion PetroCaribe loan account established between the two countries in 2008. (Henry fainted during the questioning on Mar. 7, the source said.)

Under the agreement, Venezuela wrote off the remaining \$1.8 billion Haiti owed the country.

The deal was brokered by Paris-based Global Sovereign Advisory (GSA), founded by Anne-Laure Kiechel. Temir Porras, GSA's Managing Director and lead agent for Latin America, negotiated with Henry.

The FBI believes that Henry received a \$138 million kickback for negotiating the deal, our source said.

Due to the FBI's findings, the Diplomatic Secret Service (DSS) agents han-

dling Henry have placed him under de facto house arrest on the U.S. Army's Fort Buchanan in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. There are six agents guarding him, and he has been in ill health, even vomiting, according to one of the health professionals tending to him.



Ariel Henry

He has been moved to the Army base from his original residence at San Juan's Isla Verde Marriot hotel in part to prohibit media access to him, our source said.

A second reliable source spoke to a senior State Department official who told him that the Biden administration does not want to prosecute Henry, fearing that it will undermine Biden's 2024 re-election bid. The administration is extremely anxious to "stabilize the situation" in Haiti, the official said.

The State Department wants to deliver Henry to a new Haitian government of its choosing. U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken tried to concoct a "transitional presidential commission" (CPT) in Jamaica on March 11. A few CARICOM leaders, particularly Guyana's president Irfaan Ali and Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness, fronted for the charade.

Blinken's formula was a nine-member CPT, with seven members having voting powers, while Haiti's "civil society" and "religious sector" would be observers.

The proposed voting members were:

- 1 the Pitit Desalin (Dessalines' Children) party of former Lavalas Family party senator Moïse Jean-Charles. The party offered no representative.
- 2 the Montana Accord, founded Aug. 30, 2021, a group of liberal opposition "civil society" groups, political parties, individuals, and "grassroots organizations." Montana offered former Central Bank governor Fritz Alphonse Jean.
- 3 EDE/RED, the Engaged for Development party led by Jovenel Moïse's former interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph and Democratic Resistance platform of about 40 parties including

former Senator Youri Latortue's Haiti in Action (AAA) and former presidential candidate Mirlande Manigat's National Assembly of Progressive Democrats (RNPD). EDE/RED presented Marie Ghislaine Mompremier, the former Social Affairs Minister in 2003 under President Aristide, and Women's Affairs Minister in 2021 under President Jovenel Moïse.

- 4 The Fanmi Lavalas party of former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Lavalas' representative was long-time party actor Leslie Voltaire.
- 5 The Jan. 30 Collective, a coalition of disparate groups like MOPOD, Clarence Renois' UNIR, former Presidential candidate Jude Célestin's LAPEH, the Struggling People's Organization (OPL), Pitit Desalin and GREH as well as the former President Michel Martelly branch of the Haitian Bald-Headed Party (PHTK), headed by Line Balthazar. Their representative was OPL leader Edgar Leblanc.
- 6 The Dec. 21 Agreement, signed in 2022, are the political parties and "civil society" organizations established by and allied with Ariel Henry. Their representative is former Lavalas senator of the Grande Anse Department Louis Gérald Gilles.

- 7 The Private Business Sector, represented by such business alliances as the Haiti Tourism Association (ATH), the Association of Haitian Industries (ADIH) and the Western Chamber of Commerce (CCIO) and the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham – Haiti). Their representative was businessman Laurent Saint-Cyr, who previously was part of the troika that headed Henry's High Transition Council (HCT), established on Dec. 21, 2022.

However broad it may appear, Blinken's presidential commission stands absolutely no chance of success because Washington demanded that its members must support UN Security Council Resolution 2699, which endorses (but does not oversee) a foreign military intervention into Haiti called the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS). The Haitian people

*Continued on page 11*



# Is former de facto Haiti PM Ariel Henry now a prisoner?

*Continued from page 10*

ple overwhelmingly reject the deployment of this Kenyan-led (as currently planned) force and will definitely not accept any “transitional presidential council” that agrees with it.

As a result, Blinken’s formula went over like a lead balloon. “Haiti transitional council plan appears to crumble after political parties reject it,” reported France 24 two days after the fiasco.

“We reject CARICOM’s proposal,” Moïse Jean-Charles vehemently told a packed Mar. 13 press conference in Port-au-Prince. “We have overthrown [Henry’s] government. Does it make sense for us to now sit down at a table and negotiate with it?”

Two weeks previously, the “Heads Together to Save Haiti” alliance (Tèt Ansanm Pou Sove Ayiti) formed between former Lavalas senator Moïse Jean-Charles and former Senator-elect and a 2004 coup d’état leader Guy Philippe had proposed a presidential council of Guy Philippe (President), former Supreme Court judge Durin Junior Duret (Member), and Françoise Saint-Vil Villier (Member), presented as a representative of the “religious, women’s, and university sectors” by the “Solidarity-Based Joint Proposal of Healthy, Patriotic, and Progressive Haitian Forces for an Urgent Exit from the Crisis Around Prime Minister Ariel Henry’s Resignation” proposal. The document outlines the provisional government’s composition, program, and goals. The swearing-in of this three-member council is reportedly imminent.

Despite the near-universal sentiment rejecting Washington’s MSS-backed CPT, Blinken was still defending it as late as March 15.

Despite such feigned confidence, on Mar. 19, a meeting was held by officials in the State Department’s Western Hemisphere Division headed by Brian Nichols, our well-placed source said.

Recognizing that the CPT may be doomed and that they were racing the clock and the Moïse/Philippe provisional council’s swearing-in, the officials played with the idea of swearing in a judge – the name floated was Judge Walther Wesser Voltaire, who recently finished his investigation of Jovenel Moïse’s murder – to act as an interim leader so Washington could land a quick reaction force under the MSS flag.

A key to selling either the CPT or a judge-led interim government would be the delivery to Haiti of Ariel Henry, a would-be sacrificial lamb calculated to assuage the people’s anger and sell Washington’s chosen leadership clique.

Our sources’ accounts belie an anonymous “senior U.S. official” who told Reuters that “Henry was free to remain in Puerto Rico or travel elsewhere.”

Haiti Liberté requested confirmation of or comment on our story from both the FBI and the State Department. At press time, the FBI had not replied, but the State Department did.

“These claims are false,” the State Department Press Office wrote. “We would discourage sharing sensational claims on social media before first seeking verification from credible sources. We refer you to Prime Minister Henry for updates on his travel plans.”

Should Washington fail to install its replacement puppet government, it may also seek to woo the apparently anti-imperialist and impending Moïse/Philippe provisional government.

In an interview with Fox News, former U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Pamela White said that she had spoken to Philippe. “He is someone that can help with the situation, and I believe we should be dealing with him,” she said. “We dealt with the Duvaliers for 20 plus years. I think that we could certainly deal with Guy Philippe. He’s charismatic, he’s bright, he’s articulate, and he has many, many people who are following him.”

On Mar. 19, Haiti Liberté reached Jimmy Cherizier, the leader and spokesman for the Viv Ansanm (Live Together) coalition of armed groups which effectively drove Ariel Henry from power after he left for Kenya on Feb. 27.

“We are not aware or part of the plans for the swearing-in of the provisional government proposed by the coalitions of Guy Philippe and Moïse Jean-Charles,” Cherizier said. “However we have no problem with the council that would be headed by Guy Philippe because we are fighting for the same things, we have the same vision for Haiti’s future, and we hope he keeps his vision. We in Live Together, Haiti’s armed groups who are now all united, will not fight his proposed installation, but we will fight the presidential council cooked up last week in Jamaica by foreign governments with

a bunch of corrupt politicians who have not a patriotic bone in their bodies. If they try to take power, even with the support of foreign troops, we will fight them to the very last drop of our Desalinien blood.”

Haiti Liberté also asked Guy Philippe the same day by telephone if he would agree to a foreign military intervention by a force like the MSS if the U.S. offered to hand over Ariel Henry as a peace gesture. “Ariel Henry is not the problem,” Philippe replied. “He is just a piece of the bad guys’ team. These guys are trying to take back power so they can keep destroying Haiti.”

Pressed if he would accept a foreign military intervention, Philippe responded: “Haiti is a sovereign country... No patriots, no real Haitians would like any foreign nations to invade.... What have previous interventions brought to Haiti? More misery, cholera, ebola, AIDS. We don’t need military intervention. We need help... We don’t need soldiers here. The Haitian police force and army are enough and are trained enough to end that.... [Foreign troops] will come here to keep the status quo and to help the rich. They will come here to make sure that rich countries keep stealing everything we have in Haiti. That’s what they’re here for. Not for us...”

Asked if he thought the Haitian people could stop the intervention. “There is no weapon more powerful than the people’s will. If Haitian people want to resist, we will resist together. If they have to kill us together, they will kill all of us. But we can resist, and we will. Certainly we will.”

Indeed, if all else fails, Washington appears prepared to send its own troops: “U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) is prepared with a broad range of contingency plans to ensure the safety and security of U.S. citizens in Haiti,” SOUTHCOM said in a statement.

Ariel Henry may soon join the ranks of other former U.S. allies who were dumped, betrayed, or killed by Washington, like Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, Manuel Noriega, Rafael Trujillo, and, yes, even likely, Jovenel Moïse.

As the late Henry Kissinger is once reported to have said: “It may be dangerous to be America’s enemy, but to be America’s friend is fatal.”

*Source: Haiti Liberté*

# Comandante Norberto Cintrón Fiallo, ¡Presente!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

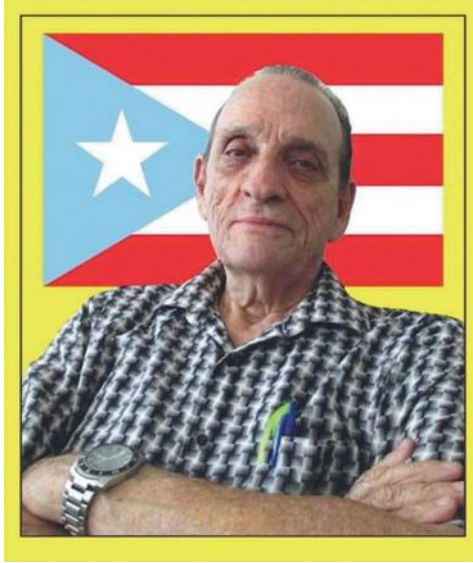
Esta semana, el pueblo boricua en resistencia despertó con la triste noticia del fallecimiento de uno de los revolucionarios más consecuentes de esta tierra, el compañero Norberto Aristides Cintrón Fiallo.

El compañero falleció a sus 84 años, luego de una larga enfermedad.

Su legado es un libro de enseñanza revolucionaria para todos y todas, pero particularmente para esa juventud que se está formando en estos tormentosos tiempos de la colonia.

Norberto nació en la República Dominicana y se crió en Puerto Rico. Madre dominicana y padre puertorriqueño. Por eso en su sangre llevaba el ansia de lucha de ambos pueblos.

Como producto de la clase trabajadora, siempre esta experiencia, estas raíces, imprimieron su lucha a través de los años. Comenzando con la lucha sindical, hasta la de liberación por la patria puer-



torriqueña. Siempre sus análisis políticos estaban basados en ese motor de la historia que Marx escribió en el Manifiesto Comunista: la lucha de clases.

En este breve espacio es imposible abarcar toda la gama de accionar y tareas políticas del compañero. Pero basta con resaltar que por su consistente trabajo libertario, fue perseguido y con-

stantemente hostigado por las fuerzas represivas y por el infame FBI estadounidense. Llegó a cumplir meses de encierro en una cárcel en Nueva York, lejos de su familia, por negarse a colaborar con el despreciable Gran Jurado Federal, un órgano de hostigamiento contra el movimiento de independencia boricua.

Heredamos de Norberto, miembro de los Comandos Armados de Liberación, la resiliencia del accionar patriótico que va desde la lucha armada como derecho inalienable de los pueblos a su autodeterminación, hasta la enorme solidaridad con los pueblos del mundo como lo demostró su participación en la Coordinadora para la Confraternidad Caribeña y Latinoamericana.

Comandante Norberto Cintrón Fiallo, ¡Presente!

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



## Samaher Esmail faces military trial over pro-Palestinian posts

By Gregory E. Williams

The Zionist state plans to try a U.S. citizen and New Orleans-area resident – Samaher Esmail – in a military court over social media posts. They're not even alleging that she did anything besides post pro-Palestinian pictures.

So much for "Israel" being a "democracy in the Middle East" (West Asia). For Palestinians, there is no freedom of speech, movement, or any other kind in their occupied homeland. On the other hand, "Israeli" soldiers and settler mobs are free to post their acts of violence all over the internet and face no repercussions.

Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) dragged 46-year-old Esmail out of her family home in Silwad on the occupied West Bank on the night of Feb. 5. She is a cancer patient.

Her family was able to capture the brutal kidnapping on video, which sparked outrage across the internet.

Neither Genocide Joe Biden nor Louisiana's racist governor, Jeff Landry, have said a word about Esmail's treatment throughout the whole period she's been in administrative detention. The local governments in Louisiana have been mute as well.

Four days passed before she was given access to a lawyer. It took 14 days for someone from the U.S. consulate to check on her. Meanwhile, during the first six days in prison, Esmail was denied access to her medications and lost



Undated family photo of Samaher Esmail.

**STRUGGLE** ★ **LA LUCHA**  
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