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Struggle for Socialism Party

Partido de la Lucha por el Socialismo

STOP the U.S. war on VENEZUELA!

The Struggle for Socialism Party issued this urgent call:

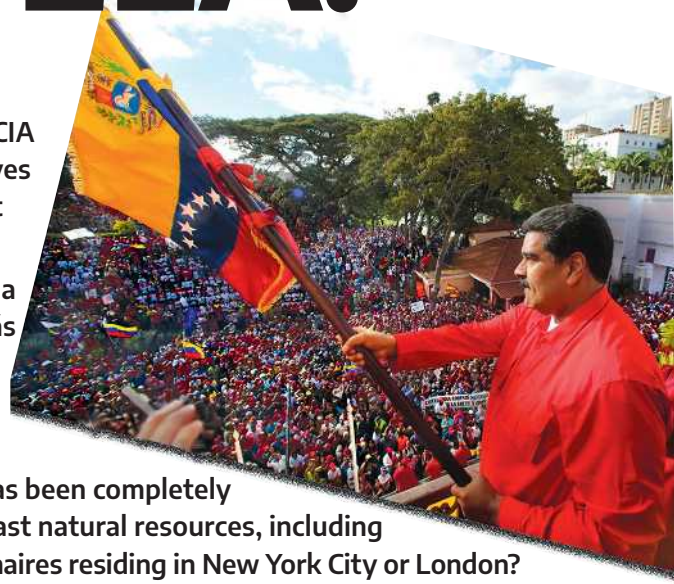
The situation is critical. On Oct. 15, Donald Trump authorized a covert CIA operation in Venezuela. The order empowers CIA paramilitary operatives to use lethal force on Venezuelan soil and to attempt to oust President Nicolás Maduro.

An invasion force is now positioned in the Caribbean – eight warships, a submarine, and 10,000 troops. The bounty on elected President Nicolás Maduro has been doubled to \$50 million. Meanwhile, the Pentagon continues its illegal bombing of small boats, killing 27 people based on false accusations of drug trafficking.

This war has nothing to do with drug trafficking, an accusation that has been completely debunked; it has everything to do with who will control Venezuela's vast natural resources, including oil and gold. Will it be the people of Venezuela or the bankers and billionaires residing in New York City or London?

We call for emergency response protests if the U.S. continues launching direct attacks in the Caribbean or invades Venezuela. We will take to the streets in our cities, campuses, and communities to demand: "Stop the U.S. war on Venezuela!"

Workers, students, and the poor in the United States have nothing to gain from a war waged for billionaires and military generals.



Int'l forum against war,
calls for solidarity with
Venezuela & Palestine

Cuba solidarity

Nobel Prize for War



'We can win the struggle'
–Thomas Sankara

Pinkwashing
anti-colonial
revolutions

GAZA

Italy's general strike

Global day of in
New Orleans & NYC



U.S. unsinkable aircraft
carrier: Israel



Shutdown or shakedown?
Trump steals wages

Tennessee funerals:
feeding the war machine

Expand or die: a system
that's creating crises

Say his name:
Baltimore, LA
& Harlem honor
George Floyd



SLL photo: Sharon Black

Harlem honors George Floyd

By Stephen Millies

People gathered at the statue of Gen. Harriet Tubman in Harlem, New York, on Oct. 14 to honor George Floyd. The Black father would be celebrating his 52nd birthday that day if he hadn't been murdered by a Minneapolis cop five years before.

People around the world saw the video of Officer Derek Chauvin putting his knee on George Floyd's neck for nine minutes and 29 seconds, killing him. The May 25, 2020, atrocity sparked a movement of at least 20 million people who marched across the United States against police violence and all bigotry.

Yet the U.S. Congress decided to honor instead the fascist demagogue Charlie Kirk, whose birthday also happened to be Oct. 14.

Just behind Gen. Tubman's memorial is the New York Police Department's 28th precinct. Malcolm X led 2,000 people to surround it in April 1957, to demand medical treatment for Hinton Johnson, who police had viciously clubbed.

Omowale Clay, chairperson of the December 12th Movement, reminded people that New York City cops killed the 10-year-old Black youth Clifford Glover in Brooklyn in 1973.

At least 1,100 people are killed every year by U.S. police. That's three homicides by cops per day.

Many organizations, including the December 12th Movement, Arm the Dollz, Black Alliance for Peace, Bronx Anti-War Coalition, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Jazz Against Genocide, Struggle for Socialism Party and Workers World Party, endorsed the action.

People at the rally recalled other victims of the police, like Breonna Taylor and Erik Garner, who, like George Floyd, were strangled to death by police. Members of Jazz Against Genocide gave a musical tribute.

Speakers denounced the fascist round-ups of immigrant workers by ICE and the genocide against the Palestinian people.

Trump has now declared war on Chicago and other cities with large Black and



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Omowale Clay speaking in front of the statue of General Harriet Tubman in Harlem, N.Y.

Latine communities while he's preparing to attack the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The people will stop him. #

Say his name: Baltimore rises for George Floyd

By Sharon Black

Baltimore, Oct. 14 – Activists gathered at the Billie Holiday statue in Upton to declare Oct. 14 “George Floyd Day,” marking his birthday. Protesters carried signs reading “On George Floyd Day, Say No to Racism.” The action was part of a nationwide movement to honor George Floyd – not Charlie Kirk. #



The rally opened with a tribute to Assata Shakur. Colby Bryd of the Peoples Power Assembly urged the crowd to keep fighting racist violence.

SLL photo: Sharon Black

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Pinkwashing is used to slander anti-colonial revolutions from Palestine to Burkina Faso

By Jace Carter

Oct. 15 marks the 38th anniversary of the assassination of Thomas Sankara, a Pan-Africanist and Marxist revolutionary, who seized state power in a 1983 popular coup. Sankara was president of Burkina Faso until his killing in 1987 by Western-backed forces. Sankara's staunch anti-imperialist leadership radically transformed the nation, which threw off the shackles of French domination during that period. For more, see Thomas Sankara, "Africa's Che Guevara."

Additionally, October is the celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month, a history long defined by the blood and solidarity of all working-class LGBTQ+ people worldwide in their liberation struggle against capitalist, imperialist and neo-colonialist oppression in the forms of homophobia and transphobia.

On Sept. 1, 2025, Burkina Faso's Legislative Assembly passed an updated family amendment code that included declaring "homosexual behavior as a criminal offense, punishable by two to five years in prison, fines, and possibly deportation for foreign nationals." Almost immediately after this announcement, major Western capitalist media outlets used this to further justify their imperialist propaganda against Burkina Faso and President Ibrahim Traoré, whom they have already demonized as an "anti-gay dictator."

The audacity of the West to pretend like they care about LGBTQ+ rights in Burkina Faso, while actively committing and supporting multiple live-streamed genocides in Palestine, Sudan, the Congo and elsewhere, is nothing short of baffling.

Western nations posture as the "safest places in the world for LGBTQ+ people." But in the United States, the ruling class is backing a fascist political movement aimed at denying gender-affirming health care to trans and non-binary people, nullifying passports and other documents that affirm one's gender, and allowing for the escalation of anti-trans and anti-queer violence

to continue unchecked, and perhaps worst of all, falsely accusing "mentally ill" trans people as the primary cause of mass shootings.

Pinkwashing: a tool in imperialism's belt

Historically, pinkwashing has been nothing more than a means of manufacturing consent for pushing illegal sanctions and regime change in countries that either have overthrown Western imperialist influence or are in the process of doing so. The imperialists' goal is to prevent them from achieving sovereignty and self-determination. The tactics to achieve this have always been the same:

- Dehumanize the people, culture and society through capitalist media propaganda.
- Destabilize the economic, social, and political climate through sanctions and military control.
- Implement regime change by any means necessary to strengthen Western hegemony.

Burkina Faso now falls into that same category of nations that have Washington terrified.



President Ibrahim Traoré talks with agricultural workers in March 2025.

Why does Washington hate Traore?

In a 2022 popular coup, Captain Ibrahim Traore seized governance from the French-installed puppet leader, Paul-Henri Damiba. He has since expelled all French and U.S. colonizers from the land and has re-nationalized its natural resources for the benefit of the Burkinabe people, rather than the predatory World Bank and IMF.

Alongside the leaders of Mali and Niger, Traoré has joined the Alliance of Sahel States, a critical step towards achieving sovereignty and self-determination. Its formation and continued cooperation are reason enough for Washington to be unfriendly.

Some have referred to Traoré as the "second coming of Sankara," and for many reasons. He has already survived numerous Western-backed assassination attempts, as well as defended the nation against Western-backed ISIS and Al Qaeda terrorists.

For more on the revolutionary govern-

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No to Kirk, no to cops: George Floyd Day in Los Angeles



By Scott Scheffer

On George Floyd Day, activists from the Harriet Tubman Center L.A. took the street. The Oct. 14 rally was held at the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd and Figueroa, in USC's shadow. It answered right-wing calls to honor the fascist Charlie Kirk. Speakers denounced racist police killings and named the dead. They tied the police war on Black and Brown youth to the White House offensive against the working class using federal troops. #

SLL photo: Scott Scheffer

‘We can win this struggle’: Sankara’s message for today

By Colby Byrd

“We can win this struggle if we choose to be architects and simply not bees.”

– Thomas Sankara, *‘Imperialism is the arsonist of our forests and savannas, 1986’*

We honor the life and revolutionary achievements of Thomas Sankara, known as “Africa’s Che Guevara.” A man on a mission to lift Burkina Faso out of the death grip of imperialism and transform it into a beacon of progress and true liberation on the African continent.

Under the leadership of Thomas Sankara, Upper Volta became the country of Burkina Faso, “The Land of Upright People.” Literacy rates rose exponentially across the whole country. Over two million Burkinabé children were vaccinated. He ended Burkina Faso’s reliance on Western aid and set out to create self-sufficiency for the country.

Land was redistributed amongst the working class and peasants of the country, and out of the hands of wealthy landlords under the control of Western imperialists. Ten million trees were planted across the country. Roads and railways were built to connect the country. All of these steps helped create better living conditions for the people of Burkina Faso while also healing the old wounds caused by imperialism and setting the country on a path towards progress.



Thomas Sankara, President of Burkina Faso, at an international press conference on trees and forests at the Hotel Crillon in Paris, 1986.

Thomas Sankara saw the full picture of the global class struggle. He did not set out to create a better Burkina Faso without the country’s women. He banned genital mutilation, forced marriages and polygamy. Women were appointed to government positions and were able to, and encouraged to, join the country’s workforce and military. Pregnancy leave was granted for all expectant mothers.

He was a man committed to the people. Under his guidance, the old Western luxury and corruption within the Burkinabé government were done away with. Public servants drove cars produced in Burkina Faso and wore clothing made entirely of 100% Burkinabé cotton, tailored by Burkinabé artisans. He never allowed portraits and monuments of himself to be erected in public because he fully believed that it was the people who made this progress happen. He said himself that there are “seven million Thomas Sankaras.”

His love of his country extended to the entire African continent. He believed that all of Africa had the right to tear

away from the claws of Western imperialism. His passion for pan African liberation made him a target of Western imperialists and those of the African elite who wanted to continue gutting their continent all for their Western masters.

Thomas Sankara was brutally assassinated and gunned down in 1987, only four years into his presidency. Betrayed by Blaise Compaoré, a onetime ally turned rival who seized power and reversed Sankara’s policies until a popular revolution ousted him in 2014 and sent him into exile. France has yet to release its classified records regarding the assassination of Thomas Sankara.

In the 21st century, the revolutionary spirit of Thomas Sankara lives on. Currently, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, the sitting president of Burkina Faso, is continuing the mission set out by Thomas Sankara to see a fully liberated Burkina Faso, free of neocolonial rule and Western interference. #

Pinkwashing is used to slander anti-colonial revolutions

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ment’s accomplishments, see “From Sankara to Traoré: Burkina Faso’s anti-imperialist legacy.”

Colonial Europe plants the seeds of gender oppression and bigotry

This particular anti-LGBTQ+ policy didn’t just appear out of thin air.

France, the colonial power in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal, directly imposed its legal and cultural systems across West Africa, exporting the Napoleonic Code that criminalized “acts against nature.” This colonial legislation actively supplanted often more fluid pre-colonial social norms and planted the deep-seated seeds of institution-

alized homophobia. The profound irony, therefore, is that the very anti-LGBTQ+ laws now used by Western powers to pinkwash and slander anti-imperialist governments like Traoré’s were themselves a Western colonial import.

International precedent

The pinkwashing campaign against Burkina Faso is reminiscent of the slanderous anti-LGBTQ+ propaganda the Zionist entity has used against Palestine to justify its illegal occupation. “Israel” has boasted for decades that it is the “bastion of democracy and LGBTQ+ rights in the Middle East,” while it has perpetuated ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian peo-

ple, and also has treated its own LGBTQ+ population miserably.

Or take the example of Cuba. Even 10 years after overthrowing the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship in 1959, the Cuban Revolution had to contend with patriarchal values. In 1971, a congress on education in Havana called for the removal of homosexuals from the field of education.

Western capitalist media used this policy in Cuba to try to discredit the revolution. Some anti-imperialist activists denounced Cuba, thinking that Cuba’s seizing state power should result in an instantaneous social transformation.

At that time, the U.S. had widespread

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Photo: AFGE.org

Shutdown or shakedown?

Trump fires thousands, threatens to steal workers' wages

By Gary Wilson

Oct. 10 – On Friday morning, Office of Management and Budget Director Russell Vought announced what federal workers had been dreading: “The RIFs have begun.” With that social media post, the Trump administration launched mass layoffs across multiple agencies during an active government shutdown – an unprecedented escalation in the war on public sector workers.

By Friday evening, pink slips were flying at the Environmental Protection Agency, the departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury. The administration wasn't even trying to hide its glee. Trump himself posted an AI-generated video depicting Vought as the Grim Reaper, scythe in hand, stalking through federal buildings as workers queue for unemployment.

This isn't normal politics. Its' class warfare dressed up as budget management.

The American Federation of Government Employees and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees immediately filed an emergency request for a temporary restraining order, asking U.S.

District Judge Susan Illston to halt the mass firings pending an Oct. 16 hearing. The unions are fighting an uphill battle against an administration that sees the shutdown not as a crisis to resolve, but as an opportunity to gut the federal workforce.

“These mass firings are illegal and will have devastating effects on the services millions of Americans rely on every day,” AFSCME president Lee Saunders warned.

AFGE president Everett Kelley was more direct: “In AFGE's 93 years of existence under several presidential administrations – including during Trump's first term – no president has ever decided to fire thousands of furloughed workers during a government shutdown.”

But the layoffs are only part of the story. The Trump administration is also threatening something even more audacious: wage theft on a massive scale.

From layoffs to wage theft

A leaked White House memo argues that furloughed federal workers – as many as 750,000 people – may not receive back pay after the shutdown ends. This would violate the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, which Trump him-

self signed during the last shutdown. But the administration is claiming the law has been “misconstrued,” seizing on technical amendments to argue that back pay must be specifically appropriated by Congress.

Asked Tuesday whether furloughed workers would be compensated, Trump responded like a mob boss: “I would say it depends on who we're talking about. ... For the most part, we're going to take care of our people. There are some people that really don't deserve to be taken care of, and we'll take care of them in a different way.”

This is the language of authoritarianism. The message is clear: Loyalty to Trump determines whether you eat.

Federal workers are understandably terrified. “Trump saying he won't pay us really got me worried,” an EPA employee told reporters. “What's crazy is that the law is there in black and white. It couldn't be more clear that legally furloughed employees ‘shall be paid.’ There's no room to interpret it.”

A Smithsonian worker expressed broader fears: “There could be a possibility where Trump decides he no longer wants to fund the Smithsonian. They can pretty much take down the entire Smithsonian.” #

Pinkwashing

Continued from page 4

discriminatory policies against homosexuals in the workplace, including schools. In 1953, President Eisenhower signed Executive Order 10450, which banned homosexuals from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors. In 1978, Oklahoma and Arkansas passed laws banning gay and lesbian teachers from working in public schools.

Fast forward to 2022, when the Cuban Revolution, through a massive grassroots organizing and mobilization effort, achieved the Code of Families – the world's

most inclusive revolutionary code. Among its many leaps forward, the Code guarantees the right of all people to form a family without discrimination, legalizes same-sex marriage, and allows such couples to adopt children.

It is the duty and responsibility of queer anti-imperialist revolutionaries in the belly of the beast to defend all movements that are actively breaking the chains of Western imperialism when they are branded as homophobic by the same countries that scapegoat trans people at the first chance they get.

To paraphrase what revolutionary trans communist Leslie Feinberg asserted regarding Cuba, the current problems that exist in Burkina Faso do not invalidate the anti-colonial revolution.

May we see a Burkina Faso that continues to build upon the revolution first undertaken by Thomas Sankara, and that lives to struggle internally on the principles of gender and sexual liberation, the same way that Cuban workers of all sexual and gender orientations have struggled against these contradictions post-Revolution, as they continue to build socialism. #

Pentagon profits, Tennessee funerals: 16 workers die feeding the war machine

By Gary Wilson

Sixteen workers died in an explosion at Accurate Energetic Systems in rural Tennessee.

AES supplies explosives to the U.S. military and major contractors. Demand for munitions is rising across the Pentagon's supply chain.

Routine OSHA inspections are largely suspended during the shutdown. AES previously faced citations for RDX (an explosive with neurotoxic dust) exposure at the plant.

This is the domestic face of permanent war. More missiles, less oversight, dead workers. Factories run at wartime tempo. Working-class communities pay with their lives.

The blast, not a glitch

A pre-dawn explosion leveled an AES production building near Bucksport, rattling homes miles away as Sheriff Chris Davis called the scene "devastating," with recovery hinging on days-long, DNA-based identifications amid dangerous debris and unexploded ordnance.

Authorities have now identified all 16 victims, closing one chapter of uncertainty for a town where nearly everyone knows someone who worked behind those blast walls. The cause remains under investigation by federal and state agencies, but the pattern – production pressure outrunning protection – is already legible.

War economy squeeze

AES manufactures and tests high-energy materials for the Army and major contractors, tying a 1,300-acre plant and its workers directly to the Pentagon's procurement cycle as orders surge and schedules tighten.

Lockheed Martin and its peers are accelerating weapons production – ramping up output of missiles, launchers, and interceptors. They're expanding automation and factory floors to "deliver more, faster," driving a chain reaction through their suppliers, especially smaller and more vulnerable shops like AES.

Precision Strike Missile output alone is being pushed to 400 units per year, a symbol of an industry racing to boost firepower



Vigil in Centerville, Tennessee, honoring the victims of a blast at an AES explosives plant on Oct. 10.

across everything from artillery rockets to anti-ship weapons.

Boeing has locked in \$2.7 billion in contracts to build more than 3,000 PAC-3 seekers – the guidance systems that let Patriot missiles find and destroy incoming targets. Production will reach up to 750 units a year through 2030, cementing Boeing's position as a key subcontractor to Lockheed Martin and the U.S. Army.

Lockheed, the Patriot program's prime contractor, separately won a \$9.8 billion Army deal in September for PAC-3 MSE interceptors. Together, the awards mark a full-scale production ramp from top contractors to component suppliers across the missile industry.

The New York Times headline on Oct. 13 declared: "Factory towns revive as defense tech makers arrive."

"In January, Anduril, an artificial-intelligence-backed weapons manufacturer, announced that it was building a \$1 billion factory in Ohio to make drones and other A.I.-enabled weapons. It has since said it also plans to open factories in Rhode Island and Mississippi.

"Regent, a shipbuilding start-up, is constructing a factory in Rhode Island to make electric sea gliders for military purposes. And UXV Technologies, a Danish drone and robotics company, opened a manufacturing facility in Pennsylvania last year."

The military-industrial monopolies tie this surge directly to active wars and military buildups in Ukraine, West Asia (including Palestine and Iran), and the In-

do-Pacific, where Washington is preparing for war on China. Rising conflict is being turned into production orders – and subcontractors are under intense pressure to deliver on time.

In plants that handle missile explosive components like Tennessee's AES, workers bear the brunt of this push, as the war economy turns public funding into private backlogs and rising shop-floor risk.

Oversight on ice

Since Oct. 1, the government shutdown has sidelined most federal workplace safety

programs. Routine inspections are halted, and enforcement is on hold – just when high-risk industries need the closest oversight.

This isn't just a delay in investigating accidents; it increases the danger in real time. Workers handling explosive materials now face greater risk without regular audits or the authority to stop unsafe work. With inspectors off the job, "run harder" becomes the unspoken rule on the factory floor.

Years before the explosion, Tennessee inspectors found AES workers suffering seizures and nervous system damage from exposure to RDX, a powerful explosive compound. Tests detected explosive residue on their skin – and even in the break room – showing that toxic exposure had spread into supposedly safe areas.

Inspectors labeled the violations "serious," but AES settled the cases with minor fixes and light penalties. The deeper hazards stayed in place.

The Pentagon pipeline

Between 2020 and 2024, private companies took in about \$2.4 trillion in Pentagon contracts. The top five defense giants alone captured \$771 billion – government money funneled through corporate pipelines, while the real danger lands on the factory floor, where explosives are poured, pressed, and packed.

Missile and launcher orders are surging, and backlogs are booming. But safety investment isn't keeping pace. The subcontractors who turn contracts into weapons bear the

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EXPAND OR DIE: a system that can't stop creating crises

By Gary Wilson

The two factories that tell the story

Walk through Fort Worth, Texas, and you'll see the story of a declining empire written in steel and concrete.

At one end of town stands a vast Lockheed Martin plant, where workers in clean rooms assemble guidance systems for missiles. The plant runs three shifts a day. Its parking lot is full, the lights never go off, and the hum of war production fills the night.

A few miles away, the old General Motors transmission factory sits in silence. The windows are broken. Weeds push through the cracked pavement. The GM plant closed in 2009 – 1,100 workers lost their jobs. Lockheed opened its new plant in 2015. It employs 450.

"Do the math," a laid-off GM worker told a local reporter. "That's what happened to this country."

Capitalism can't sit still

Corporate media calls this "globalization" or "market forces." In reality, the U.S. economy has turned from one that made things into one that serves monopoly corporations and finance capital.

Capitalism is a system that must expand or die. A company that doesn't crush competitors and extract ever-greater profit disappears. That's true for corporations and for capitalist countries alike.

Profit doesn't come from "innovation." It comes from us – the working class. In every shift, part of the day covers wages; the rest produces unpaid value for the boss. That stolen time is the source of profit. The more the bosses can stretch it, the richer they get.

That's why every struggle over housing, food, and health care is ultimately a fight over who controls the value workers create.

They shipped the jobs away – on purpose

For decades, U.S. corporations could afford higher wages because they had the world's most advanced industry and access to cheap food and energy. But as other countries industrialized, the bosses sought new ways to keep profits up – slashing wages, busting unions, and exporting jobs.

Manufacturing's share of the U.S. economy has dropped from about 16% in the 1990s to a little over 10% today, and the U.S. slice of global factory output has fallen as well. The National Association of Manu-



Lockheed Martin assembly plant in Fort Worth, Texas.

facturers (NAM) reports that the U.S. share of world trade in manufactured goods was 7.9% in 2023.

China now produces more than 30% of the world's manufactured goods. This isn't just an economic change – it's a reshaping of working-class power across the globe.

But there's one exception. The U.S. still clearly dominates in arms production: Between 2020 and 2024, it accounted for 43% of global arms exports, making it the single largest supplier by a wide margin.

The war economy

Defense spending, military contracts, and state procurement dominate advanced U.S. manufacturing.

Fighter jets, drones, submarines, and missile systems – Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, and General Dynamics get billions in guaranteed government contracts.

Even the tech giants are in on the game. Amazon's cloud hosts military intelligence. Microsoft's \$22 billion contract builds "battlefield cloud computing." Google designed AI to help drones analyze targets.

Big tech AI was built on government-funded research and development and is maintained on Pentagon contracts. The military-industrial complex has moved into Silicon Valley.

Engineers and machinists who could be building trains, housing, or clean energy systems are instead building killing machines. Factories that could make solar panels produce missile components. Entire towns depend on defense contracts to survive.

Every war or near-war means billions more for the weapons industry. Lockheed and Raytheon make their biggest profits not in all-out wars, but in endless, low-level conflict that never ends.

An economy that needs constant war to keep the assembly lines running isn't strong – it's sick.

Dollar weapon and the empire's decay

How does Washington afford endless subsidies for billionaires and corporations while cutting aid for workers? Through the dollar system that acts like a global siphon.

For decades, oil, food, and nearly all global trade have been priced in U.S. dollars. That forces countries to hold dollars, use Wall Street banks, and buy U.S. Treasury bonds just to keep trade moving. Wall Street turned the dollar into a weapon that props up the empire while draining the world.

When Washington froze \$300 billion of Russia's reserves in 2022, every country saw the warning: Their wealth is safe in U.S. banks only as long as they obey Washington.

Now, nations from China and India to Brazil, South Africa and Saudi Arabia, as well as Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are moving away from the dollar – buying gold, trading in their own currencies, and building payment systems independent of Wall Street. On Oct. 7, 2025, gold broke \$4,000 an ounce – a sign that the dollar's grip is slipping, along with fears of Trump's expanding war drive: trade wars, wars in Palestine and Ukraine, and the war build-up against Venezuela, Cuba, and China.

As the financial foundation weakens, the empire turns inward – seeking to preserve profit through repression at home.

Class war at home

While Wall Street and big corporations get blank checks, workers and the poor get the knife.

Trump's so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" is an assault on survival. It cuts food stamps and Medicaid – pushing millions toward hunger and sickness. It forces people to "work" 80 hours a month, paid or unpaid "volunteer," to keep health coverage – flooding the labor market with desperate workers and driving wages down.

Fifteen million people will lose health care under the new rules. That's not an accident – it's the point. A hungry, sick work-

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Nobel Prize for War: Trump ally María Corina Machado honored amid U.S. escalation in Venezuela

By Sharon Black

The Nobel Peace Prize committee in Norway ignored Gaza's doctors and ambulance drivers who stayed with their patients while bombs rained down in war-torn Gaza.

Instead, it honored María Corina Machado – a regime-change conspirator, ally of Israel's Netanyahu, and friend of Donald Trump.

The mainstream media fixated on the grotesque circus of Trump coveting the prize and his fake love fest with Machado. She gushed over him, declaring he should have been the winner.

But war propaganda always trumps personal ego. The Nobel Peace Prize marches to the drumbeat of the U.S. war machine.

The most important thing about this award is its timing.

On Oct. 15, Trump authorized the CIA to operate in Venezuela, granting it lethal authority and the power to coordinate with U.S. armed forces.

An invasion force now sits in the Caribbean – eight warships, a submarine, and 10,000 troops.

The Pentagon continues its illegal bombing of small boats, killing 27 people on false drug-trafficking claims.

So, who is Machado?

Machado is more than a smiling face for Washington's regime-change machine. She is the polished spokesperson for sanctions and foreign intervention.

From the start of the Bolivarian Revolution, centered in Venezuela's workers and poor, Machado has been an architect of violence. She represents and is a member of the discredited oligarchy and has done everything possible to overthrow the Bolivarian government.

2002 coup against President Hugo Chávez

In April 2002, María Corina Machado backed the coup against President Hugo Chávez. A faction of the military officers allied with reactionary oligarchs, and the U.S. government under George W. Bush, orchestrated the plot. Chávez was captured and held prisoner.



Machado was among 400 signers of the "Carmona Decree," a document falsely titled the "Constitution of the Government of Democratic Transition and National Unity." The decree was a parliamentary maneuver to formally overthrow Chávez's government.

The coup quickly collapsed. A massive popular uprising demanded Chávez's release. Loyal military officers rescued him and restored constitutional order. Afterward, the coup plotters were purged from the ranks.

2014 'La Salida'

After Hugo Chávez's death in 2013, Nicolás Maduro was elected his successor. On Feb. 12, 2014, María Corina Machado joined forces with Leopoldo López of the Voluntad Popular party in a violent campaign called "La Salida" – "The Exit." This initiative orchestrated violent attacks, referred to as guarimbas, which resulted in the deaths of 43 people.

Anti-Bolivarian protesters blocked streets with burning trash and barbed wire. Buses carrying workers were torched. Workers suspected of being Chavistas – especially Afro-Venezuelans – were attacked. Schools, food trucks, and

public buildings were destroyed.

The Maduro government, backed by popular mobilizations, ultimately defeated the violent offensive.

2019 support for Guaidó

In January 2019, Donald Trump backed Juan Guaidó after he declared himself president of Venezuela. Guaidó had the support of Machado, Venezuela's wealthiest reactionaries, and the then right-wing regimes of Colombia and Brazil – yet their coup attempt failed.

Machado then became an "ambassador" in Guaidó's phantom government. She lobbied for brutal U.S. sanctions and pushed for the theft of Venezuela's foreign assets, including its gold reserves and the Citgo oil company. These crimes cost the Venezuelan people hundreds of billions of dollars and countless lives.

She even appealed to Benjamin Netanyahu to help "liberate" Venezuela and backed U.S. sanctions that have killed by cutting off food and medicine to the population.

Machado is no ambassador of peace – she is a tireless representative of her class of parasitic rich, both in Venezuela and in the United States. #

International forum denounces war, calls for global solidarity from Venezuela to Palestine

By Sharon Black

At New York's Riverside Church, diplomats and activists unite against imperialism and genocide, emphasizing shared struggle.

A powerful message of international solidarity echoed through the packed Assembly Hall at Manhattan's Riverside Church on Sept. 25. The forum, titled "No to War Against Humanity, from Venezuela to Cuba, Nicaragua, Palestine," brought together diplomats, activists, and community leaders to condemn escalating warfare and build a unified front for peace.

The event featured high-level speakers from Venezuela and Cuba, who used their platform at the United Nations General Assembly to highlight the interconnected nature of struggles against imperialism, sanctions, and military aggression.

A unified front against imperialism

Ana Teresita Gonzalez, Director General of Consular Affairs for the Cuban Mission, opened with a pledge of Cuba's unwavering support for Venezuela against a potential U.S. attack. She underscored the deep connection between the plights of Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Palestine, pointing to the resilience of her own people in overcoming the U.S. embargo as a model of resistance.

This theme of solidarity was powerfully reciprocated by Hasam Marajada of the U.S. Palestinian Community Network (US-PCN). "With the support of the people in this room and the people of the world, the Palestinian people will be victorious!" he proclaimed.

"We will finally defeat Zionism, apartheid and colonialism! We will free Palestine, from the river to the sea!" He concluded by affirming that the Palestinian people stand "in unconditional solidarity with all the progressive movements and struggles, especially in Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba."

Exposing the justifications for war

A significant portion of the forum was dedicated to dismantling the narratives used to justify military aggression. Blanca Eekhout, President of the Simon Bolivar Institute for Peace and Solidarity Among Peoples, directly addressed the U.S. accusation of Venezuelan drug trafficking.



Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Yvan Gil.

"The corporate elites are not representing the interests of the people of the United States," Eekhout stated. She described the recent illegal missile strikes on Venezuelan fishing boats, which killed 17 people. "They were traveling in small boats that could not make it to the United States. ...These people were assassinated without a trial."

Eekhout also detailed the alarming military buildup near Venezuela, noting the presence of "nuclear submarines, warships, military airplanes," which starkly contrasts with Venezuela's self-declared status as a "territory of peace." To debunk the drug trafficking claim, she cited a current United Nations report: "Venezuela is a country that has zero acres of crops of drugs. There is not one acre that is dedicated."

A shared struggle with workers and poor

Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Yvan Gil framed the conflict not as a confrontation with the U.S. people, but with the U.S. ruling class and its imperialist apparatus. He proclaimed that Venezuela's revolutionary struggle shares the same objectives as those of the workers, women, and poor in the United States.

"We need to create together a critical mass capable of providing peace," Gil urged. "It's not through bombs, missiles, that we can put food on our table; it is not through soldiers that eggs are going to be cheaper, not through violence that happiness and stability will be achieved in our society." He argued that the threat of war stems from a desire to control Venezuela's independent path and its vast natural resources, including oil and gold.

Gil concluded with a call to action, stating that "peace and life are the most revolutionary" values. He announced President Maduro's signing of a world conference for peace and sovereignty but warned that it "will fail if the people in the U.S. don't join in this effort." He invited all attendees to participate, emphasizing the urgent need to "stop this bombardment" of threats designed to create fear.

Broad coalition of support

Gail Walker, former director of IFCO / Pastors for Peace, co-chaired the event, along with Sara Flounders of the United National Antiwar Coalition and Workers World newspaper, and Tom Burke of the Anti-War Action Network and the Freedom Road Socialist Organization. It showcased a wide-ranging coalition, with over 20 antiwar and solidarity groups from across the U.S. standing on stage to express their support.

These groups included Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle NYC, Anti-War Action Network, Arm The Dollz, Bayan, Black Is Back Coalition, Bronx Antiwar, Citizen Revolution of Ecuador, Code Pink, Cuba Sí, December 12 Movement, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Committee – NYC, Workers World Party, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Struggle for Socialism Party / Struggle-La Lucha, The Peoples Forum, Jazz Against Genocide, Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition, SanctionsKill Campaign, United National Antiwar Coalition, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Venceremos Brigade, Venezuela Solidarity Network, and the U.S. Peace Council.

The forum was organized through the initiative of Dozthor Zurlent of the Simon Bolivar Institute and William Camacaro of the Bolivarian Circle in New York.

A *teleSUR* video of the event is available at: youtu.be/kqBTwAwSKvY

The unsinkable aircraft carrier: Israel & the crisis of U.S. imperialism

By Gary Wilson

Israel is a fortress of empire – a U.S.-armed garrison planted in the heart of West Asia to protect capital's most prized assets: oil, trade routes, and regional dominance.

Behind the rhetoric of democracy and security lies a simple truth. Israel is the outpost through which U.S. power projects itself across the region. Pentagon planners have long called it “our unsinkable aircraft carrier,” a phrase that strips away the pretense. Israel's role is not to defend itself, but to defend the global reach and profits of U.S. monopoly capital.

A base for monopoly capital

Since 1948, Israel's survival has depended not on self-reliance but on Washington's patronage. The billions of dollars in U.S. aid that flow every year are not acts of generosity – they're investments.

U.S. strategists viewed Israel as an anchor for imperialist domination of West Asia's resources. In 1981, General Alexander Haig put it bluntly: Israel is “the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be sunk.” The metaphor wasn't hyperbole. Israel's job has been to secure trade routes, protect oil profits, and serve as a proving ground for U.S. weapons systems before they're sold around the world.

Every Israeli war – from Lebanon to Gaza – has served the demands of monopoly capital. Washington supplies the funding and diplomatic cover; Israel supplies the firepower; U.S. arms manufacturers reap the profit.

Air power and the colonial method

Israel didn't invent the use of air power as a tool of imperialist domination – it perfected a strategy pioneered by earlier empires. In 1911, Italy used airplanes to bomb anti-colonial fighters in Libya, ushering in a new era of warfare that allowed colonizers to kill without risk or accountability.

Britain refined the method across West Asia in the 1920s. Air Marshal Arthur “Bomber” Harris, who later commanded the firebombing of Dresden, first tested his tactics in Iraq and Palestine, boasting that “the Arab and the Kurd now know what real punishment means.”

Lenin described how imperialism replaces direct colonial rule with financial and military domination. Air power be-

came the perfect weapon for this stage of capitalism – violence delivered from a distance, maintaining control without the costs of occupation.

From Gaza to Iran: Imperialism from the sky

Nowhere is this imperialist domination more visible than in Israel's ongoing air war across West Asia. For nearly two years, Gaza has been subjected to a campaign of annihilation that has leveled entire neighborhoods, hospitals, and refugee camps. Israel has struck not only Gaza but the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran – always under the familiar pretext of “self-defense.”

Each of these bombardments follows a predictable pattern. The United States bankrolls the assault, provides the munitions, and blocks any attempt at accountability. Israel pulls the trigger. And U.S. defense contractors – Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon – see their stock prices climb with every new strike.

For two years, Israel has waged an unrelenting air war on Gaza, reducing entire neighborhoods, hospitals, and refugee camps to rubble. It has also struck the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, and Iran – always under the pretext of “self-defense.”

This is imperialism in its purest form. Air power delivers destruction from a safe distance; monopoly capital converts that destruction into profit. Every bomb dropped on Gaza reverberates through Wall Street.

The fortress cracks

For decades, Washington used Israel as the cornerstone of its regional strategy – a dependable enforcer whose military superiority guaranteed U.S. hegemony from the Mediterranean to the Arab/Persian Gulf. But the Gaza war has exposed how fragile that arrangement has become.

After nearly two years of relentless bombing – tens of thousands of tons of explosives dropped on one of the most densely populated areas on Earth – Israel has failed to achieve its stated goals. The resistance remains intact. Hamas still governs Gaza and commands popular support, while the Zionist forces have suffered heavy battlefield losses, including many of the supposedly invincible Merkava tanks. No Arab army in history has inflicted such

losses on the Israeli military machine.

The myth of invincibility shattered

The Al-Aqsa Flood operation did more than breach Israel's borders – it tore apart a political mythology that had underpinned U.S. power in the region for decades. Israel's aura of military supremacy, carefully cultivated since 1967, was shattered in a single day. What Washington had long presented as a “pillar of stability” was revealed to be brittle and overextended.

Benjamin Netanyahu's answer was the same as every imperialist proxy facing crisis: overwhelming violence. The genocidal air campaign that followed was meant not only to destroy Hamas but to reassert the illusion of control. Yet despite the scale of the onslaught, the resistance has endured. As senior Hamas official Ayham Shananaa put it, the very survival of Gaza's fighters amid such destruction “constitutes a strategic victory.”

But the cracks run deeper than military failure. Apartheid Israel's economy has hemorrhaged over \$67 billion in direct war costs. The economic toll may cost Israel an estimated \$400 billion in lost economic activity over the next decade, according to the Rand Corporation.

The tourism and construction sectors have collapsed. The vaunted tech industry – long marketed as proof of Israel's supposed dynamism – is bleeding talent and capital. Immigration – the lifeblood of any settler-colonial project – has declined.

Most tellingly, the Israeli military reports its highest suicide rate in 13 years alongside thousands of reservists fleeing combat duty – the unmistakable marks of an army in both tactical and psychological collapse.

A client state in crisis

This is what the Trump administration now faces: a client state too exhausted to fulfill its imperialist function. For Washington, the deal is simple – Israel exists to serve U.S. strategic interests, not the other way around.

When U.S. officials warn that “Israel in such a weakened state would be unable to provide support in a potential conflict with Iran,” they are admitting that their regional enforcer can no longer enforce.

For decades, Washington sold the illusion that the path to Palestinian freedom

Continued on page 15

Two million rally in Italy's historic general strike for Gaza

By Lev Koufax

Over two million Italian workers shut down their country's economy on Oct. 3 in response to the seizure of the Global Sumud Flotilla and the continued U.S. / Israeli genocide in the Gaza Strip. In a display of working-class unity and strength, Italian workers across sectors walked off their jobs and took to the streets.

This is the second such general strike called in as many weeks as Israeli drone strikes harassed the Sumud Flotilla ahead of Israeli naval interception. At least 40 Italian nationals were reported to be on the flotilla, including four parliamentarians. Significantly, Italy's largest labor union, the Italian General Confederation of Labor, led the call for the Oct. 3 strike. Between the CGIL and the Unione Sindacale di Base, another large Italian labor union, the number of strikers swelled to over two million in 100 cities and towns.

Across the country, rail workers, pilots, dockworkers, subway operators, bus drivers, nurses, and teachers walked out of work to demand an end to the genocide in Gaza. Workers marched under the slogans "Free Palestine, Stop the War Machine" and "Hands off the Flotilla!"

Florence, Rome, Milan, Turin, Bologna, and Naples swelled with work stoppages and protests. This represents every major metropolitan region in the country. In almost all of these cities, the police attacked protests with crowd control weapons and were decisively rebuffed.

Defying Meloni's opposition

Italian workers and activists were undeterred by fascist Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's stance against the strike. Meloni declared that the strike would in no way help the situation in Gaza. Interesting that a politician who gladly supplied Israel with weapons for the first two years of her term



Union workers chant 'Free Palestine' at a rally in Bologna, Italy, Oct. 3, 2025.

is suddenly concerned with the well-being of the Palestinian people.

In 2024, Italy finally suspended arms sales to Israel, but only after immense public pressure via protests and other acts of civil resistance. In reality, the suspension of Italian arms sales was not so much a genuine policy shift by the Meloni administration as it was a result of working-class intervention.

Before she attacked the strike, Meloni withdrew Italian naval support from the Sumud flotilla, proving that the frigate's deployment was performative. If the Italian navy were serious about protecting the flotilla, they would not have left as soon as the flotilla neared Gaza.

In response to Meloni's withdrawal of the Italian navy and the Israeli raid on the flotilla, the rage of the Italian working class reached a justified and righteous fever pitch.

The power of the strike

Without the workers, Italian society came to a roaring halt. Trains and planes stayed at the station. Hotels could not take guests. Children stayed home from school. And maybe, most importantly, the docks transmitted no shipments of any kind to apartheid Israel. The strike's message to the Italian government, the EU, and really the whole world was clear: End the genocide, or we will shut the country down.

The entrance of the Italian organized working class into the global fight against the genocide could be a turning point in the entire struggle and must be supported at all costs by progressives and anti-genocide activists everywhere. As this article is written, masses of not just Italian people, but people across Europe, flood the streets of Barcelona, Paris, London, Prague, and Athens with one resounding message: Free Palestine. #

WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Included in Gary Wilson's new book is VI Lenin's pamphlet: **'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism'**

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 remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their needs.



tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar

CHINA Celebrating 75 years of liberation

China's revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control. Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, with gains in healthcare, education, and sports as well as pollution reduction, and space exploration. This book aims to illuminate the dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.



<https://tinyurl.com/USWarChina>

Thousands join global day of action demanding Gaza ceasefire

By Stephen Millies

New York, Oct. 4 – Thousands of people came to lower Manhattan's Washington Square Park today to demand a ceasefire in Gaza and an arms embargo on Israel. It was part of the international days of protest against the U.S.-funded genocide that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians.

The action was called by the Palestinian Youth Movement. Imam Tom Facchine of the Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research denounced the war criminals, Netanyahu and Trump, and their false promise of a ceasefire. So did speakers from the Palestinian Youth Movement, The People's Forum, Palestinian Feminist Collective, PAL-Awda and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

"As we approach the second anniversary of the Gaza Ghetto uprising, we share the hopes of the people there for a real ceasefire," said the PAL-Awda speaker, Bill Does. "If that happens, the only credit goes to the steadfastness of the resistance, of the freedom fighters of Palestine, who remain undefeated, and their heroic allies in Yemen, Lebanon and Iran. ...

"More than ever, we call on the countries of the world to support the call of Pal-



New York City

SLL photoS: Stephen Millies



estinian society to support the proposal of the Hague group, led by Colombian President Gustavo Petro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. They call for the UN General Assembly to use its Unit- ing for Peace power to send a protective force independent of the UN security council to and stop the genocide by force! And for a total arms, embargo and sanctions on the Zionist Reich in Palestine," said Does.

Thousands marched uptown from Washington Square. They cheered as on-lookers waved a Palestinian flag from their apartment or showed their support from the sidewalk.

People marched by the headquarters of the lying New York Times and through Times Square. The march ended with a brief rally outside the New York Public Library, where a speaker from the Palestinian Youth Movement announced plans for a political campaign against AIPAC. Free Palestine! #

Pentagon profits, Tennessee funerals

Continued from page 6

risk. As the arsenal speeds up, the danger moves from the battlefield to the workshop.

Defense work is now fused with cloud computing and AI. Tech giants have landed multi-billion-dollar military contracts, wiring battlefield systems into the same digital networks that power everyday life. Silicon Valley is fully woven into the war machine.

Engineers who could be designing trains, housing, or renewable energy are instead building targeting software and missile guidance systems – because that's where the guaranteed money is. Entire workforces and regions are being re-shaped around permanent, low-level war instead of social rebuilding.

Sixteen dead, little said

Sixteen workers were killed in the mass detonation at AES. The blast tore through a plant that fed the U.S. war machine – and through families who now hold vigils few national outlets cover.

Media coverage faded within days. When production outruns protection, tragedy becomes routine. The permanent war economy treats domestic risk as the cost of global power. The workers who die in these plants are casualties of that system, even if they never leave U.S. soil. #

Cuba's Queer Rights Revolution

LOVE IS THE LAW

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Leslie Feinberg's **Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba**



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



Protesters shut down busy sections of Canal Street and other roads in tourist areas.

SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, Oct. 4 – hundreds gather at Jackson Square to march for Palestine.

Protest hits streets over Gaza

By Gregory E. Williams

The working class can stop the genocide in Gaza and the bosses' attacks at home

Despite rain, hundreds marched in downtown New Orleans on the evening of Oct. 4, joining in an international day of action against the U.S.-Israeli genocide. Organizers with NOLA for Palestine and the Palestinian Youth Movement led the crowd from Jackson Square – named after genocidal president Andrew Jackson – through the busy French Quarter and Central Business District.

With the shadow of Donald Trump and Governor Landry's troop deployment looming over the majority-Black city, Saturday's militant protesters took over a lane of some of the busiest avenues, including Canal Street. The march was strategically focused on tourist areas with a dense concentration of hotels, restaurants, and casinos, giving a taste of what it would be like to shut down the city's most profit-

able sector for a righteous cause.

Tax money-sucking tourism bosses with New Orleans & Company brag that the city had 19 million visitors in 2024, the second-highest number ever. But the tourism industry depends upon the labor of low-paid workers burdened with rising living costs. While the city collects hundreds of millions in hotel taxes every year they give almost all of it back to the rich tourism bosses instead of uplifting the people.

But the rich aren't all-powerful. They're vulnerable. New Orleans' working class is a sleeping giant. If all hospitality workers went on strike, they could potentially shut down the economy. And what if the dock workers joined them?

It can happen. Millions of workers in Italy went on strike to stop the genocide in Gaza. Teachers, railworkers, nurses, dockworkers joined in.

Remember how, during the COVID-19 pandemic, politicians and corporate me-

dia had to admit that workers are essential? It's not hedge-fund managers who keep society going. When the workers stop working, the economy stops.

The incredible worldwide movement for Palestine – including on school campuses – has the potential to become a real force to stop the genocide. But millions more workers have to get involved. Italy is showing the way.

The capitalist U.S. government that does nothing for the people here sends billions and billions to the Zionist government. That money is for killing Palestinians, all to further enrich big banks, weapons manufacturers, oil companies and other war profiteers. Imagine if millions of workers in the U.S. – including here in New Orleans – stand up to end the genocide, and for their own dignity, because clearly those things are connected. The workers can stop the Israeli murder regime and win better living conditions here. #

Expand or die: a system that can't stop creating crises

Continued from page 7

er is easier to control.

The administration has purged hundreds of thousands of federal workers and gutted labor protections.

The austerity cuts, surveillance programs, and privatization drives are not separate events. They are a coordinated offensive – a dictatorship of capital to impose deeper exploitation in a crisis economy.

There's always money for war. Never enough to keep people alive.

War doesn't build – it destroys

Politicians love to say that military spending "creates jobs." That's half true.

Yes, war contracts make factories busy. But war production eats itself. You can't

live in a bomb. You can't eat a missile. You can't recycle a dead body.

World War II didn't end the Great Depression because war is productive. It ended because it put idle factories and workers back to work – but at enormous human and material cost. After the war, the U.S. dominated only because every rival's factories lay in ruins. That's not happening again.

The empire abroad, repression at home

U.S. power abroad rests on the same foundation as inequality at home – domination through finance, coercion, and debt. Global South countries are forced to borrow in dollars, privatize services, and open their markets to U.S. corporations. At

home, those same corporations cut wages, bust unions, and evict tenants.

The working class, both here and abroad, pays the same price for the same system.

To survive, capitalism must expand – into new markets, new resources, and new forms of exploitation. But every expansion creates new crises. The system's hunger for profit is endless, and so is the destruction it brings – from shuttered towns in Texas to the burning forests of the Amazon.

Capitalism's problem is not mismanagement or bad policy. It is the system itself – a machine that devours workers and the planet alike. To end its devastation, we need not reform it but replace it with an economy built on human need, not profit. #

Eyewitness Cuba



Havana mobilizes in defense of Venezuela

By Andrew Matatag

Havana, Oct. 17 — At sunrise, more than 100,000 filled Havana's Avenida de los Presidentes, gathering at the Simón Bolívar Monument in a powerful show of solidarity with Venezuela. The demonstration, called by Cuba's mass organizations, began at 7:30 a.m. and surged for blocks down the tree-lined boulevard to the Malecón.

The rally came a day after Washington's war machine struck another small boat in the Caribbean Sea, this one from Trinidad and Tobago. Two people were killed, and two survived.

Representatives of the Communist Party of Cuba, including President Miguel Díaz-Canel, stood alongside delegates from the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), Cuba's Communist Youth Union (UJC), and participants in the International Conference of Theoretical Publications of Left Parties and Movements (Encuentro Internacional de Publicaciones Teóricas de Partidos y Movimientos de Izquierda).

Speakers reaffirmed the unbreakable bonds joining the Cuban and Venezuelan peoples — two nations forged in struggle, facing the same imperialist enemy. Their message was clear: solidarity is shared resistance.

Over 4.3 million Cubans — nearly half of the population — signed a national declaration backing Bolivarian Venezuela and condemning U.S. war and intervention.

President Nicolás Maduro responded with gratitude and resolve. "You cannot imagine how important it is for our people to feel the love and solidarity of the Cuban people," Maduro said.

As chants of "¡Cuba y Venezuela, unidas vencerán!" rolled through the crowd.



Cubans rally for Venezuela.

SLL photos: Andrew Matatag

PRESIDENT MADURO: 'Venezuela is not the Tren de Aragua, it is a country of honest people'



Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro said Wednesday, Oct. 15, that xenophobic claims that compare Venezuelans with criminal groups such as the Tren de Aragua, which was exterminated by the nation's military police force, must cease.

"The discriminatory and xenophobic statements of comparing Venezuelan identity with criminal groups attacked and exterminated in Venezuela must cease," the president said when leading a new meeting of the National Council of Sovereignty and Peace.

Likewise, the dignitary stressed that "Venezuela is not the train of Aragua, it is

a country of honest, humane, hardworking people."

"When Venezuelans, the product of a brutal economic war, of silent missiles that sought to destroy the body and the economic and social soul of the country, had to leave and found the demon of xenophobic campaigns and violence," Maduro said.

Meanwhile, he added that "especially today in the United States they intend to lie and say that Venezuelans are a derivation of a criminal gang that we exterminated here: the Aragua train."

On the other hand, the president insist-

ed: "Venezuela is a country full of values and a collective desire to live, he said while stressing that the people are not afraid of anyone and want to prosper in peace."

The statements are given within the framework of the convocation of the National Council of Sovereignty and Peace, which after a month of operation delivered to the head of state the results of the four working groups installed: International, Political, Communication and Economic, from which more than 30 activities were derived that will be implemented during the coming months.

Source: *teleSUR*

The unsinkable aircraft carrier: Israel & the crisis of U.S. imperialism

Continued from page 10

ran through negotiation. The 1993 Oslo Accords turned a struggle for national liberation into a managed process of dependency. "Dialogue," "security coordination," and "painful compromises" became euphemisms for surrender.

Under this system, the U.S. funded the expansion of settlements, deepening the occupation.

Gaza never accepted this arrangement. Despite a crushing blockade since 2007 designed to enforce surrender through starvation, the Strip remained ungovernable. Each Israeli assault – in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021, and the ongoing genocide since 2023 – left Gaza devastated but undefeated. Homes were rebuilt from rubble; weapons were fashioned from unexploded Israeli shells. The siege produced not submission, but defiance.

As Islamic Jihad official Haitham Abu al-Ghazlan emphasizes, "The resistance is now more entrenched than ever." The measure of victory is not material destruction but the failure of the Zionist project to displace or pacify the population.

The technocratic trap

Now, as the bombs pause, the U.S. and its European imperialist allies are pushing their latest rebranding exercise: a "technocratic" government for Gaza, divorced from politics and resistance, staffed by hand-picked managers and overseen by international donors.

The model is familiar. It's the same template the IMF and World Bank apply from Haiti to Iraq – governance without sovereignty, administration without liberation. It seeks to manage Gaza, not free it.

The Palestinian resistance has made its position clear: while it does not oppose civil administration for daily life, security sovereignty remains non-negotiable. "The resistance's arms are a red line as long as the occupation exists," Shananaa insists. Any attempt to link reconstruction to disarmament is a bid to achieve through diplomacy what two years of genocide could not accomplish.

The united resistance understands what U.S. imperialism desperately works to obscure: Every so-called peace process designed by the imperialist powers has ended in more settlements, more displacement, more apartheid.

There can be no technical fix to colonial domination, no managerial substitute for liberation.

Empire's declining returns

The crisis extends far beyond Palestine. Yemen has effectively closed the Red Sea to Israeli shipping. Iran has shown it can strike Israeli military installations at will. Even traditional U.S. allies face mounting public pressure for their complicity in genocide.

The so-called "rules-based international order" – code words for U.S. imperialist hegemony – is crumbling under the weight of its contradictions.

What we are witnessing is the unraveling of imperialist power. The very brutality required to maintain the colonial project undermines its legitimacy. The more Israel bombs, the more the world sees it for what it is: not a democracy defending itself, but a settler state sustained by massacre.

Global public opinion has shifted decisively. Millions have marched in solidarity with Palestine, and governments once afraid to speak now move to recognize Palestinian statehood. Even within Israel, the legitimacy of the Netanyahu regime is eroding. The prime minister who sought to destroy Hamas may instead go down as the man who broke Zionism.

Beyond the rubble

Amid the ruins of Gaza, something remarkable endures: not just survival, but defiance. Every rebuilt home, every tunnel dug, every act of mutual aid is a declaration that Palestine will not disappear.

This endurance carries a larger meaning. If Gaza – besieged, starved, and bombed by the most powerful militaries on earth – can continue to resist, then the entire architecture of U.S. imperialist power is more fragile than it appears. The "unsinkable aircraft carrier" is taking on water, and no amount of weapons or propaganda in the U.S. arsenal can keep afloat a racist settler colony that has lost its legitimacy and faces growing resistance both locally and globally. #

Rechazan la militarización yanki para agredir a Venezuela

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El presidente terrorista estadounidense Donald Trump, en su locura criminal de atentados contra Venezuela, ha invadido nuestro territorio con armamentos militares, usando nuestras costas para los ejercicios de su nefasto ejército de agresión.

Somos desgraciadamente todavía, una colonia de ese nefasto imperio, y tenemos una gobernadora arrodillada a los pies de su amo gringo. La gobernadora Jenniffer González, que vergonzosamente ha bienvenido a esas tropas yankis.

Así que desde este archipiélago borinca, queremos dejar claro que ¡la “gobernadora” Jenniffer González NO NOS REPRESENTA!

Y condenamos sus pronunciamientos errados, mentirosos y criminales contra nuestro país hermano Venezuela, y su presidente Nicolás Maduro Moros, heredero de los más altos valores de Humanidad del Siempre Presente Comandante Eterno, Hugo Chávez Frías.



Un manifestante sostiene un cartel que dice en español: “No a la militarización de Puerto Rico” durante una protesta frente a la Base de la Guardia Nacional Aérea Muñiz en Carolina, Puerto Rico, el domingo 7 de septiembre de 2025.

González, aliada y admiradora del racista Trump, ha seguido y obedecido todas sus pautas y de esa forma ha actuado traidoramente en contra de los intereses del mismo pueblo boricua que lo que quiere es la Paz en la región del Caribe.

Rechazamos la militarización gringa de nuestro país, y seguiremos manifestándonos semanalmente en contra de la agresión a Venezuela, tal y como lo hicimos en el pasado cuando el pueblo entero sacó a la Marina de Guerra estadounidense de los terrenos de la isla municipio de Vieques.

Y prometemos continuar esta tarea pendiente de descolonización para ser al fin un país independiente y soberano para que no se nos utilice como base de agresión contra pueblos hermanos.

¡Viva Venezuela!

¡Viva la solidaridad internacional!

¡Fuera gringos del Caribe!

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



Lucha ambiental en PUR

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

En días recientes, el sector defensor del ambiente en Puerto Rico se apuntó una victoria parcial en esta gran batalla para proteger nuestro territorio y nuestras costas.

Y es que en Cabo Rojo, en el suroeste de Puerto Rico, unas firmas extranjeras han concebido un plan nefasto llamado Proyecto Esencia, para crear una ciudad lujosa y exclusiva en esa costa. Ahí quieren construir residencias y hoteles súper lujosos, campos de golf, aeropuertos y entre otras cosas, hasta escuelas privadas para sus hijos millonarios.

Todo esto sin el consenso de la población del sector que el 50% vive debajo del nivel de pobreza.

Sin embargo, aún antes de que se construya, los contratistas y las firmas foráneas del mega proyecto ya han recibido créditos contributivos del gobierno de Puerto Rico, por cerca de \$500 millones de

dólares, más exenciones en una serie de patentes y contribuciones locales.

Y sin mencionar el grandísimo daño al ambiente que ese proyecto conllevaría. Esa área está supuestamente protegida por el Departamento de Recursos Naturales por tener sistemas de acuíferos, manglares, salitrales y de vida silvestre de gran valor ecológico. El proyecto también intenta ignorar el límite marítimo terrestre al construir estructuras en áreas donde peligraría cualquier construcción en un evento

de altas mareas. Además, ya hay problemas por no haber suficiente agua potable disponible para los residentes que viven en el área. El otro problema es que el proyecto cerraría el acceso del público a las playas y por ley, en Puerto Rico, todas las playas son públicas.

Pero el trabajo incesante de los grupos defensores

del ambiente, agrupados en la Coalición Defiende a Cabo Rojo, han dado al traste con el intento de los desarrolladores que han estado favorecidos por la administración de la gobernadora derechista y Trumpista Jeniffer González.

Así que el pasado 10 de octubre, el Departamento de Recursos Naturales notificó que se deja sin efecto la certificación para el Proyecto Esencia porque los informes que sometieron fueron defectuosos. Es decir que contenía información manipulada, términos mal utilizados y argumentos sin base ni fundamentos.

Sin embargo, la lucha no termina porque los contratistas querrán seguir con el proyecto. Pero hay un sector cada vez mayor del pueblo que rechaza estos robos de su patrimonio. #



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