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SCORCHED EARTH CAPITALISM

U.S. Imperialism's Genocide in Gaza



By Gary Wilson

Israeli tanks are now rolling into Gaza City, the last section of the Strip left standing. One by one, buildings are detonated into rubble. Families are expelled at gunpoint. Gaza's government media office has reported that Israeli forces have deployed more than 80 explosive robots inside residential structures in recent days, part of a deliberate scorched-earth strategy.

This destruction comes in the midst of a famine carefully engineered by siege. Hundreds of Palestinian men, women, and children have already starved to death.

The crisis is no accident of war. It is not chaos but method. Gaza's famine is engineered, its destruction mapped out long before the latest assault began. What is unfolding is genocide – planned in Washington and Tel Aviv.

A blueprint for ethnic cleansing

With the fall of Gaza City, the entire Strip will be under Israeli occupation. Netanyahu describes this as the “concluding moves”: the mass confinement of Palestinians in sealed camps and their eventual expulsion from their ancestral homeland.

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When Donald Trump declared in

U.S.-backed Syrian government rebrands Al-Qaeda, kicks out Palestinian groups

TRUMP ESCALATES: Military threats to cities More storm troopers for ICE

By Lev Koufax

As fascist war monger in chief, Donald Trump threatens cities like Chicago and Baltimore with military occupation, and billions of dollars are headed for an unprecedented expansion in domestic federal law enforcement hiring.

The “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” signed into law by Trump earlier this

year, allocates \$16 billion to federal law enforcement agencies, including ICE, Customs & Border Patrol (CBP), and the Bureau of Prisons, just for staffing. This number doesn't include weapons, vehicles, surveillance technology, and other equipment.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are all on the chopping block, but

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Bob McCubbin ¡Presente!

LGBTQ+ rights pioneer
Marxist revolutionary
wrote on gender oppression

We will resist Trump's takeover of New Orleans

Occupations of L.A. and D.C. are the first steps to martial law



New Orleans, June 5, 2020 – thousands of people filled the park and streets around Jackson Square in New Orleans on the eighth day of protests in response to the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

By Workers Voice Socialist Movement

It is not about crime, it's about dictatorship for profit

Everything Trump and Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry do is designed to impoverish the people, strip us of our rights, destroy our lives and use force to suppress any struggle to stop them so that billionaires can extract maximum profits from our labor.

Trump and Landry are rapidly moving to impose a total dictatorship of the military corporations, banks, oil and gas, and tech companies over society. The billionaire owners of these corporations already take the vast majority of the wealth we sacrifice in the form of taxes. But they want the entire national budget for themselves.

The Trump presidency gets its marching orders from capitalist think tanks like the Heritage Foundation, the Pelican Institute, and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), all of which are funded by and for the benefit of bil-

lionaires. They are celebrating \$3.4 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8, Education, Child Care, Medicare, and Social Security. Even if you do not currently use these programs, cutting them will force down the wages of everyone else.

Trump and his billionaire cronies want no minimum wage, no pensions, no civil rights laws, no unions or any other organizations that would stand in the way of their profit-making. They are gutting what is left of voting rights. It's not enough that political candidates are bought and paid for by the rich. They are openly taking over all state machinery for elections.

Trump's deployment of shock troops has nothing to do with crime. But because Trump and Landry can't state their real motives, they scapegoat and brand as "criminals" immigrants, trans people, women and most especially

Black and Brown communities.

In Louisiana, the highest crime rate is in majority white rural areas, which also suffer from poverty and lack of opportunity. More than 1 in 5 of all people incarcerated around the planet are in U.S. jails and prisons. Prisons for citizens and immigrants are a profit-making industry, and corporations are using prison labor to get super-profits. Convict leasing, child labor, labor camps, debtors' prisons are all about enslaving labor for maximum profit. This will inevitably drag down the wages of non-incarcerated workers as well.

Trump and Landry are preparing for resistance to their program of total impoverishment. On Aug. 25, Trump issued an executive order calling on Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to designate Army and Air National Guard members in every state to "assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement in quelling civil disturbances."

Resistance to occupation and dictatorship is inevitable. The people will not stand by as we lose our housing and homes and politicians rake in bribes. We will not stand by while seniors are in the streets and education becomes something that only the rich can afford. We will not be peacefully hungry. We have the right to good wages, healthcare, housing, equality, food, education, peace, and a livable planet. The handful of billionaires that are centralizing their control over our lives are the real criminals and parasites.

Repression Breeds Resistance. Trump and Landry smugly think they can lie about everything in order to enrich their pals. But while people may be temporarily stunned by the rapid rise of dictatorship, a reckoning is coming. They are few and we are many. #

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The toxic burden: Black Louisiana paying for Big Oil's profits

By Gregory E. Williams

On Aug. 22, an ecological disaster began to unfold in my hometown in South Louisiana with the explosion of the Smitty's Supply plant in Roseland. Two days later, the oil and chemical tanks are still burning, though reported to be 90% under control. The cause is still under investigation.

Everyone within a one-mile radius was evacuated, but the smoke plumes could be seen for many miles. Residents in neighboring towns are reporting an oily residue on everything.

At 9:54 that night after the fire started, a friend texted me, "I just drove down that way on I-55. I could smell it."

Smitty's manufactures over 200 products, including industrial and commercial lubricating fluids as well as diesel engine oils. They are a major employer in the area.

We're only five days out from the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's landfall in Louisiana, and I can't help but think of that capitalist-made ecological disaster, as well as the BP oil spill of 2010. Fortunately, nobody has died so far from the Smitty's explosion, but people are pretty freaked out about the potential health impacts.

Hurricanes are major events, but some of the deadliest impacts of climate change and fossil-fuel dependence are slow burners. These include skyrocketing numbers of heat-related deaths worldwide and the effects of inhaling wildfire smoke.

This situation since Friday is bad, but Louisiana is already heavily polluted by the barely regulated oil, gas, and chemical industries, especially in predominantly Black or Indigenous areas. Roseland is 61.36% Black according to

2020 Census data. Adjacent Amite City (where I'm actually from) is 54.43% Black.

There are plenty of poor white people, too – the folk that Trump and Vance sometimes pretend to care about, but do nothing but rob. They'll help white Louisiana workers as soon as they help those white coal miners in Appalachia – that is, never.

On Aug. 24, WAFB meteorologist Steve Caparotta posted pictures on Facebook showing an oily sheen on the Tangipahoa River, which empties into Lake Pontchartrain. Others are posting photos of animals covered in oil.

My niece summed things up like this:

"Mom let the cat out last night for a minute to use the bathroom, and his feet were covered. The rivers are black, and animals are covered in soot and oil. The farmers can't use any produce and might have to wait years until their soil is usable again. All livestock are covered and have been grazing on grass covered in pollutants."

"I feel so bad for all the animals who have no idea what's going on. And many people here don't really believe in climate change and think it will go



Roseland, Louisiana, Aug. 22 – a massive explosion happened at the Smitty's Supply plant, prompting evacuation.

away in a couple days, but there will be long-term effects.

"I'm sure many people will have health issues because of it too. People still can't return to their homes and everything is a giant mess. This is terrible for the environment and will ruin the economy here as Smitty's played a big role in it and so does farming. Not to mention 450 people now without jobs (and some no longer have cars / trucks because they burned in the fire) and are supposed to live off of \$250 a week. It's just a tragedy overall."

Five days out from the 20th anniversary of Katrina, and all I can think is that nothing has changed, except for the worse. Louisiana is still suffering from the profit-driven reliance on fossil fuels. What is it going to take for us to say enough is enough? Clearly, "our" millionaire politicians kissing the asses of oil and gas billionaires aren't going to change anything.

We should have no illusions about that. It's going to take a massive movement of the people. #

Military threats to cities – More storm troopers for ICE

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the capitalist government made sure that its fascist domestic security force is well fed.

The federal sector news site, Gov Exec, commented that this increase in spending "promise(s) to transform the component agencies into behemoths with prodigious and unparalleled reach" – a concerning prospect considering federal police have acted with greater and greater impunity every year since the Department of Homeland Security was founded in

2003. ICE plans to use its \$8 billion to hire 10,000 more officers, while CPB will receive \$4 billion to hire 8,500 more employees. These increases in domestic federal law enforcement funding are set to begin as Donald Trump has escalated his threatening rhetoric towards various U.S. cities.

ICE, CBP, and others only serve to terrorize migrants and other working-class people. Moreover, these agencies serve as a vehicle to create a hardline pro-Trump domestic security force. Long story short, these agencies are the new

Gestapo. Eighteen thousand five hundred more federal law enforcement personnel just means 18,500 more fascists to wage a war of terror on the working class and oppressed people.

Whether it is the prominent deportation cases like Kilmar Abrego Garcia and Mahmoud Khalil – or the mass ICE terror raids in Los Angeles – federal law enforcement constantly wages war on the working class.

The banks and corporations that own

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Kalief Browder and the right to bail

It's Trump who should be jailed

By Stephen Millies

Donald Trump signed an Aug. 25 executive order abolishing cash-free bail in Washington, D.C. The wannabe dictator also wants to cut off federal aid to local governments – including the entire state of Illinois – that have enacted this human rights legislation.

The U.S. Constitution's Eighth Amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, says “excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.” Bail is excessive for anyone who can't afford to pay it.

That was the tragic story of Kalief Browder, a Black youth in New York City. Arrested in 2010 when he was 16 years old for allegedly stealing a backpack, Browder's family couldn't afford \$900 to pay for a bail bond.

Fifteen years later, in 2025, 59% of U.S. families – living paycheck to paycheck – can't come up with \$1,000 in an emergency. (Even though the dollar's value had plunged over 30% in the meantime.)

So, because his family was poor, Kalief Browder was locked up for three years in the notorious Riker's Island jail complex without ever being brought to trial. Prosecutors kept delaying his case.

For two of those years, Browder was kept in solitary confinement, a torment that's been denounced by the United Nations Committee Against Torture.

Prosecutors finally dropped the charges against Kalief Browder. Two years later, he hanged himself on June 6, 2015.

Whenever you hear bail being discussed, always remember Kalief Browder.

Prisons are concentration camps for the poor

It's a big lie that everyone in the United States is considered innocent until proven guilty. Trump and most cops think that anyone arrested is automatically guilty.

Not being able to afford bail means you can't contact witnesses who could confirm your innocence. Any effective legal defense is largely denied.

On an average day, 457,000 people are being held in local, state and federal dungeons without being convicted.

Being kept in hellholes like Riker's Island causes many innocent people to confess to lesser charges just to get out of jail. These forced confessions often

Because his family could not afford bail, Kalief Browder was locked up for three years in the notorious Riker's Island jail complex for allegedly stealing a backpack. He ultimately took his own life because of the trauma he endured.

prevent poor people from voting.

In 2024, 4 million people were kept off the voting rolls because of a previous conviction. That can make the difference in many elections.

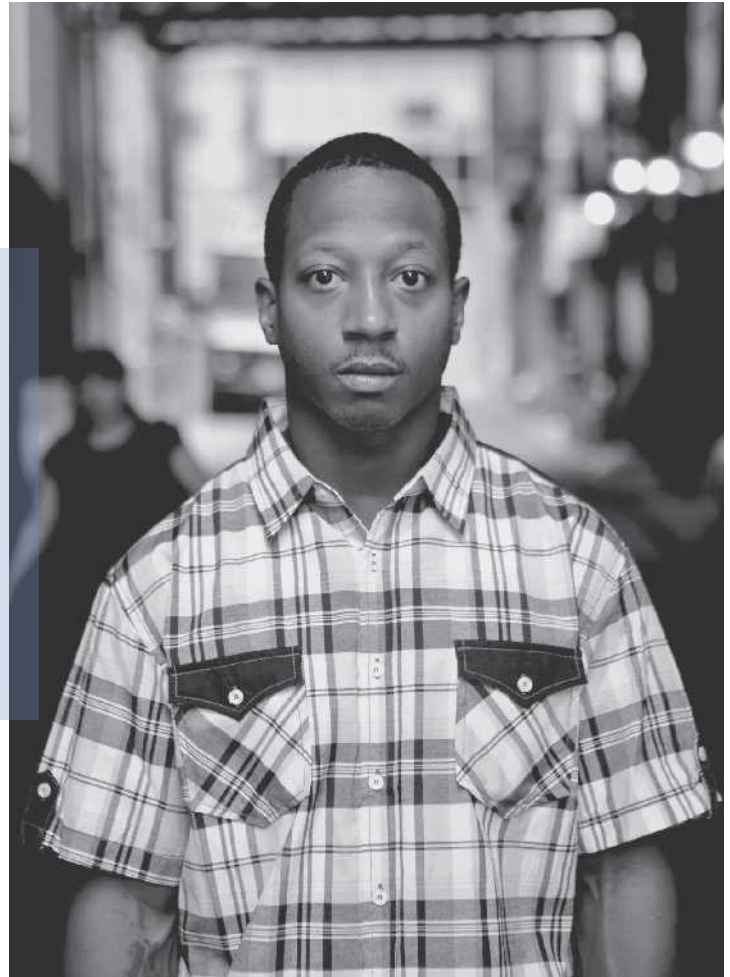
Just cashing a check with insufficient funds can be enough to block somebody from voting. The real crime was being poor.

Any jail or prison is dangerous. Transgender prisoners are especially endangered.

In 2019, 1,200 prisoners died in local jails. Three thousand prisoners died from COVID-19.

The political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's eyesight is endangered because Pennsylvania prison officials are denying necessary medical care. Please make phone calls to demand treatment for Mumia Abu-Jamal, who has been incarcerated for nearly 44 years. Details are listed here: <https://www.thejerichomovement.com/news/mumia%E2%80%99s-eyesight-endangered-take-action>

Pennsylvania and many other states call their prison systems “departments of correction.” Correction was the polite, lying term slave owners used to describe their torture of enslaved Africans.



Riker's Island is named for the wealthy slave trading Riker family. In “Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad,” the historian Eric Foner describes how Richard Riker was part of a gang that kidnapped Black people in New York City and sold them into slavery.

U.S. prisons are concentration camps for the poor. Gaza – where tens of thousands of children have been killed by Zionist war criminals using U.S. weapons – is a concentration camp.

Rich criminals like Trump need to be jailed instead. The labor movement should demand jobs, not jails!

Poor people in Paris started the French Revolution by attacking a notorious prison called the Bastille. In our struggles against Trump and the billionaire class, don't forget the 2 million people incarcerated across the United States.

They're members of the working class, too. Always remember Kalief Browder. #

Stop the war on Public Workers

Trump is targeting Black women to fire

By Stephen Millies

The wealthy and powerful want you to hate 23 million fellow workers who the federal, state or local governments employ. They include teachers, postal workers, hospital employees, and sanitation workers, as well as hundreds of other occupations. Their labor is essential.

Government employees account for one out of seven workers in the United States. Trump's mass firings of federal employees and his cancellation of union contracts for 1.5 million of them are an attack on the entire labor movement.

Billionaire Elon Musk wanted to fire 80,000 people working for the Veterans Administration. The VA is still planning to get rid of 30,000.

If vets suffering from Agent Orange have to wait longer for treatment, well, that's just too bad. To Trump's Make America Great Again regime, the VA hospitals are dangerous examples of "socialized medicine."

As many as 53 million people have died from HIV/AIDS worldwide. Yet the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has cut funding for efforts to create a vaccine.

The attacks on public workers go hand-in-hand with kicking millions off Medicaid. Wall Street's ultimate aim is to privatize Social Security and Medicare.

For 50 years, the super-rich in the United States have feasted from super profits while destroying millions of union jobs. All working and poor people suffered a defeat when banksters got 50,000 New York City municipal employees fired in 1975, including 10,000 teachers.

Black women are special targets

It's been Black women who've been hit hardest. Between February and March this year, 318,000 Black women lost their jobs despite the capitalist economy adding jobs.

Trump's massive firings are a big reason. His job cuts have especially hit the areas where Black women are concentrated, like education and health.

That's racism. All the attacks on DEI – diversity, equity and inclusion – are attacks on Black, Indigenous and Latine workers.

Trump has tried to fire Lisa Cook, the



February 17, 2025 – Linda Ward Smith, center, and Bob Olsen speak out against cuts to the VA outside the clinic in North Las Vegas. Smith is a VA nurse and president of the local American Federation of Government Employees chapter. Olsen is a patient who also works at the VA.

first Black woman member of the Federal Reserve banking system's Board of Governors. He has fired Carla Hayden, the first woman and first Black person to be Librarian of Congress.

Trump also dismissed Gwynne Wilcox, the first Black person to serve on the National Labor Relations Board. Meanwhile, a Trump-appointed prosecutor is seeking to jail the Black New Jersey congresswoman LaMonica McIver for trying to inspect an ICE concentration camp. That was McIver's duty as a member of Congress.

Black women suffered the worst employment discrimination. It took years of struggle to open up jobs in the factories and offices.

In the 1930s, close to 80% of Black women workers in Cleveland were employed as maids and housekeepers. ("AlabamaNorth: African-American Migrants, Community, and Working-Class Activism in Cleveland, 1915-45" by Kimberley L. Phillips)

One of the longest battles was to get jobs in the virtually all-white Southern textile mills, which were then the

region's biggest industry. ("Hiring the Black Worker," by Timothy Minchin.) But it was even harder to get office jobs.

Government jobs were often considered a safe haven. Black workers account for 29% of postal workers. Over 12% of federal employees are Black women.

Many of the better-paid Black workers in New York City are public employees. Neighborhoods like St. Albans in southeastern Queens – where Black home-owning families account for the majority of the population – are heavy concentrations of government employment.

When Trump's lawyer and fellow bigot Rudy Giuliani was NYC mayor, he fired 21 times as many Black workers as white workers.

Democratic presidential administrations are also job cutters

Vice President Albert Gore bragged that he and President Bill Clinton got rid of 100,000 employees. What Gore didn't mention was that a majority of those fired were Black.

Trump is a fascist bully. The power of the people has to be organized to stop him. #



CHINA Celebrating 75 years of liberation

October 1, 2024, marks the 75th anniversary of China's revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a scientific powerhouse, with achievements in healthcare, education, and sports.

This book aims to illuminate the dangers posed by a U.S. war against China and reveal the real enemies of the working class.

tinyurl.com/USWarChina

Baltimore dirtbike rides defy racist redlining, gentrification & policing

By Colby Byrd

This Black August, I want to honor a force of resistance in Baltimore City that continues to fight every week against police repression, builds community between generations, race, sexuality, gender, and age, creates spaces of empowerment and education, and, through their actions, shows us that artificial borders and boundaries are nothing more than lines that can be erased.

The 12 O'Clock Boys, also known as The Pack, is a community formed around the love of dirt bikes, four-wheeled ATVs, three-wheeled Slingshots, other all-terrain vehicles, and tricked-out cars. Every Sunday, The Pack has weekly rideouts through Baltimore City or others across the East Coast. (They are even sometimes seen out in Ohio and New Orleans.)

These riders are not only masters of actually riding these vehicles, they also are extremely talented performers who use their vehicle as a stage, prop, and co-star on the road while they are all riding. The name 12 O'Clock Boys comes from the practice of hitting a wheelie and having such perfectly stable control of the vehicle that it points straight to the sky, like when all the hands of a clock are aligned at the 12.

More than just street performers, those in The Pack are also mechanics and educators. Mostly everyone who rides out can fix their own vehicles and also the vehicles of their brothers, sisters and siblings around them. They host competitions, where it isn't just races and riding skill, but also who can fix and repair their vehicles the fastest, who can identify problems the quickest, who can change parts out on the fly in the least amount of time. It reminds me of the practice in the Cuban Revolution, where it was a badge of honor and a sign of commitment to the Revolution for revolutionaries to make their own hammocks after learning and being on campaign with veteran comrades in the Sierra Maestra mountains.

There are also camps and workshops they host for new riders of all ages to attend, where they teach safety and introduce the basics of what it takes to ride and be with The Pack and maintain a vehicle like the ones they ride.

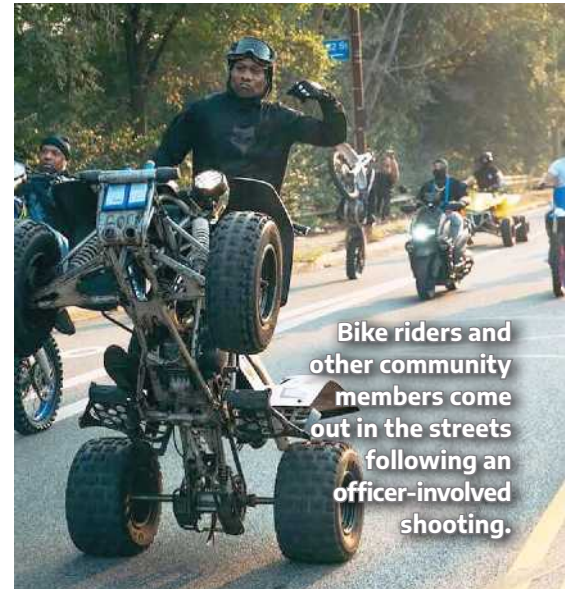
It does not come without its risks. The Pack is constantly harassed and targeted by the police and residents who want to see them gone.

Recently, residents of Federal Hill and Fells Point (2 of the most gentrified areas and major economic / tourist zones in the city) have ramped up calls for the police to put an end to the dirtbikes that ride through those areas. Residents also attempt to interfere with the rides, using their own personal vehicles as blockers and weapons against the 12 O'Clock Boys.

Before Fells Point and Federal Hill became major hubs for tourists and nightlife, they were areas home to long-existing Black communities pushed out due to anti-Black urban renewal planning, redlining, police oppression and city disinvestment. The Pack riding through these areas is no different from Palestinians fighting to return to the lands illegally taken from them by the U.S.-backed Zionist state of Israel.

In Baltimore, police are not supposed to engage in chases with the dirtbikes for the sake of public safety. However, there are many instances of the Baltimore Police Department chasing the bikes with multiple police interceptors and helicopter coverage. Police Officers also attempt to force the riders in The Pack to crash by trying to run them off the road. Most sick, however, is the tactic of the police turning their cars into battering rams and charging towards the dirtbike riders with their high beam lights on in an effort to blind the rider and force him to hit the car or have an accident. Houses are raided and residents are forced to line up on the sidewalks of their neighborhoods while police conduct violent raids, kicking in doors and destroying people's stuff looking for dirtbikes and spare parts.

These attempts by the police to stop the 12 O'Clock Boys are not just because of the weekly rideouts. There are videos of dirt bike riders recording police as they harass community members around the city. In these videos, cops always attempt to stop the rider from filming what is going on or even arrest the



Bike riders and other community members come out in the streets following an officer-involved shooting.

rider and confiscate their vehicle.

Recently, The Pack was in D.C., riding in defiance of Trump's federal occupation of the city and complete terrorizing of the Black neighborhoods and Black existence.

The narrative linking those who ride in The Pack to crime is racist fear-mongering meant to create false consent for the government to continue and escalate their constant oppression of Black spaces with the heavy hand of the police. There have been many petitions and campaigns to build parks to accommodate The Pack, but every attempt was shot down and sunk into the political quagmire.

Finally, The Pack is not just a Baltimore city thing. Their rideouts stretch from the city into the county. Through their rides, you can see the connection of Black communities that are only divided by arbitrary lines made by racist politicians to keep us divided. The roads they ride on are the lifelines that connect the Black existence in Edmonson Village to our siblings living in Woodlawn, they connect the Black communities in the county to communities deep in the city, from Reisterstown to Park Heights to Upton and Sandtown / Winchester.

The Pack are the city's visual reminder of what liberation and freedom look like, and their constant struggle against the police and government at large is a reminder of the effort it will take for people to come together and fight back to end the racist practice of redlining and ultimately defeat white supremacy. #

Baltimore attempts to shut down Black August celebration, community marches on

By Colby Byrd

On Aug. 23, members of the People's Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism Party participated in a celebration of Black August at the Black owned bookstore, UrbanReads. Joined by the Pan-African Liberation Movement (PLM), Tendea Family, Freestate Coalition, and PSL, activists and community members marched through northern Baltimore to bring attention to the continued threats and attacks at UrbanReads.

Leading up to the 23rd, the city attempted to stop the celebration from happening, denying the request for a permit to host the block party. Also, the Police Major of the district personally called the store owner, Ms. Tia, and tried to make her cancel the event because there "were not enough officers available" for that day.

This is ironic because the Baltimore Police have consistently failed in their promises to Ms. Tia to have officers check in on the store and log when they show up.

In the past month, there has been an increase in threats towards both the store and Ms. Tia. With all of this going on, she, along with the community coalition formed around her, continued forward to host the day's events and handle security and safety for those who attended the action.

Community members marched to bring the news of these attacks to the community around the bookstore. However, this news also came with calls to action, calls to get organized and calls to fight back and defend our communities.

The march was met with great responses by workers, people driving, and people just hanging out outside.

Baltimore community members marched, Aug. 23.

SLL photos



Following the march, a celebration and concert were held at UrbanReads. There was food, drinks, music and different tables full of things for people to enjoy during the party.

One of the musicians who performed, Slim Rob, is a local Baltimore rapper and member of the People's Power Assembly. He, along with the other artists, performed music that centered around building class consciousness, fighting back against white supremacy, and honoring the many killed and locked up pillars of the Black diaspora.

Following the party at the store, members of the Struggle for Socialism Party stayed around UrbanReads to provide additional security to both the store and Ms. Tia. The practice of community security at UrbanReads has been going on since the attacks started earlier this year.

In the evening, the People's Power Assembly hosted a "Sinners" film showing at

the bookstore. The event was well attended, and those who came were interested in not only the bookstore but also the People's Power Assembly and the campaigns the organization finds itself in.

Movie goers took literature explaining the need to counter and prepare for a possible Federal occupation of Baltimore, and also the need to organize and fight for a city-funded grocery store to end the food desert located around the Upton and Sandtown / Winchester communities. From sun up to sun down, it was a beautiful day in celebration of Black August and also in practice of what the month means, which is the continued and unbreakable Black resistance to racism and white supremacy. #

The Social Evolution of Humanity
Marx and Engels Were Right!



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

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right!

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.



BUBBLES AND LIES

Trump's tariff economy & the AI hype

By Gary Wilson

Wall Street just threw another parade. The so-called “Magnificent Seven” tech giants – Meta, Microsoft, Amazon, Apple, Google, Nvidia, Tesla – reported quarterly earnings. Headlines screamed that the economy is “booming,” and President Trump jumped in with his usual bravado: “America is the hottest country anywhere in the world.” Stock indexes hit records, and the pundits swooned.

But stop and read past the ticker tape. The reality on the ground is pretty ugly. Tech profits did climb, yes – but not because artificial intelligence is unleashing a new industrial revolution. The gains are coming from old, established business lines: advertising, cloud services, subscription platforms.

Meanwhile, hundreds of billions are being poured into AI hype – data centers, chips, research – not because AI is generating new wealth or employment, but because surplus capital cannot be profitably deployed in productive investment elsewhere. This is monopoly-finance capitalism: inflating assets and manipulating markets, turning money into more money, disconnected from real production or social need.

Outside the gleaming towers of tech, the U.S. economy is sputtering. Strip away Trump's tariffs – which artificially boost GDP by forcing working people to buy domestic goods instead of cheaper imports – and growth falls to a pitiful 1.2%. Business investment is flagging, employment is frozen, and manufacturing jobs are disappearing faster than during the pandemic slump. Inflation clings stubbornly above 3%, keeping real wages locked where they were five years ago. For working people, the “record economy” is a joke.

Tariffs: A 1920s strategy in 2025

Import tariffs now average 18.2% – their highest level in nearly a century. Trump brags that they are “bringing in billions,” but in the context of a trillion-dollar military spending deficit, these billions are trivial. Meanwhile, tariffs push prices up and distort trade flows.

Yale economists estimate Trump's tariffs will add 2% to consumer prices, roughly \$2,400 per household annually. In other words, Trump is driving infla-

tion onto working people while pretending to champion national self-reliance. The economic strategy is medieval, the impact is modern-day brutality.

Jobs data as political theater

If the economy is faltering, why do media headlines still trumpet growth and resilience? The answer is simple: The numbers are manipulated. On Aug. 1, the Labor Department quietly admitted that 258,000 fewer jobs were created over the past year than initially reported. That's not a minor correction – it completely undermines the narrative of a robust labor market.

Overestimating employment during downturns is not a mistake; it is a capitalist tactic. Statistical agencies assume expansion continues at the same pace, even as businesses fail. As Marxists have long argued, this serves a purpose: Painting a rosier picture of the economy helps prevent investors from panicking in the stock, bond, and real estate markets, and delays pressure on central banks to cut interest rates.

Protecting the sham, Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, accusing her of releasing “fake data,” the revision that showed a significant fall in jobs. In her place, he put E.J. Antoni, a Heritage Foundation hardliner and Project 2025 co-author, tasked with “fixing” the numbers – by redefining unemployment to make it look smaller, or even shutting down the monthly jobs report altogether. In short, the government office that tracks employment is being turned over to political loyalists whose job is to manipulate the numbers in favor of corporations and against workers.

The class logic of ‘full employment’

Capitalism does not thrive on full employment. It thrives on a “reserve army” of unemployed workers to keep wages low and discourage labor militancy. Celebrating “robust employment” is not a victory for workers – it's propaganda to hide underemployment.



The AFGE union pickets outside Norfolk International Airport in Norfolk, Virginia, March 25, 2025. The government is slashing social programs, busting unions, suppressing wages.

When most workers can't walk away from low-paying jobs, corporate profits are safe. Interest rate hikes by the Fed that cause unemployment and economic hardship are praised as “stability.” And capitalist economists promote the idea that unemployment is necessary to stop wages and prices from rising too fast.

Unemployment is accepted because it protects profits.

The AI bubble and speculative capital

At the same time, U.S. capital is gorging itself on a new speculative bubble: artificial intelligence. Billions in private credit are financing massive AI projects. Wall Street celebrates the hype while real economic activity stagnates. GDP rises, but real purchasing power does not. Workers' wages remain frozen, their job security eroding, while the ultra-rich sit atop speculative gains.

The AI boom is a classic capitalist mirage: It creates the appearance of innovation and progress while concentrating wealth and masking stagnation. When the bubble bursts – as these bubbles eventually do – the working class will be left holding the bag.

Capitalism's double bind

U.S. capitalism faces a brutal contradiction. On one side, speculative capital thrives on the AI bubble, feeding itself through private credit and hype. On the other hand, the real economy flirts with stagnation, inflation, and layoffs. Tariff nationalism accelerates the squeeze, raising costs.

Trump, ever the carnival barker, in-

machine

sists that the country has never been richer even as workers' wages are depressed, living standards stall, and more people face economic insecurity. His firing of statistical officials shows the blunt edge of authoritarian capitalism: When reality threatens profits, reality itself is rewritten.

But the problem is not just Trump. It is the logic of a system that requires recurring crises to discipline labor, manage overproduction, and restore profitability. AI hype, tariffs, and fake jobs numbers create the illusion of a booming economy – but it's really just a cover for big profits gained by squeezing workers.

The human cost

For the working class, the contradictions are not abstract – they are immediate and brutal. Inflation quietly erodes paychecks. Jobs disappear in factories and warehouses. Prices for essentials rise under tariffs while AI hype fuels stock market gains for a handful of billionaires. The spectacle of economic growth is just that: a show. The reality is falling wages, mounting insecurity, and repression.

When the AI bubble bursts, when tariffs finally push the economy into stagflation, the bill will fall not on Trump or Wall Street, but on the working class. Profits at the top will be defended; sacrifices at the bottom will be demanded. History shows this is not a glitch but a feature of capitalist logic. Crises are the mechanism by which capital enforces its own survival.

Looking ahead

The illusions of prosperity cannot last forever. The gap between soaring profits and stagnant living standards grows wider every day. Trump's authoritarian measures, AI hype, and tariff nationalism are temporary props for a fragile system. Eventually, the contradictions will surface: Speculative bubbles will collapse, inflation will bite, and unemployment will rise.

Workers will be the ones paying the price. And yet, this same system that penalizes labor could be challenged – if working people organize, fight for gains, and resist the repression imposed by recurring crises. The future is not set in stone; it is shaped by class struggle. #

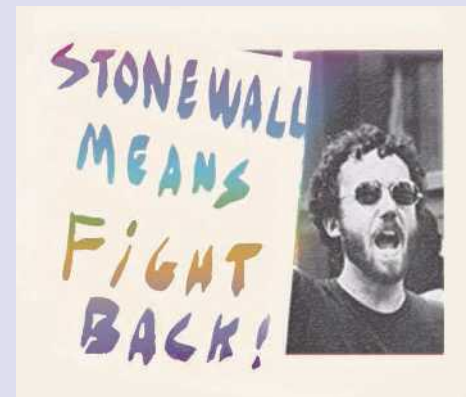
Bob McCubbin ¡Presente!

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the loss of lifelong revolutionary Bob McCubbin. McCubbin, 83, died from injuries sustained when he was hit by a car while taking his daily walk through Balboa Park in San Diego, California, where he lived and was active in the struggle for justice for 35 years.

McCubbin was an early pioneer in defense of LGBTQ+ rights. He wrote one of the first Marxist analyses of gay oppression titled “**The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal**,” published in 1976; a second edition published in 1993 changed the title to “**The Roots of Lesbian & Gay Oppression**.”

The Stonewall Rebellion and the struggles of that period informed his writing and activism. McCubbin was inspired and worked closely with Marxist thinkers Sam Marcy, Dorothy Ballan, founders of Workers World Party and Fred Goldstein, an early leader.

McCubbin was equally active in the streets, participating in the many marches, pickets and strikes. His fight against gender oppression was matched by his fierce solidarity with the Black Liberation and Civil Rights movements of the era. Later, he looked to Leslie Feinberg to sharpen his understanding of transgender liberation to include it in his writing.



In 2018, Bob McCubbin helped found the Struggle for Socialism Party and became a writer and contributor to Struggle-La Lucha. During this period, he finished writing and published “**The Social Evolution of Humanity, Marx and Engels Were Right!**”

In July of this year, he helped organize a contingent in support of Gaza and Palestine at the annual San Diego Pride March in addition to opposing attacks on im/migrants.

Bob McCubbin's comrades and many friends in San Diego will remember him as a kind and generous friend. He is remembered as a courageous person who stood on ethics and principle regardless of whether it was difficult. McCubbin was a retired teacher and active member of the teachers' union.

A more complete remembrance of his long life of struggle will appear in the pages of Struggle-La Lucha, and memorial events will be held on both the West Coast and the East Coast in the coming months.

Bob McCubbin ¡Presente!

– Struggle for Socialism Party and Struggle-La Lucha

U.S. Imperialism's Genocide in Gaza

Continued from page 1

February that the United States would “take” and “own” Gaza, forcing Palestinians into “other countries,” many dismissed it as unserious posturing. But months later, it is clear his words anticipated the very strategy now unfolding.

A leaked strategy document – developed with input from the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the Boston Consulting Group, and the Tony Blair Foundation – lays out this policy in the antiseptic language of corporate boardrooms. Every Palestinian life is treated as a financial liability. Expelling one person is calculated to “save” \$23,000. Those who leave “voluntarily” are offered \$5,000 and two years’ rent; those who die, the document implies, represent the greatest economic benefit of all.

This is genocide repackaged as financial optimization. The language of return on investment, public-private partnerships, and capital expenditures obscures the brutal reality: a population being starved, bombed, and shot down so that financiers and politicians can balance their ledgers.

Gaza and imperialism's new geography

The extermination of Gaza is not only ideological but strategic. The document presents two direct benefits for the United States: “massive financial gains” and the acceleration of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, also known as IMEC.

IMEC, announced by Washington in 2023, is a geopolitical counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative. It envisions a trade corridor linking India to Europe through the Arabian Peninsula and Israel. Netanyahu himself made the connection clear at the United Nations, holding up a map of a “new Middle East” in which Israel stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, erasing Gaza and the West Bank entirely. He called this corridor “visionary.”

Weeks later, Israel launched its genocidal war on Gaza. The timing was no

coincidence. The strategy document calls Gaza an “Iranian outpost” threatening the corridor. Its annihilation is described as essential to securing the region for U.S. and Israeli dominance and ensuring access to trillions of dollars in natural resources.

Starvation as a weapon

This is the context for the famine now consuming Gaza. Starvation is not a byproduct of war but a weapon of it. Children with skeletal frames crowd makeshift hospitals. Families scavenge for scraps. Israeli forces open fire on crowds desperate for food aid. This is extermination by hunger, reinforced by bombardment and expulsion.

Public opinion tells a different story. Polls show support for Israel at an all-time low in the United States, including among Jewish Americans. Around the world, opposition to the genocide is overwhelming. Yet Washington and its allies continue to arm and fund the onslaught. The explanation lies not in popular will but in the deeper logic of imperialism.

Zionism and imperialism

U.S. support for Israel cannot be explained simply by the influence of AIPAC or by blackmail scandals surrounding figures like Jeffrey Epstein. It goes back more than a century, to Britain's 1917 Balfour Declaration, when London endorsed a Zionist homeland in Palestine as a way to fragment Arab unity. After 1948, the United States inherited this role, seizing upon Zionism as a means of dividing and suppressing the Arab world.

The Arab world, stretching across North Africa (e.g., Egypt, Libya, Algeria), the Nile Valley (Sudan), the Levant (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine), to the Arabian Peninsula (Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, etc.) is home to over 470 million people, vast oil reserves, and critical trade routes like the Suez Canal.

Its sheer potential for unity posed a grave threat to imperialist domination. Pan-Arabism, the movement to unite the

region, emerged as a natural response. Imperialist powers answered with relentless efforts to suppress it – backing monarchies, waging wars, and installing dictatorships. Zionism became one of their sharpest tools: a settler colony used to divide and weaken the Arab nation.

Unlike Arabs, Jews in modern times lacked the shared features of a nation – territory, economy, or language. Hebrew was revived from religious use to serve as a national tongue only under Zionist direction. The State of Israel was made possible only through imperialist sponsorship. For Washington, it provided a dual solution: preventing Jewish Holocaust survivors from reinforcing labor and communist movements in the United States, and positioning them as a garrison force against Arab nationalism.

After the Soviet Red Army defeated the Nazis and freed the concentration camps, socialism was seen as a powerful force of liberation. This idea rapidly spread beyond Europe and was brought by war refugees to the United States and the rest of the world.

Reaction without exit

Today, Israeli society finds itself at a historical dead end. Like Afrikaner colonists in South Africa, settlers have become increasingly reactionary. But unlike Afrikaners, who depended on the exploitation of African labor, Israel seeks to eliminate Palestinian labor altogether. Its settler-colonial logic drives toward expulsion and extermination.

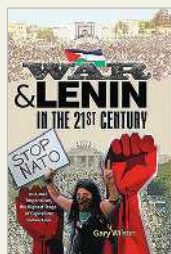
For U.S. imperialism, this logic is convenient. Israel's crimes can be portrayed as uniquely “Israeli,” allowing Washington to deny its own hand while reaping the benefits. In reality, Israel has fought every war since its founding as a proxy for U.S. power.

The logic of finance capital

What is happening in Gaza today is not an accident. It is capitalism in its imperialist stage stripped bare. As Lenin wrote more than a century ago, finance capital does not strive for freedom but for domination. It transforms famine into a weapon, ethnic cleansing into an investment opportunity, and genocide into a growth strategy.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars has already concluded that Israel is guilty of systematic war crimes and genocide. Yet the responsibility does not rest with Israel alone. The U.S. impe-

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‘WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century’

U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering.

Written by Gary Wilson on the centenary of Vladimir Lenin's death Lenin was the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and key contributor to Marxist theory. Book includes Lenin's work : “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” in 1916.
tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



In Los Angeles, holiday weekend in solidarity with Gaza

By Scott Scheffer

Even though many Los Angeles activists had traveled to Detroit to attend the People's Conference for Palestine during the holiday weekend, those who remained in Southern California joined a great action to show their support for the historic Sumud Flotilla.

Up to 50 boats populated by people from 44 countries set sail on Aug. 31 and then on Sept. 4 from ports in Spain and Tunisia. These brave activists are headed to Gaza to deliver food and medicine and to break the siege enforced by the U.S.-backed, genocidal Zionist regime.

Three hundred fifty people participated in the Aug. 31 action in L.A. Protesters, carrying Palestinian flags and banners, marched to the end and rallied on the famed Santa Monica Pier to show their support. The turnout by activists was significant, considering it was a holiday weekend when many organizers were out of town.

Even more noteworthy was that tourists and families enjoying the holiday weekend and taking in the sights from the Pier chanted along with protesters and applauded as we marched.



SLL photo: Scott Scheffer

Los Angeles, Aug. 31 – 350 people marched for Palestine and rallied at Santa Monica Pier.

Harriet Tubman Center, Justice 4 Palestine, Irvine Muslim Activists, Code-Pink LA, and others planned and got the word out about the important action. Veterans for Peace helped organize, and significantly, one of the boats that set sail to break the siege of Gaza is populated

entirely with VFP members. Simultaneous to the action on the pier, a grouping that has devoted itself to banner drops all over Los Angeles for the last several months displayed a huge banner from a pedestrian bridge nearby that said “STOP ARMING ISRAEL.” #

U.S. genocide

Continued from page 10

rialist state has armed, financed, and executed this crime. At home, the same government slashes social programs, busts unions, suppresses wages, and prepares to crush dissent.

The horror unfolding in Gaza is not just a crime against a people – it is a warning of what capitalism has in store for the world. If U.S. imperialism is willing to annihilate millions of Palestinians as the prelude to its confrontation with China and Russia, how many billions will it sacrifice in a global war?

The genocide in Gaza is inseparable from the capitalist system that created it. To fight for the survival of the Palestinian people is to fight against the global dictatorship of finance capital itself. The future of humanity depends on nothing less. #

Military threats to cities

Continued from page 3

the U.S. government have been in need of a scapegoat as economic conditions have declined domestically and their military grip has waned internationally. As unemployment rolls fill and the money of the U.S. working class is plundered through taxes to fund genocide in Palestine and war in Ukraine, the ruling class needs someone to blame. They need something to distract the masses from growing poverty and underemployment.

“Illegal immigration” has served as that distraction, scapegoating Latine migrants who are simply seeking to feed their families. To continue the cycle of repression, the federal Gestapo needs an influx of funds and storm troopers. That is exactly what the “Big Beautiful Bill” provides.

Billionaires like Trump, Bezos, and Musk need to make sure the working

class stays divided, afraid, and repressed. To that end, they will continue to deploy the military against multinational working-class cities and domestic federal police against immigrant workers and pro-Palestine activists – such as Kilmar Abrego Garcia and Mahmoud Khalil.

The working class in the United States has to be prepared to mobilize and resist this rising tide of fascism. Profiteers in war and misery, people like Trump and the Koch Brothers, don’t want the working class to know that it actually has the power to fight back.

With the right political will, the workers and oppressed people living in the United States can flood courthouses, stage mass sit-ins, and be a human blockade between ICE storm troopers and the people they target for deportation.

If there was ever a time for this sort of working-class unity against fascist military and ICE intervention, it’s now. #

U.S.-backed Syrian government is rebranded Al-Qaeda, kicks out Palestinian groups



Photo: Mahmoud Ajjour, The Palestine Chronicle

Gaza, Feb. 12, 2023 – The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine held a rally calling for an end to the U.S. siege on Syria.

By Lev Koufax

Earlier this year, the new government of Syria – now under the rule of a rebranded Al-Qaeda sect known as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham – announced that it would expel all individuals affiliated with Palestinian resistance organizations.

Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa and his government specifically targeted the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Palestine Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Both of these organizations have active resistance fighters inside Gaza. More broadly, these organizations have played a crucial role in organizing international outcry against the U.S.-Israel genocide.

Nonetheless, President al-Sharaa and HTS have made it clear that, well, they just don't care. Since taking power in January of this year, the HTS government has taken extreme and rapid steps to attack Axis of Resistance institutions in Syria. Previously, the Syrian Arab Republic served as a sanctuary for anti-Zionist Palestinian political groups.

These new anti-Palestine policies are already taking hold. As of Aug. 25, the Egyptian government confirmed that it had approved resident visas for Ziad Nakhleh, Secretary-General of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Jamil Mazhar, Deputy Secretary-General of the PFLP.

Naji is 79 years old and has lived in Syria since the Nakba forced his family to flee Bethlehem in 1948, 77 years ago. He now has to move across a gulf to a different country, even farther from his ancestral home.

The U.S. wants the world to believe that the end of the Assad government in Syria means a new era of democracy and freedom. Where is the democracy in undermining people who would organize against genocide? Where is the freedom in expelling liberation fighters who have spent most of their lives in Syria?

Once again, this new Syrian "democracy" demonstrates that it isn't a democracy at all, but a proxy dictatorship for Western imperialists who want Palestine and the entire Axis of Resistance completely isolated. #

Mumia Abu-Jamal has had successful Cataract Surgery!
He is seeing clearly from the left eye...
However, issues with the right eye still need to be addressed.
Treatment and follow-up with a retinal specialist is needed.

KEEP CALLING!!!

Script
 My name is X, and I am calling from X
 in regard to Mumia Abu-Jamal,
 also known as
 Wesley Cook, AM8335, SCI Mahanoy.
 I am aware that he has had
 successful cataract surgery on his left eye,
 but there remains an issue with the right eye,
 which needs to be treated,
 and subsequently monitored.
 He is in grave danger of losing sight in that eye.
**I DEMAND THAT THIS TREATMENT
 HAPPEN IMMEDIATELY**

Prison: SCI Mahanoy
 570-773-2158
Supt. Mahanoy: Bernadette Mason
 570-773-2158
PA DOC Secretary: Laurel Harry
 717-728-2573
 email: ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov
Central Office of PA DOC
 717-728-2573
 ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

Central Office of PA DOC
 717-728-2573
 ra-contactdoc@pa.gov

PA Attorney General:
 David W. Sunday, Jr
 717-787-3391

Philly DA: Larry Krasner
 215-686-8000
 email: justice@phila.gov

MORE INFO:
 linktr.ee/Mumia
 FreeMumia.com
 mobilization4mumia.com

WE DON'T STOP UNTIL MUMIA SEES
WE DON'T STOP UNTIL MUMIA IS FREE
WE ARE MAKING HISTORY

MEDICAL & LEGAL DEFENSE FUND:
 bit.ly/mumia-fund

FREE MUMIA!

FREE GAZA!

The Alaska summit and the crumbling proxy war in Ukraine

By Gary Wilson

The carefully staged handshake between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin on the tarmac of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska on Aug. 15 wasn't just a photo op. Big business media fixated on the summit's brevity and lack of announcements – surface-level optics that obscured its real significance.

The handshake gave a clear message: the U.S.-NATO proxy war in Ukraine lies defeated.

When Trump landed in Anchorage, he said, "I want to see a ceasefire, I won't be happy if it's not today." A ceasefire would give the U.S.-NATO proxy forces in Ukraine some relief, time to rearm and recover.

For Trump, it was also one last chance to salvage his claim as "peacemaker-in-chief." As Politico reported, Trump "urgently needed the meeting" and "urgently needed a tangible outcome" – a ceasefire.

Hollow threats: Sanctions boomeranged

Trump's leverage going into the Alaska summit was the threat of secondary sanctions on top of the primary sanctions – penalties targeting third countries (like China, India, or others) that continued purchasing Russian oil. This was intended to cut off Russia's oil revenue, its primary source of funding for the war.

But Trump's threat was hollow.

Three years of conflict, billions in weaponry, and a sanctions regime that

boomeranged against U.S. interests. The push for secondary sanctions on India and China didn't just fail; it drove New Delhi and Beijing closer to Moscow, knitting the Russia-China alliance ever tighter.

What Russia has demanded is the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine and the removal of NATO. That's nonnegotiable.

Trump's demand for an "immediate ceasefire" instead morphed overnight into calls for a "comprehensive peace agreement." The pageantry of Zelensky's Oval Office appearance on Aug. 18 is just preparation for the ending.

The deal

The deal reached in Alaska is imperialist realism stripped bare:

- Ceasefire scrapped: Trump pivoted to an undefined peace
- Sanctions shelved: Trump assured Fox News, "no need to think about that now."
- Proxy war buried: The summit signals the end of the U.S. promise to isolate Russia – a project that drenched Ukraine in blood but never toppled Moscow.

What emerged from Alaska was not peace. Ukraine becomes the pawn sacrificed so that Washington can reposition for a larger target: China.

Elbridge Colby, Trump's Pentagon policy chief, has made clear that U.S. focus and resources must be overwhelmingly redirected towards China, not Ukraine or the proxy war against Russia.



U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands, Aug. 15, 2025, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

On Aug. 8, CNN reported that Colby had issued a memo that gave the Defense Department authorization to divert weapons and equipment intended to go to Ukraine. CNN concludes that the memo added uncertainty to "an already murky picture of the status of U.S. arms shipments to Ukraine ahead of President Donald Trump's potential meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin next week."

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth paused a large package of weapons shipments to Ukraine.

Hegseth has bluntly talked of the "stark strategic realities." Hegseth's own words are: "The U.S. is prioritizing deterring war with China in the Pacific, recognizing the reality of scarcity and making the resourcing tradeoffs."

Repositioning, not peace

Imperialist strategy demands trade-offs, and Ukraine, bled white after billions in weapons and staggering human cost, is no longer considered a priority.

However, any peace agreement, if it comes, would still be irreconcilable with U.S. hegemony. Any truce, therefore, will be temporary at best, breakable the moment it no longer suits Washington.

The Alaska handshake signals not an end to U.S.-NATO warfare, but its redirection. The struggle against all imperialist war and the system that necessitates it remains the urgent task. #

Against fascism Reclaiming populism's legacy for today's class struggle

Fascist movements are on the rise worldwide, attacking working-class and oppressed people. The authors of this collection argue that capitalism's inherent dynamics are the cause, as with fascism in the 20th Century. Fascism is the capitalist class's response to a system in crisis. They use racism and misogyny, transphobia and homophobia to beat back the diverse working class while amassing more wealth.

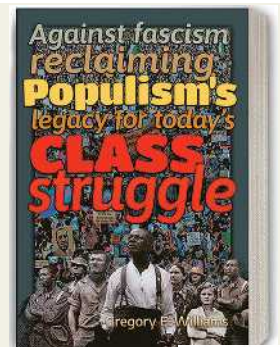
But workers beat back fascism before and can do it again. Workers have the power to eliminate the root cause of fascism by transforming society with socialist revolution. This book is about getting us there. All the pieces in this book come from fighters in the revolutionary struggle. Most have been published in Struggle - La Lucha newspaper.

- Populism: progressive farmers' movement of 1890s
- Contemporary trans struggle
- The Silicon Valley-MAGA connection
- Legacy of Jena Six
- Abortion rights movement in South
- Real motives of right-wing governors
- Fight against KKK leader David Duke

Also: Vince Copeland's historic pamphlet

'SOUTHERN POPULISM AND BLACK LABOR'

tinyurl.com/Populism-book





U.S. escalates aggression as Venezuela prepares defenses

By Drago Bosnic

The United States Navy (USN) and Marine Corps (USMC) keep increasing their military presence in the Southern Caribbean, more specifically in the vicinity of Venezuela's coast. The last days of August saw a significant uptick in their activity, including U.S. warships in eastbound transit through the Panama Canal. Only a week prior, White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt stated that U.S. President Donald Trump was "prepared to use every element of American power to stop drugs from flooding into [the country] and to bring those responsible to justice", also insisting that "many Caribbean nations and many nations in the region" supposedly "applauded the administration's counterdrug operations and efforts."

Interestingly, Leavitt never mentioned which specific countries support such actions, nor did she explain how exactly warships armed with medium-range cruise missiles can be used in the supposed "heightened counternarcotics efforts." Worse yet, the increasingly belligerent Trump administration is openly accusing Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro of supposedly "heading a narco cartel," using it as a pretext to escalate its crawling aggression on the South American nation. The U.S. State Department website unequivocally says that President Maduro allegedly "helped manage and ultimately lead the Cartel of the Suns, comprised of high-ranking Venezuelan officials." Expectedly, without verifiable evidence.

"As he gained power in Venezuela, Maduro participated in a corrupt and violent narco-terrorism conspiracy with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization. Maduro negotiated multi-ton shipments of FARC-produced cocaine; directed the Cartel of the Suns to provide military-grade weapons to the FARC; coordinated with narcotics traffickers in Honduras and other countries to facilitate large-scale drug trafficking; and solicited assistance from FARC leadership in training an unsanctioned militia group that functioned, in essence, as an armed forces unit for the Cartel of the Suns," the accusation reads.

"In March 2020, Maduro was charged in the Southern District of New York for

narco-terrorism, conspiracy to import cocaine, possession of machine guns and destructive devices, and conspiracy to possess machine guns and destructive devices," the website adds, also claiming: "After initially offering a reward offer of up to \$15 million for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of Maduro in 2020, the Department of State on January 10, 2025, increased the reward offer to up to \$25 million. On August 7, 2025, the Department announced the further increase in the reward offer to up to \$50 million after the Department of Treasury sanctioned Cartel of the Suns as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on July 25, 2025."

The U.S. also brags that "Maduro, as leader of Cartel of the Suns, is the first target in the history of the Narcotics Rewards Program with a reward offer exceeding \$25 million". Once again, there's zero evidence to support a single claim on President Maduro's "corrupt and violent narco-terrorism conspiracy." On the other hand, Washington, D.C., has no qualms about backing actual narco-terrorist entities, such as the Albanian extremists currently based in NATO-occupied Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohia, to say nothing of well over half a century of CIA-run drug-related black ops in virtually every country south of the Rio Grande. However, despite decades of sanctions and other forms of pressure, Caracas refuses to budge.

During his first term, Trump was particularly aggressive toward both Venezuela and Iran. Back in 2017, he threatened that the U.S. has "many options, including a possible military option, if necessary." He made similar statements with regards to Tehran, although he never acted on either during his previous presidency. However, Trump is now far more belligerent and has attacked Iran. Although it largely failed (despite his insistence that it was a "total success"), this demonstrates his willingness to engage in direct armed aggression. American forces in the region are far too few to allow a full-blown invasion, but they're enough to be used in limited long-range precision strikes, likely on critical infrastructure (particularly in coastal regions).

Washington, D.C., certainly understands this would be nowhere near enough to defeat the Venezuelan mili-

tary, but it's possible that the Trump administration is hoping to destabilize Caracas politically. For instance, destroying or damaging the remaining oil refineries would disrupt normal economic activity and exacerbate the Latin American country's troubles that stem from illegal U.S. sanctions and constant pressure. In turn, Washington, D.C., probably expects protests to erupt or even a full-blown rebellion. This approach is quite common whenever the U.S. finds it more challenging to invade directly. And indeed, Venezuela's complex geography effectively makes it a combination of Afghanistan and Vietnam, which is an absolute nightmare for any remotely sensible military planner.

Venezuela already deployed around 15,000 troops in the states of Zulia and Táchira (both bordering Colombia). These units are mostly comprised of special police and military personnel, indicating that Caracas is worried about cross-border raids and infiltration. Such measures are perfectly understandable given the U.S.'s propensity to use sabotage and terrorist attacks to undermine targeted countries. Back in 2020, the CIA launched the so-called "Operation Gideon" precisely from Colombia, with two boats carrying approximately 60 insurgents commanded by two former members of the U.S. Army Special Forces (better known as "Green Berets"). Both were employed as mercenaries by Silvercorp USA, a Florida-based PMC.

Such private military enterprises are quite common in the U.S. and are used by the Pentagon in order to maintain plausible deniability in case of failure. Precisely this happened to "Operation Gideon," which was effectively some sort of Trump's "mini-Bay of Pigs" moment. This failure was attributed to multiple factors, with several U.S. intelligence services accusing one another of "major security breaches." In fact, back in January, Jordan Goudreau, the head of Silvercorp (himself a former "Green Beret"), accused the CIA and FBI of "sabotaging the operation." However, whether that's true or not is irrelevant, as Venezuela needs to be prepared for any similar incursions, particularly now that such actions might serve as the vanguard of direct U.S. aggression.

Drago Bosnic is an independent geopolitical and military analyst.

Source: infobrics.org

Venezuela dismisses Trump's strike video as fake, warns of real U.S. war threat

B By Gary Wilson

On Sept. 2, President Trump released grainy footage of a speedboat erupting into flames on the high seas. Eleven alleged Venezuelan “narco-terrorists” had been vaporized, he announced triumphantly. No trial, no evidence, no due process — just a fireball and a press release.

Freddy Nanez, Venezuela's communications minister, suggested that the clip Trump posted on Truth Social was fake and looked “cartoonish,” suggesting that the attack never happened.

Maybe it's like the Gulf of Tonkin attack that never happened. President Johnson went on national television on Aug. 4, 1965, to announce that U.S. ships had been attacked in international waters (there was no such attack; it was entirely fiction). On Aug. 7, 1965, the U.S. Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, authorizing full-scale war on Vietnam.

With the alleged speedboat incident, the U.S. turned the Caribbean into a theater where once again U.S. warships serve as judge, jury, and executioner.

Manufacturing terrorists

The legal alchemy required to justify killing civilians at sea begins with a linguistic trick: reclassifying drug traffickers as “terrorists.” Washington has spent months laying this groundwork, designating the Tren de Aragua prison gang and the phantom “Cartel of the Suns” as foreign terrorist organizations.

The Tren de Aragua gang is not an actual organization. The Washington Post reported that Tren de Aragua is “more like a brand that any group of carjackers from Miami down to Argentina can invoke to further their criminal activity, but there's really no clear sense of hierarchy” or organization. There's no connection with the government of Venezuela whatsoever.

Pino Arlacchi, former Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, calls the Cartel of the Suns an entity as mythical as the Loch Ness Monster. The Cartel of the Suns does not actually exist as a structured organization — it is a U.S. intelligence construct used to criminalize Venezuelan officials wholesale.

No matter. Once labeled “narco-terrorists,” smugglers become legitimate military targets. The Pentagon can bypass the tedious business of arrest, extradition, and trial. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth made this clear on Fox News: “Anyone else trafficking in those waters who we know is a designated narco-terrorist will face the same fate.” Translation: We will kill them.

This represents a fundamental corruption of both international and domestic law. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, nations may board and seize suspected trafficking vessels, but sinking civilian craft falls outside treaty authority. The U.S. Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act establishes procedures for prosecuting maritime drug offenses through courts — not summary execution.

The Venezuela gambit

The real target is not drugs but regime change in Caracas. The timing is telling: The strike occurred as at least nine U.S. warships deployed toward Venezuelan waters in what officials privately call “Noriega Part 2” — a reference to the 1989 invasion of Panama that toppled Manuel Noriega. When asked directly whether the goal was regime change in Venezuela, Hegseth offered the tell-tale non-denial: “That's a presidential decision. ... we're prepared with every asset that the American military has.”

The pretext is transparently fabricated. Trump claimed the boat's occupants were members of Tren de Aragua controlled by President Nicolás Maduro — a connection disputed by U.S. intelligence agencies themselves. The administration has placed a \$50 million bounty on Maduro's head over “narco-terrorism” charges, despite the fictional nature of the criminal network he allegedly leads.

This is gunboat diplomacy disguised as drug enforcement, with lethal force substituting for the inconvenience of evidence or legal process.

The constitutional implications are staggering. The Fifth Amendment's due process protections do not evaporate at

the water's edge. U.S. citizens have been prosecuted under the MDLEA for maritime drug crimes and afforded full legal rights; foreign nationals deserve no less. By choosing annihilation over arrest, the administration has created a two-tiered system of justice where U.S. power determines who lives and who dies.

The Monroe Doctrine and China

This has little to do with drugs and everything to do with targeting China.

Traditionally, the U.S. has maintained dominance in the Western Hemisphere via the Monroe Doctrine, sanctions, military interventions, and economic leverage. However, China's entry into Venezuela — home to the largest proven oil reserves globally —

challenges this dominance. As the U.S. employed sanctions to isolate Venezuela, China stepped in with loans repayable in oil, infrastructure investment, and energy contracts, effectively turning U.S. sanctions into opportunities for China and Venezuela.

The drug war provides convenient cover for what amounts to economic warfare. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in Mexico City, signaled that such strikes “will happen again.” The message to Latin America is clear: Align with Washington or face the consequences.

In response, Venezuelan military aircraft have conducted maneuvers near U.S. naval vessels operating off the country's coast in recent days. The government in Caracas has mobilized its coastal defense forces and heightened military alert levels, signaling its readiness in the event of further confrontation. President Nicolás Maduro has issued a warning that Venezuela will declare itself a “republic in arms” and mobilize nationwide resistance if the U.S. launches an attack.

The Trump administration has launched a new model of maritime intervention that substitutes spectacle for evidence and assassination for arrest. Whether the speedboat incident really happened or it's just an AI-generated propaganda cartoon, the precedent remains. And with it, a U.S. war on Venezuela. #



Was video posted by @realDonaldTrump on Truth Social an AI hoax?

Halifax calls out: No tennis for genocide!

Hundreds turned out in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, on Aug. 19 to stop the allocation of public funds to support the Canada-Israel Davis Cup slated in that city on Sept. 12 and 13. Mobilized by the Halifax Committee against Imperialist War & Genocide, they demanded that Halifax must not be complicit in genocide by hosting this event. Halifax is the capital and largest municipality of Canada's Nova Scotia province, with a population of just over half a million people on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Just after 8 p.m., however, without any public debate, without transparency, and without even the decency of discussion, in a 10 to 6 vote, the City Council approved the Special Events Advisory Committee's \$50,000 CAD funding for the Davis Cup tennis match. A vote not for tennis, but to normalize genocide.

Organizers reported that hundreds gathered at 9:30 am on that workday to confront the Halifax City Council, demanding the cancellation of the event to send an unequivocal message: Halifax will not stand on the wrong side of history. Unwilling to face the public outcry against hosting a sports team of a country admittedly conducting genocide and starvation of Palestinians that was shown in an email campaign, and the chamber overflowing with concerned Canadians, the agenda was juggled to postpone the vote into the night.

The Halifax Committee argues:

"The proposed match ... is not a neutral sporting event. It is a deliberate political act – a gift of legitimacy, a propaganda stage, and a public relations shield for a state that is committing a genocide in Gaza. At a time when tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, maimed, starved, or displaced; when homes, schools, hospitals, and vital infrastructure have been obliterated; when overwhelming evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity is documented daily – for Halifax to fund and host this event is to be complicit in sports washing those atrocities.

"The State of Israel's genocide and war crimes against the Palestinian people are so blatant, flagrant, heinous and undeniable that even its most fervent supporters can no longer bear them and remain silent. Former Canadian Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler – long a staunch advocate for Israel – has



Photo: Suzanne Rent

Mouna Manna, one of the protesters inside the city council chambers, holds up a sign opposing Halifax's plan to host the Davis Cup, Aug. 19.

publicly called for an end to the war and starvation in Gaza, even denouncing the Israeli government's rhetoric as 'a moral abomination.' If people of Cotler's ilk cannot ignore the scale of Israel's brutality, how can the City of Halifax turn a blind eye and instead reward it with public funds and civic celebration?!

"This is not about tennis. This is about whether our city will stand on the side of justice or align itself with the normalization of apartheid, occupation, and genocide. Across Canada and around the world, athletes, human rights defenders, and ordinary citizens have made it clear in their millions and billions: there can be no normal sporting relations with an apartheid state engaged in mass slaughter."

The Halifax Committee addressed the fig leaf of promoting tourism, charging:

"It is a deliberate political act—designed to grant legitimacy, offer a PR platform, and whitewash the crimes of a state currently engaged in a genocidal campaign in Gaza. This is sports washing, not sport. And in this case, it is soaked in blood.

"To prioritize potential tourism revenue over basic human rights is to place a dollar value on human life. The Halifax Regional Council has chosen to trade morality for money, as though economic gain could ever justify complicity in atrocity. This is a betrayal—not just of international law, but of the conscience of our community."

Their statement concluded: "Let it be clear: We see you. We remember. And we resist."

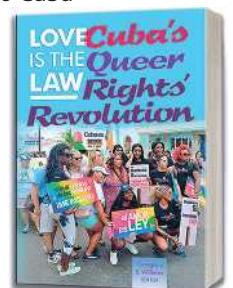
For more information, contact the Halifax Committee against Imperialist War & Genocide, hcaiwig@gmail.com

**LOVE
IS THE
LAW**

**Cuba's
Queer Rights
Revolution**

This book includes:

- ◆ Presentation by Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín
- ◆ Discussion with a transmasculine Cuban activist
- ◆ Reports from LGBTQ+ delegation who went to Cuba to learn about new Families Code
- ◆ The full text of Leslie Feinberg's **Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba** and more.



tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEisTheLAW

Cuba's 2022 Families Code is shaping new progressive laws

By Maiteé Navarro Giro

Following are comments by Maiteé Navarro Giro on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House of Friendship, in Havana, Cuba, with the participation of the Venceremos Brigade and LGBTIQ+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle- La Lucha, "Love is the law: Cuba's queer rights revolution." Navarro Giro is a legal advisor to Cenesex, which has led the way in advancing LGBTIQ+ rights.

Transcribed and translated by Gregory E. Williams



SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams.

Havana, July 29 – Cenesex legal advisor Maiteé Navarro Giro speaks at 'Love is the law' book launch.

Hello, I am a legal advisor to Cenesex. And also I belong to the Lesbian and Bisexual Network of Cenesex. I wanted to make a brief comment on the question regarding the implementation of the Families Code.

Our boss has already said to many of you, but by the end of 2024, we registered 2,170 same-sex marriages. Among these marriages, 850 were between women. The rest were between men.

Two hundred eighty-two unions were made between people of the same sex. And more than 3,188 people signed up to access techniques of assisted reproduction (in vitro fertilization).

And what I believe to be the most important thing about the Families Code is the language that has educated all of our society. It has been used to educate our society.

The Code has also shaped the laws that we are creating currently. These were mentioned briefly before and have gained international recognition. For example, the approval of the law for civil status registration, the law for the Cuban sports system, and the Code of Children, Adolescents, and Youths.

All of these were viewed with a gender perspective and were revolutionary steps for Cuba. They give queer and trans people access to the rights that we were always hoping for and fighting for. Especially our community and social activism networks. That's it, thank you. #

Socialist development is a dialog: Cuban LGBTIQ+ activists push for more rights and win

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I still have one thing left to say. When we were discussing the Constitution and the Families Code, we were very scared. And sometimes, we thought, what are we going to do if it's not approved? Do you remember, Paquito, how we all argued? What are we going to do if the Families Code isn't approved in the referendum and in the Constitution?

I'm not going to say what he told me, but we thought about it. We thought about what we're going to do if the popular referendum doesn't approve it.

The debates were very interesting. We had to run a very strong communications campaign. When there wasn't much experience in Cuba with communications campaigns, how do you do it?

When we still didn't have much experience in conducting communications campaigns, we began learning step by step, but with the desire to convince. And we succeeded. However, now, in the latest laws that have been passed, the most interesting aspect has been the flexibility that exists.

People are already convinced. And I'll give you an example: the Cuban Sports System Law. We at Cenesex had put more energy into the Law on Children, Adolescents, and Youth and the Civil Registry Law, which was a challenge that would take many years.

And, honestly, we hadn't put much energy into sports. So it was written in a very general way, so that the situation could be resolved in the regulations that were supposed to follow.

So people were very relaxed. And at the last minute, [name] sent me, via WhatsApp, a number of ideas and changes, aware that it was quite late, because the law had already been widely discussed. That bill was already almost perfect for taking to the National Assembly.

He was aware of it. Still, with support from the legal team at Cenesex, a letter was prepared for the drafting commit-



SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams.

Mariela Castro Espín speaking

tee, informing them that this group of trans-masculine activists was making this proposal, and that we considered it fair to include them.

The drafting committee immediately responded to us. So, which ones were included in the law? And which ones were included in the regulations that would be applied later? There was no discussion. They were assimilated.

They thought it was very fair and in line with the Constitution. It didn't change the essence of what was already written; on the contrary, it strengthened it. And, as Paquito can tell you, it was impressive. We've changed. Society has changed.

Not as much as we had hoped for. But from our legal perspective, that's evidence of the changes these institutions and these laws are making in Cuban society.

Transcribed and translated by Gregory E. Williams

El Código de Familias de Cuba 2022 está dando forma a nuevas leyes progresistas

Por Maiteé Navarro Giro

La siguiente charla de Maiteé Navarro Giro se presentó el 29 de julio en la Casa de la Amistad del ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos), en La Habana, Cuba, con la participación de la Brigada Venceremos y activistas LGBTQ+ de EUA, junto a miembros de las redes comunitarias vinculadas al Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual), entre otros invitados.

Este evento marcó el lanzamiento en Cuba del libro publicado en EUA por Struggle-La Lucha, “El amor es la ley: la revolución de los derechos queer en Cuba,” (Actualmente solo disponible en inglés.) Navarro Giro es una asesora legal del Cenesex

Transcrito por Gregory E. Williams



Foto de SLL: Gregory E. Williams.

La Habana, 29 de julio – Maiteé Navarro Giro, asesora legal del Cenesex, habla en la presentación del libro “El amor es la ley.”

Hola, yo soy asesora legal del Cenesex. También pertenezco a la Red de Lesbianas y Bisexuales del Cenesex. Solo quería comentar brevemente sobre la pregunta que se hizo sobre la implementación del Código de las Familias.

Nuestro jefe siempre les ha dicho a muchos de ustedes que, para finales de 2024, registramos 2,170 matrimonios entre personas del mismo sexo. De estos, 850 fueron entre mujeres. El resto, entre hombres.

Y se registraron más de 3,188 consentimientos para el acceso a las técnicas de reproducción asistidas (fecundación in vitro).

Y lo que yo pienso que es lo más importante del Código de Familias es el lenguaje que se ha usado para educar a nuestra sociedad.

El Código también ha influido en las leyes que estamos creando actualmente. Estas se mencionaron brevemente antes y han ganado reconocimiento internacional. Por ejemplo, la aprobación de la ley para el Registro Civil, la ley para el sistema deportivo cubano, y el Código de la Niñez, la Adolescencia y la Juventud.

Todo esto se abordó desde una perspectiva de género y representó pasos revolucionarios para Cuba. Brinda a las personas queer y trans el acceso a los derechos que siempre anhelamos y por los que luchamos. Especialmente nuestras redes comunitarias y de activismo social. Eso es todo, gracias. #

Socialist development is a dialog: Cuban LGBTQI+ activists push for more rights and win

By Mariela Castro Espín

Following are follow-up comments made by Mariela Castro Espín after a talk on July 29 at the ICAP (Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos / Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples) House of Friendship, in Havana, Cuba, with the participation of the Venceremos Brigade and LGBTQI+ activists from the United States, along with members of the community networks linked to Cenesex (Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual / National Center for Sex Education), among other invited individuals.

This event was the Cuban launch of the book published in the U.S. by Struggle-La Lucha, “Love is the law: Cuba’s queer rights revolution.” Castro Espín contributed to the book, and is the director of Cenesex, which has led the way in advancing LGBTQI+ rights.

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SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

Havana, Cuba, May 10, 2023 – Cenesex director Mariela Castro Espín talks with the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation. This delegation led to the publication of ‘Love is the law.’

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