

# U.S. Christmas bombing of Nigeria to reassert control in West Africa

By Gary Wilson

On Christmas Day 2025, while much of the world marked a religious holiday, U.S. warplanes carried out airstrikes in Nigeria's Sokoto State. Washington described the operation as a precise counter-terrorism mission against ISIS-linked fighters, framed as an urgent response to attacks on Christian communities.

That explanation conceals the real political meaning of the strikes. Far from a limited security action, the bombing represents a renewed intervention by U.S. imperialism aimed at reasserting control over West Africa – using military force to discipline states, secure access to resources, and contain the spread of anti-imperialist independence movements in the Sahel.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and largest

*Continued on page 2*



Map of Nigeria highlighting Sokoto State, site of U.S. Christmas airstrikes, and Zamfara State, a neighboring region affected by ongoing violence in northwest Nigeria.



**Lee Patterson ¡Presente!**



**EXPOSING OAKLAND AIRPORT'S MILITARY CARGO SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL**



Trump's primetime rant: lies, racism, and crisis at the top

Community aids elder hit by speeding Baltimore cop

U.S. pushing Pacific region toward war

Immigrant youth lead anti-ICE protests in south Louisiana

Blockade and plunder: Trump war on Venezuela

USS Intrepid: Dominican invasion & Venezuela threats

Baltimore Activists confront Trump at Army-Navy game

ICE at union picket line, threatening all workers

U.S. loses its chip war on China

Only U.S. imperialism benefits from Thailand-Cambodia war

Greta Thunberg arrested in Britain as Palestine Action prisoners starve



# U.S. Christmas bombing of Nigeria

*Continued from page 1*

economy, is central to this effort.

## Counter-terrorism a weapon of imperialism

U.S. military operations in Africa are routinely justified as counter-terrorism. In practice, they function as tools of imperialist domination.

Nigeria's armed forces have struggled for years to suppress armed groups in the northwest and northeast. By intervening directly with airpower, Washington presents itself as indispensable to Nigeria's internal security. That dependence is then converted into political influence. Military assistance becomes a means of shaping state policy in ways favorable to U.S. power and Western capital.

Security cooperation under imperialism is never neutral. It binds the recipient state more tightly to U.S. military command structures, intelligence networks, and strategic priorities, limiting its ability to act independently.

## Why Sokoto matters

The location of the strikes is not incidental. Sokoto State lies near Nigeria's border with Niger, one of three Sahel countries – along with Mali and Burkina Faso – whose governments have moved to break from decades of U.S. and French military control.

These states expelled Western troops, rejected foreign-directed counter-insurgency programs, and asserted greater control over their own security and economic decisions. This process is often misdescribed as a “geopolitical realignment.” In reality, it is a struggle for national independence against imperialist neocolonial domination.

From the standpoint of U.S. imperialism, such independence poses a threat not because of who these governments cooperate with, but because they have challenged the assumed right of Western powers to dictate military and economic policy across the region.

## Preventing Nigeria from breaking ranks

The U.S. airstrikes signal an effort to ensure Nigeria does not follow the same path.

Nigeria has expanded economic cooperation with China and sought development arrangements that reduce reliance on Western lenders and corporations. More importantly, Nigeria's size and regional weight mean that any decisive move toward greater independence would weaken imperialist control across West Africa.

By embedding itself more deeply in Nigeria's security apparatus, the United States aims to lock Nigeria more firmly into an imperialist alignment. Security assistance becomes conditional: Continued U.S. support depends on political obedience and continued openness to Western capital. This is not a partnership between equals. It is the use of military power to enforce hierarchy.

## Oil, minerals – economics of domination

Nigeria remains central to imperialist interests because of its resources. In 2023, oil and gas exports generated more than \$45 billion in revenue. The United States is Nigeria's largest export market, absorbing over \$6 billion in goods annually.

Under imperialism, “stability” means uninterrupted extraction of oil and minerals, secure transport routes, and a political order that protects foreign corporate profits. Military intervention is justified as preventing chaos, but in reality it preserves the conditions under which wealth produced in Nigeria is transferred outward to imperialist corporations and financial institutions.

This pattern is familiar. Across the Global South, U.S. military force has repeatedly been used to secure favorable conditions for energy companies, mining firms, and banks – while local populations remain impoverished and politically constrained.

African critics have drawn direct parallels to U.S. policy toward Venezuela, where sanctions and threats of force were justified as humanitarian measures while targeting control over oil revenues.

## Sovereignty reduced to formality

Inside Nigeria, the strikes provoked sharp criticism.

Human rights lawyer Dele Farotimi described the operation as a violation of sovereignty, accusing Nigeria's ruling elite of complicity. U.S. officials initially claimed the strikes were carried out “at the request of” Nigerian authorities, a phrase later revised to “in coordination with.”

The distinction is revealing. When foreign warplanes strike targets on Nigerian soil and the terms of consent remain deliberately vague, sovereignty exists largely as a legal form rather than a material reality.

## Religion as pretext, not cause

The Trump administration framed the strikes as a defense of Christians against ISIS militants. Conditions on the ground tell a different story.

Armed groups in northern Nigeria have targeted Muslims and Christians alike. Communities of all faiths have suffered. The violence is driven by poverty, displacement, land conflict, criminal networks, and decades of state failure – conditions rooted in underdevelopment shaped by imperialist extraction and political interference.

Reducing this crisis to a religious narrative serves U.S. domestic politics and obscures the social causes of violence. It also provides moral cover for expanding U.S. military operations without addressing the material conditions that fuel instability.

## Nigeria as an imperialist proxy

Beyond Nigeria itself lies a wider imperialist calculation.

U.S. imperialism has long relied on regional proxies – states strong enough to project force locally but dependent enough to remain subordinate. The Sokoto airstrikes suggest renewed efforts to cast Nigeria in this role: a regional enforcer tasked with containing the spread of anti-imperialist independence in the Sahel.

Under this arrangement, Nigeria need not formally wage war. Its role is to host U.S. force-

*Continued on page 3*

## Struggle-La Lucha

Subscribe  
and/or  
donate



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

[facebook.com/strugglelalucha](https://facebook.com/strugglelalucha)

[twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha](https://twitter.com/StruggleLaLucha)

[info@struggle-la-lucha.com](mailto:info@struggle-la-lucha.com)

## CONTACT STRUGGLE-LA LUCHA

Atlanta

[Atlanta@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Atlanta@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Baltimore

[Baltimore@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Baltimore@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Boonville, Indiana

[Boonville@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Boonville@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Boston

[Boston@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Boston@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Denver

[Denver@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Denver@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Detroit

[Detroit@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Detroit@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Los Angeles

[LA@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:LA@struggle-la-lucha.org)

New Orleans

[NOLA@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:NOLA@struggle-la-lucha.org)

New York City

[NYC@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:NYC@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Orlando, Florida

[Orlando@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:Orlando@struggle-la-lucha.org)

San Diego

[SanDiego@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:SanDiego@struggle-la-lucha.org)

Washington, D.C.

[DC@struggle-la-lucha.org](mailto:DC@struggle-la-lucha.org)





Protesters lined the road outside the Army–Navy game, holding a banner reading ‘Trump out now! No war on Venezuela, Free Palestine’ as President Donald Trump arrived by helicopter and entered the stadium under heavy security.

SLL photos: Sharon Black

# At Army–Navy game, activists confront Trump over Venezuela

By Sharon Black

Baltimore, Dec. 13 – Activists shifted the spotlight from the pageantry of the Army–Navy game, using Donald Trump’s attendance as a platform to center a powerful demand: “No war on Venezuela.”

Hundreds lined the streets outside the stadium where Trump was scheduled to appear, unfurling banners that read, “No war on Venezuela and Palestine” and “No to ICE – Money for jobs, education, and health care.”

Andrew Matatag, representing the publication Struggle-La Lucha, drew a sharp contrast. “Almost every police agency on record – from the Secret Service to Homeland Security – is amassed here today to protect Trump,” he said. “Meanwhile in Venezuela, President Maduro freely appears and speaks in community meetings with residents, including our own reporter, John Parker.”

“We saw the helicopters that transported Trump to Fort McHenry before he was whisked away to some back door of the stadium – far away from our demands to address

Baltimore’s need for adequate food, housing, and jobs,” declared Colby Byrd, who led chants through a megaphone. “Instead, we see trillions for the Pentagon.”

Protesters noted the sparse mainstream media coverage but were energized by the unity and spirit of the diverse groups who braved the cold to ensure their opposition was heard.

The demonstration was organized by the Peoples Power Assembly, Free State Coalition, Indivisible, and the Struggle for Socialism Party.

## U.S. Christmas bombing

*Continued from page 2*

es, coordinate operations, and provide African political cover for interventions designed elsewhere.

### Imperialism versus independence

The Christmas Day airstrikes are not an isolated incident. They are part of a broader effort by U.S. imperialism to halt the erosion of its control over Africa.

As more states seek to reclaim sovereignty after decades of neocolonial domination, imperialism responds not with development or democracy, but with coercion. Counter-terrorism becomes the justification. Security cooperation becomes the mechanism. Independence becomes the threat.

What is unfolding in Nigeria is not a contest between abstract “global powers.” It is a struggle between imperialism and the right of oppressed nations to determine their own future.

That is the real meaning of the U.S. airstrikes – and the stakes for West Africa. #







Left, ICE Commander Gregory Bovino likes to make public appearances as the face of Trump's deportation campaign. When he showed up at the predominantly Mexican American neighborhood of Little Village neighbors and activists blew whistles and shouted. Right, protester Levi Rolles had welts across his back after federal agents shot him with pepper balls.

Photo: Colin Boyle/Block Club Chicago

# ICE targets Chicago union picket line, threatens all workers

By Lallan Schoenstein

It's no secret that Trump's attack on immigrants threatens all workers and their right to organize for better working conditions. Bob Reiter, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, said Border Patrol agents questioned striking laborers on Chicago's Southwest Side and accused ICE Commander Gregory Bovino of "coming to our picket line to chill union activity."

ICE Commander Bovino often appears as the public face of Trump's deportation campaign. On Dec. 16, he – along with a squad of masked agents – pulled up to a Teamsters Local 705 picket line in Chicago and asked a worker if he was a U.S. citizen. The union was on strike at Mauser Packaging Solutions to demand decent pay.

Nicolas Coronado, an attorney for the Teamsters, said that the Mauser workers had been trying to negotiate immigration-related protections in their next contract, including a stipulation that the company would not allow Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers on the property unless they had a judicial warrant.

"We know in many cases, the feds. ... they come in with just an administrative warrant and try to muscle their way in," he said. "We saw it as a way to partner with the company to safeguard [workers'] rights. The company wanted none of that."

The U.S. National Labor Relations Act stipulates the right to act with co-workers to address

work-related issues. This includes talking with co-workers about wages and working conditions and participating in a concerted refusal to work in unsafe conditions. The Act states: "Your employer cannot discharge, discipline, or threaten you for, or coercively question you about, this 'protected concerted' activity."

Union attorney Coronado said: "It was very clearly protected concerted activity, and [agents] took it upon themselves to start asking [the workers] and interrogating them about their status."

A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson claimed Bovino was telling the workers that it was not the boss but their co-workers who were to blame for starvation pay.

In this ridiculous and racist response, the DHS claimed that the union's characterization of the encounter was "not true. During immigration enforcement operations in Cicero, the U.S. Border Patrol. DHS said that Chief Bovino engaged in a cordial conversation with them, explaining how 'illegal aliens' actually lower American wages. Nobody was interrogated or laughed at. In fact, no arrests were made."

It certainly wasn't cordial to ask for proof of citizenship and then attack those who might not be able to provide it. In fact, it was more than just menacing. The DHS statement becomes clearer with a closer look at ICE Commander Bovino.

Bovino himself could be part of the laughing stock of the Trump regime if its crimes weren't so grave. He often appears on television and

in news interviews to promote Trump's crack-down on immigrants. He speaks out to provoke attacks on immigrant workers and defend the brutal ICE raids across the country.

Bovino arrived in Chicago in September with ICE's "Operation Midway Blitz." Thousands of arrests were made, fueling terror in immigrant communities. Resistance from the community was met with rubber bullets, chemical weapons like pepper balls, and car chases. Since it began, federal agents have shot at least two people, killing one.

Activists in Chicago have been fighting back against the ICE raids for months with massive protests. They roused their neighborhoods with whistles and shouts, at times wrestling neighbors back from the clutches of ICE. Demonstrations were held at ICE headquarters every week after Operation Midway Blitz began.

The protests grew, and the immigration raids were set back. They were noticeably subdued, with fewer confrontations.

Bovino left Chicago in November to command raids in New Orleans, Louisiana, and North Carolina. On Dec. 15, Bovino and the other agents were seen taking photographs of license plates and knocking on doors in Kenner, a town close to New Orleans.

Then, in mid-December, Bovino returned to Chicago. At a news conference, activists said they will continue to defend immigrant communities. They said 15 people, including day laborers and a tamale vendor, were detained on Dec. 16 in the city's Southwest Side and in suburban Berwyn and Cicero.

"We are tired but we are not weary," said Illinois State Sen. Celina Villanueva. "Every single time that they come, we are going to show up."

Victor Rodriguez II, a lifelong resident of Little Village, said he helped a woman when her husband was detained after a "caravan of masked agents began terrorizing our community," including using pepper balls in neighborhood streets. Rodriguez accused Bovino of "targeted political theater." #

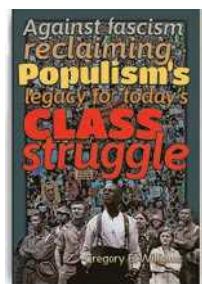
**Against fascism** ▶ Populism: progressive farmers' movement of 1890s  
**RECLAIMING** ▶ Contemporary trans struggle  
**POPULISM's** ▶ The Silicon Valley-MAGA connection  
**legacy for today's** ▶ Legacy of Jena Six  
**class struggle** ▶ Abortion rights movement in the South  
 ▶ Real motives of right-wing governors  
 ▶ Fight against KKK leader David Duke

Gregory E. Williams

tinyurl.com/  
Populism-book



Also: Vince Copeland's historic pamphlet  
 'SOUTHERN POPULISM AND BLACK LABOR'



# Immigrant youth lead anti-ICE protests in south Louisiana

By Gregory E. Williams

Kenner, Louisiana, Dec. 13 – Around 75 people rallied for immigrants' rights along busy Williams Boulevard in Kenner. This Jefferson Parish town is about 30% Latine and has become a focal point of Donald Trump's ICE invasion.

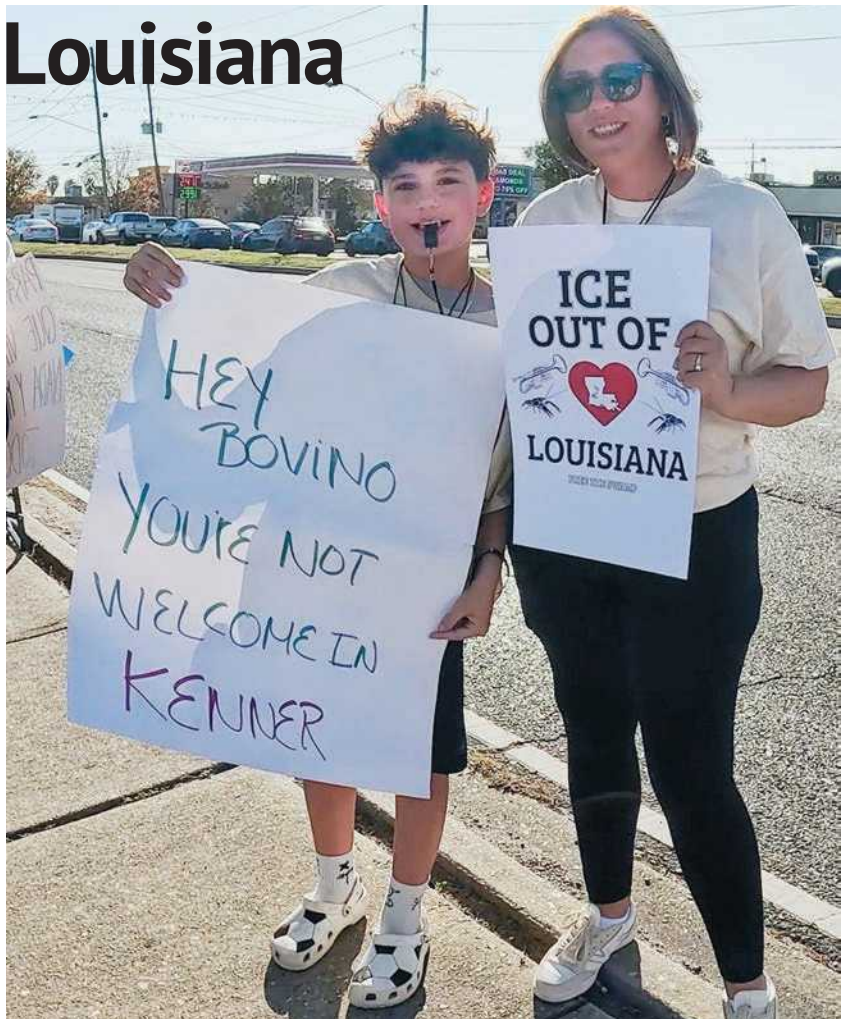
The diverse crowd stayed out for over two hours. Youth played a prominent role, often leading chants and keeping the energy up. One of the most popular chants was simple and direct: "¡ICE fuera!" or "ICE out!" The response from passing drivers was overwhelmingly positive.

When asked who organized this action, several people said that community members who are not known activists were the driving force, putting out the call because they are ready to fight back. New people are being drawn into the struggle.

But several organizations participated. These include Unión Migrante, New National Christian Leadership Movement, and the Louisiana branches of Freedom Road Socialist Organization and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

At least two additional anti-ICE demonstrations happened today within New Orleans city limits. And about 40 miles northeast of New Orleans in the town of Slidell, dozens protesting against ICE terror lined Gause Boulevard near the intersection with Front Street. They did the same yesterday and plan to be out again tomorrow. As in Kenner, youth are playing a leading role. A participant told SLL:

"Both sides of the street were filled. ... It was great to see those kids out protesting. Even though my mom heart felt very protective." #



Anti-ICE protesters lined Williams Boulevard in Kenner.

SLL photos: Gregory E. Williams

## LOVE IS THE LAW Cuba's Queer Rights Revolution

Gregory E. Williams

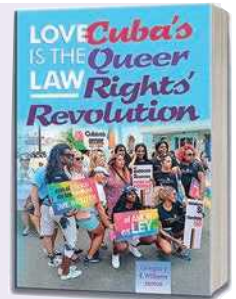
[tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw](https://tinyurl.com/Cuba-LoveisLaw) [tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEistheLAW](https://tinyurl.com/Read-LOVEistheLAW)

### What you'll find in this book

A chronicle of Trump's return, presenting the incredible danger of fascist rule. This is the government that cruelly keeps Cuba on the terrorist list and under economic blockade. Together with its Zionist appendage, it is committing genocide against the Palestinian people. Cuba doesn't bomb anybody. Cuba sends doctors.

- The process of winning approval of the Families Code referendum. Cuban writers are included and a webinar discussion on: "What We Can Learn from Cuba's 'Code of Freedom' for Families;
- Reports from the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Cuba;

- Reports from Cenesex – the National Center for Sex Education / Centro Nacional de Educación Sexual director Mariela Castro Espín
- Cenesex has been at the center of gender and sexual liberation in the country, an international hub, facilitating exchanges between activists, academics, researchers and progressive religious groups.
- The full text of Leslie Feinberg's '**Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba**' and more.



**China: Building Socialism in an Imperialist World** is a report on how over a billion people are building a socialist society inside a world dominated by imperialism.

The report shows how socialist construction created the foundations of modern China: state ownership of key sectors of industry, technology and banking, planning, broad participation, universal education and healthcare, and an industrial base able to withstand pressure from the capitalist powers.

China: Building Socialism in an Imperialist World offers a clear, direct account of how socialism is built in real conditions — and why that process continues to shake the world system shaped by imperialism.





# Trump's primetime rant: lies, racism, and crisis at the top

By Gary Wilson

Dec. 18 – On a Wednesday night, with just hours' notice, Donald Trump seized the airwaves for an 18-minute primetime address. Major networks cut away from scheduled programming – including the live finale of *Survivor*. Speculation spread across media and political circles about what could justify such an abrupt interruption. Some wondered if it signaled a major policy shift or even a declaration of war on Venezuela.

What followed was neither policy nor clarity. It was a frantic, angry, fact-free tirade that alarmed even sections of the political establishment – not because of what Trump announced, but because of how he delivered it and what it revealed about a presidency struggling to contain deepening crisis.

## A performance that alarmed even allies

In moments like this, presidents are expected to project control. Trump did the opposite.

He tore through more than 2,600 words in 18 minutes – roughly double his usual pace. The delivery was widely described as manic, rushed, and angry, as if he were chasing text racing ahead of him. One observer said it looked like the teleprompter was running at triple speed and Trump was barely keeping up.

The display was disturbing enough that CNN medical analyst Dr. Jonathan Reiner, a former cardiologist to Dick Cheney, publicly said Trump appeared “unwell.” Presidential addresses are staged to project steadiness. This one projected volatility.

Some commentators have speculated that Trump may be exhibiting symptoms consistent with white matter disease – a condition that can strip away social and political filters and intensify long-standing personality traits. This remains speculation, not diagnosis. But Trump's publicly released medical reports omit brain MRI results. As one analyst put it bluntly: Withholding them raises serious questions.

Whatever the explanation, the political reality was clear. The head of the U.S. state apparatus appeared visibly out of control.

## A speech built on economic falsehoods

The stated purpose of the address was to sell an economic success story. Trump claimed inflation had been crushed, prices were falling, jobs were booming, and foreign capital was flooding into the country.

None of it holds up.



Gas prices remain near \$3 a gallon nationally, food costs continue to squeeze working-class households, and unemployment has climbed to a four-year high as layoffs continue to mount – the opposite of the boom he claimed.

It was a wholesale rewriting of economic reality – an attempt to deny the widening gap between official claims and working-class life.

## Racism and fascism as political strategy

Fact-checking, though, misses the point. The speech's core was scapegoating.

Trump described immigration as an “invasion by an army of 25 million people,” claiming migrants came from prisons and “insane asylums” to “prey on Americans.” This language is deliberate. It mirrors classic fascist rhetoric, which portrays a nation as a pure body under attack by criminal outsiders and promises salvation through repression and violence.

Trump has repeatedly referred to immigrants and political opponents as “animals,” “vermin,” and “the enemy from within.” This language prepares the ground for state violence, mass detention, and the suspension of basic rights – especially as economic conditions worsen.

Racism here is not a distraction; it is a tool. Layoffs have surged – more than a million since Trump took office – while housing, food, and health care costs remain punishingly high. Jobs disappear while prices rise, even as corporate profits and military spending are protected. Rather than confront these contradictions, the administration redirects anger downward, toward immigrants and communities of color.

Trump's attack on the Somali community in Minnesota was especially telling, echoing earlier remarks widely interpreted as threatening Rep. Ilhan Omar. Instead of addressing why working people cannot afford rent or groceries,

Trump and his billionaire buddies don't seem to care about the Main Street recession. About 1.17 million jobs were cut in the first 11 months of 2025, during Trump's time in office, with more than 15,000 store closures. Bankruptcies are rising fast and are at their highest levels since 2010.

he offered a familiar racist answer: scapegoating immigrants and communities of color.

## A speech born of desperation

Behind the scenes, the address appears less strategic than panicked. It came just hours after *Vanity Fair* published a profile of Trump's chief of staff, Susie Wiles, quoting her describing Trump as having an “alcoholic's personality,” judging people by their “genes,” and dismissing Vice President JD Vance as a conspiracy theorist. The backlash inside MAGA circles was swift.

According to journalists present afterward, Trump admitted Wiles told him he had to give the speech. He then asked her, “How did I do?” Even close allies reportedly found the address baffling – not the move of a leader acting from strength.

Meanwhile, material conditions continue to undercut the White House's claims. Unemployment is rising. Household costs remain high. Wages lag behind prices. A Reuters / Ipsos poll showing just 33% approval of Trump's economic handling reflects lived reality, not a messaging problem.

## What the interruption really revealed

This address will not be remembered for policy or persuasion. It will be remembered as a moment when the mask slipped.

It revealed a president visibly unstable, a speech built on falsehoods, an administration leaning ever harder on racist and fascist scapegoating, and a ruling apparatus acting out of panic rather than strength.

For working people, the lesson is clear. When those at the top cannot resolve capitalism's crises, they turn to lies, fear, and division. Our task is not to be distracted by the spectacle, but to organize against the system that produced it – and against the dangerous politics now being used to defend it. #



Our next issue will feature tributes to Comrade Lee Patterson & his legacy of struggle for working-class and oppressed people.

**COMRADE LEE iPRESENTE!**

# Community runs to aid of older woman hit by speeding Baltimore cop

By Colby Byrd

Baltimore, Dec. 17 – Today, an older woman was hit by a speeding Baltimore City cop. This reckless violence happened right by the Lexington Market subway station. People around the area who watched the accident say the woman was sent sliding across the street.

The community quickly rushed to aid her, but were met by armed police pushing them away. The cops attempted to put up crime scene tape to separate the people from the older woman.

However, the community, who vastly outnumbered the police, quickly broke through the tape barrier, moving in closer to film the incident and question the cops. BPD met them with immediate hostility, even though the crowd was solely focused on ensuring the safety of the older woman whom BPD nearly killed.

This life-threatening incident comes just months after Baltimore cop Robert Parks was seen in a viral video chasing a person with a police cruiser in late October. Parks has been charged with second-degree attempted murder, first- and second-degree assault, and reckless driving.

This incident also occurred only six months after Bilal Abdullah was brutally murdered by the BPD. In both the Bilal tragedy and this attack near Lexington Market, police imme-



Bystanders quickly came to the aid of an older woman hit by a speeding cop near the Lexington Market subway station in Baltimore.

diately met a grieving community shaken by such acts of violence with more immediate threats of violence and the erection of barriers and barricades.

What played out near Lexington Market follows a well-known pattern: militarized forces treating civilian spaces as hostile territory.

That same pattern has been seen when Israeli occupation forces use tanks, bulldozers,

and military vehicles against Palestinians, and when U.S. troops in Iraq used armored vehicles to intimidate, force civilians off the road, or run them down in the name of “security.”

Incidents like what happened near Lexington Market today are sadly normal in Black communities, and it is only through smashing the racist systems of this country that we end the systemic death of Black Baltimore. #





Interior minister and PSUV leader Diosdado Cabello leading a mass demonstration in Caracas on Nov. 25, 2025.

Photo: Francisco Trias

# Blockade and plunder: Trump escalates war on Venezuela

By Gary Wilson

On Dec. 16, the Trump administration announced a “total and complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers going into, and out of, Venezuela.” This act of war represents a major escalation in Washington’s campaign to overthrow the government of President Nicolás Maduro and seize control of Venezuela’s vast oil reserves and other natural resources.

In his announcement on social media, Trump declared that Venezuela is “completely surrounded by the largest Armada ever assembled in the History of South America,” threatening that “it will only get bigger, and the shock to them will be like nothing they have ever seen before.”

The administration demanded that Venezuela “return” its oil, land and other assets to the United States – a grotesque claim that exposes the purely colonial nature of this military campaign. Venezuela has stolen nothing from the United States. What the administration calls “theft” is simply Venezuela’s lawful assertion of sovereignty over its own natural

resources and its refusal to allow U.S. corporations to control its economy.

Trump designated the Venezuelan government a “Foreign Terrorist Organization,” dispensing entirely with earlier pretenses that the military campaign aims to combat drug trafficking. This is naked imperialism: Washington demanding that a sovereign nation hand over its resources at gunpoint.

## Massive military buildup

The Pentagon has deployed more than 15,000 troops, a dozen warships including the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford, F-35 stealth fighters and EA-18G Growler electronic warfare jets to the region. This represents the largest U.S. military mobilization in the Caribbean since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

The administration has already established a de facto blockade. U.S. forces seized a Venezuelan oil tanker last week and have killed at least 95 people in 25 separate strikes on boats since early September. On Dec. 15 alone, the military announced strikes on three more vessels in the Eastern Pacific, killing eight people.

The most brutal of these attacks occurred

on Sept. 2, when U.S. forces carried out four separate strikes on a single vessel. The first strike killed nine people on board. As the smoke cleared, two survivors clung to the hull of the capsized boat. A second strike deliberately killed both survivors. The third and fourth strikes sank the vessel.

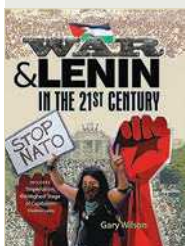
Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who was reported to have issued a verbal instruction to “kill everybody,” has refused to release video footage of this massacre, citing “long-standing Department of Defense policy” against releasing classified operational footage.

## Economic warfare

A naval blockade constitutes an act of war under international law. The blockade announcement aims to cut off Venezuela’s primary source of revenue by preventing overseas oil sales, primarily to China. Venezuela holds the world’s largest proven oil reserves – more than 300 billion barrels.

The economic strangulation is already taking effect. Following last week’s tanker seizure, four supertankers originally headed for Venezu-

*Continued on page 9*



## WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Gary Wilson

Updated to include U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering. Included is V.I. Lenin’s pamphlet ‘Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism,’ written in 1916. Vladimir Lenin, revolutionary leader and later head of the Soviet Union, was a key contributor to Marxist theory.

His pamphlet remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin’s time, the book concludes that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their needs.



Paperback or kindle  
at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)



# USS Intrepid: From Dominican invasion to Venezuela threats

By Stephen Millies



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

In New York, a protest denouncing attacks on Venezuela was held by the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier docked on the Hudson River.

New York City, Dec. 20 – Activists denounced Trump’s attacks on Venezuela today in a protest at the USS Intrepid aircraft carrier docked on the Hudson River in Manhattan. The Saturday afternoon action was initiated by the newly formed RESO Resistance Solidarity and was supported by the Puerto Rican Independence Party and the December 12th Movement.

RESO declared that “the recent murderous attacks by the U.S. military on fishing boats off the coast of Venezuela and the Trump administration’s threatening words and actions against the Venezuelan government represents a threat to the Venezuelan people and peace in the Caribbean and Latin America.”

RESO also denounced the Pentagon’s use of the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean countries in its war preparations.

The protest targeted the Intrepid aircraft carrier because it was used in the U.S. invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965. Just as President Johnson opposed the democratically elected Dominican President Juan Bosch, so does Trump want to kick out the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro.

The aircraft carrier was also used in the dirty war against Vietnam. Now a museum and tourist trap, it’s used to promote war and military spending.

RESO can be contacted at 917-497-4231. U.S. hands off Venezuela! #

## Trump escalates war on Venezuela

*Continued from page 8*

ela reversed course. Venezuela’s supply of dollars – almost all tied to crude sales – has fallen 30% in the first 10 months of 2025. Annual inflation is expected to top 400% by year’s end.

### Colonial plunder strategy

These threats against Venezuela form part of a broader imperialist strategy outlined in the administration’s National Security Strategy released last month. The document proclaims a “Trump Corollary” to the Monroe Doctrine, declaring that the United States will “deny non-Hemispheric competitors the ability to ... own or control strategically vital assets, in our Hemisphere.”

The strategy explicitly identifies Latin America’s “strategic resources” – including oil and critical minerals – as targets for “acqui-

sition and investment opportunities for American companies.” This is colonial plunder presented as national security policy.

### Bipartisan war drive

Both major parties support this march to war. The Democratic Party has refused to oppose the administration’s preparations for regime change. When asked about opposing regime change in Venezuela, the Senate Democratic leadership expressed support for Maduro’s ouster, merely wishing he would “flee on his own.”

Last week, Democratic and Republican congressional leadership joined together to pass the largest military budget in U.S. history – over \$1 trillion when combined with supplemental funding. A House vote is scheduled for Dec. 18 on a war powers resolution that

would require congressional authorization before launching war on Venezuela, but passage appears unlikely given bipartisan support for regime change.

### Venezuela responds

The government of President Nicolás Maduro has mobilized its military in response to Washington’s warmongering, denouncing Trump’s announcement as a “grotesque threat” aimed at “stealing the riches that belong to our homeland.”

The Venezuelan people have every right to defend their sovereignty and their resources. Working people in the United States must oppose this criminal war drive and stand in solidarity with Venezuela and all of Latin America against U.S. imperialism’s campaign to reduce the entire hemisphere to colonial domination. #

# How the U.S. lost its chip war on China

By Gary Wilson

When the White House quietly approved renewed exports of Nvidia's H200 AI accelerators to China – with a 25% fee attached – it marked more than a policy adjustment. It marked the effective collapse of Washington's semiconductor containment strategy.

After years of escalating export controls, sanctions, and alliance pressure, the United States is now conceding what the chip war made clear: China cannot be technologically frozen, and U.S. monopoly control over advanced technology is no longer enforceable.

According to Bloomberg, the decision was driven by internal concern over Huawei's accelerating progress in AI hardware and systems. The administration framed the move as a way to preserve U.S. "tech stack dominance," but the reality is more revealing.

Washington is retreating from an unwinnable attempt to enforce technological monopoly control, while trying to slow China's exit from U.S.-controlled software ecosystems, especially Nvidia's CUDA platform.

This was never about national security. It was always about preserving imperialist monopoly power.

## From "Pivot to Asia" to technology war

The semiconductor war did not emerge overnight. It is the culmination of a decade-long imperialist containment strategy aimed at China's rise. The Obama administration's 2011 "Pivot to Asia" laid the groundwork, repositioning U.S. military forces around China while signaling the end of unconditional economic engagement. What began as military encirclement soon expanded into economic and technological warfare.

Under Trump, that shift became explicit. Tariffs were imposed. Chinese technology firms like Huawei and ZTE were sanctioned. Access to critical components was cut off. Under Biden, the same strategy was deepened and systematized. Export controls widened. Military alliances such as AUKUS and the U.S.-Japan-South Korea pact fused technological restrictions with strategic encirclement. The semiconductor industry became the central front.

Publicly, these measures were justified as defensive. In practice, they were aimed at preserving the monopoly foundations of the im-

perialist system. For decades, U.S. power rested on its ability to dominate new technologies long enough to extract enormous super-profits before competitors could catch up. China's rapid movement into advanced manufacturing, telecommunications, renewable energy, and AI threatened to close that monopoly window.

The chip war was launched to keep it open.

## Weaponizing the global supply chain

Washington's strategy relied on turning the global semiconductor supply chain into a weapon. Because the U.S. historically dominated chip design, software, and key intellectual property, it believed it could enforce obedience far beyond its borders.

Export controls targeted advanced AI processors such as Nvidia's H100 and H200. The Foreign Direct Product Rule asserted U.S. control over foreign-made products that rely on U.S. technology, forcing companies like TSMC and ASML to comply or lose access to critical tools and markets. Allies were pressured to abandon profitable Chinese markets. Scientific collaboration was restricted. Investment flows were blocked.

The globalized system of production – once celebrated as efficient – was transformed into a gated hierarchy with Washington as rule-maker and

enforcer. But this strategy carried an internal contradiction. The same interdependence that gave the U.S. leverage also made it vulnerable to blowback.

That blowback came quickly.

## China's response

China did not respond to the chip war with panic or retreat. It responded with long-term planning tied to production. The confrontation exposed a fundamental clash between two systems: monopoly-finance capitalism and state-led socialist development.

In the United States, AI became a speculative asset. Investment was driven by hype, stock prices, and Pentagon contracts. In China, AI was treated as infrastructure – something to be integrated into manufacturing, logistics, energy systems, and national planning.

Huawei's progress illustrates this difference. Its Ascend 910C chips are not replicas of Nvidia's best products, but they are increasingly competitive. The CloudMatrix 384 system compensates for efficiency gaps through scale and coordination, deploying 384 chips

in tightly integrated clusters. Huawei has successfully substituted quality (Nvidia's superior individual chips) with quantity (CloudMatrix's massive chip clusters), resulting in a system performance that approaches Nvidia's best in key workloads.

This is not engineering shaped by quarterly profit targets. It is capacity built through long-term state planning and coordination.

U.S. officials reportedly concluded that Huawei could produce millions of Ascend accelerators within a few years. That realization stripped export controls of their force. Instead of stopping China's advance, containment sped the drive toward domestic production.

## The second China shock

The consequences extend far beyond semiconductors. China's advance represents a second China shock. The first, beginning in the 1990s, followed China's integration into global supply chains, when U.S. and multinational capital reorganized production internationally – entire industries relocated, millions of jobs disappeared, and working-class communities in the United States were devastated. This second phase marks a break from that pattern. It is centered on China's own advanced industrial and technological development, not on serving as a manufacturing platform for Western capital.

Chinese firms now lead or dominate in key sectors once assumed to be permanent strongholds of imperialist capital. Huawei in telecommunications. BYD in electric vehicles. CATL in batteries. DJI in commercial drones. Tongwei in solar manufacturing. They strike directly at the monopoly profits that sustained Western dominance.

According to data released on Dec. 1 by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, Chinese institutions now lead research output in 66 of the 74 critical technologies it tracks – nearly 90% of the fields assessed. The United States leads in only eight. China's research dominance spans areas central to modern industrial power, including nuclear energy, synthetic biology, small satellite systems, and cloud and edge computing.

This represents a reversal from the early 2000s. At that point, U.S. institutions led the overwhelming majority of advanced research fields, while China accounted for only a small fraction. Over the past two decades, that balance has flipped. China's lead in cloud and edge computing, in particular, reflects the priority placed on deploying AI at scale – integrating research directly into production, logistics, and infrastructure rather than treating it as a standalone laboratory exercise.

This is why the chip war mattered. It was never just about semiconductors. It was about

*Continued on page 11*



Technician works inside a large server installation. As U.S. export controls targeted advanced chips, China expanded domestic computing capacity through scale, coordination, and long-term planning rather than reliance on U.S.-controlled technology.



# U.S. escalates military buildup across the Pacific, pushing region toward war

By Gary Wilson

At a Pentagon meeting on Dec. 10, U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and his counterparts from Australia and Britain pledged to move “full steam ahead” with AUKUS, a trilateral military pact through which the United States is turning Australia into a forward operating base and nuclear-submarine hub for a potential war on China.

In a joint statement, the three governments made clear the pact is about accelerating war preparations – building bases faster, expanding military staffing and pushing weapons development at full speed.

The announcement came as the United States deployed a pair of nuclear-capable bombers to patrol the Sea of Japan, escorted by Japanese fighter jets.

One day earlier, on Dec. 9, China and Russia carried out their 10th joint air patrol. The operation involved Russian and Chinese bombers, escorted by fighter jets and early-warning aircraft, flying over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea. The formation passed through the Miyako Strait, a narrow gap between Okinawa and Miyako Island that serves as one of the main exits from China’s coastal waters into the Pacific.

The Miyako Strait matters because China’s long coastline does not actually open directly onto the Pacific Ocean. Instead, China’s coast borders a series of shallow, semi-enclosed seas – the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea and the South China Sea – that are hemmed in by a chain of islands controlled by U.S. allies. Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines form what U.S. military planners call the “first island chain,” a barrier separating China’s coastal waters from the deep ocean beyond.

## U.S. chip war

*Continued from page 10*

whether the United States and other imperialist powers could still decide who builds the most advanced technology, who gets access to it, and who does not.

The answer is no. The ability to plan, scale up production, and put technology to work now lies outside their control.

### Blowback at home and abroad

The attempt to weaponize global production inflicted serious damage on the United States itself. Reshoring initiatives faltered. TSMC’s Arizona fab – marketed as a symbol

*Continued on page 12*



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth meets with Australia’s Defense Minister Richard Marles and Britain’s Defence Secretary John Healey at the Pentagon on Dec. 10 as the three governments plot war preparations through the AUKUS military pact.

Photo: U.S. War Department

To reach the open Pacific, Chinese ships and aircraft cannot simply head east. They must pass through a small number of narrow gaps in this island chain. The Miyako Strait – a wide passage between Okinawa and Miyako Island – is one of the few routes large military formations can use without entering another country’s territorial waters. The corridor is international waters, even though the surrounding islands are controlled by Japan.

That makes the strait a choke point. When Chinese forces pass through it, they are not violating any law. They are moving from shallow coastal waters into deep ocean – the same waters U.S. submarines and carrier groups routinely operate in. U.S. and Japanese forces monitor these passages closely because control of them allows Washington and its allies to contain China’s navy close to its coast and limit its ability to operate beyond the region.

This is why flights and patrols through the Miyako Strait draw such attention. They are treated as extraordinary not because they are illegal, but because they challenge a military setup designed to keep China boxed in while U.S. forces move freely across the Pacific.

For Washington, this is also why AUKUS matters: Nuclear-powered submarines based in Australia are meant to operate on the far side of this island barrier, reinforcing U.S. control of the deep Pacific while keeping China’s navy confined close to its coast.

Japanese officials denounced the joint China-Russia air patrol as a “demonstration of force,” even though it was a routine operation – the 10th such patrol the two countries have conducted together. The flight remained in international airspace, along routes regularly used by U.S. bombers near China’s coastline. U.S. bombers fly these routes routinely without controversy. When China and Russia do the same, it is treated as a threat and used to justify more U.S. military deployments.

Washington’s answer came the following day. Two nuclear-capable B-52 bombers were deployed to the Sea of Japan, escorted by Japanese fighters, in an operation Japan’s Defense Ministry described as a warning against challenges to the “status quo” – meaning continued U.S. military dominance in the region.

Earlier this month, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi declared in parliament that a conflict over Taiwan – which is part of China under international law and the One China policy – would constitute an “existential threat” to Japan, effectively aligning Japan’s government with U.S. preparations for military confrontation with China. Beijing condemned the statement as interference.

The danger does not come from any single patrol, but from the political shift by the U.S. Earlier this year, the U.S. State Department removed the phrase “we do not support Taiwan independence” from official policy statements, signaling a shift away from even rhetorical adherence to the One China framework. Combined with Japan’s declaration that Taiwan constitutes an “existential threat,” Washington and Tokyo are moving toward military intervention over Taiwan – steps that sharply raise the risk of war.

These developments in Northeast Asia are tied directly to events further south. AUKUS is part of the same buildup. Announced in 2021 as a security partnership, it has become a channel for pouring government money into militarization. Australia alone has committed an estimated \$368 billion to the pact over its lifetime – far more than it spends on housing, health care or climate protection – with Washington now demanding even higher military spending.

Chinese leaders have described this strategy as “containment, encirclement and suppression” – a description borne out by the expanding bases, bomber patrols and alliance commitments now taking shape across the Pacific. #

# Only U.S. imperialism benefits from

By Lev Koufax

Dec. 20 – Intense fighting has again erupted along the roughly 500-mile border between Thailand and Cambodia, marking the second major outbreak of hostilities between the two countries in 2025.

Since February, clashes between the two armies have become increasingly frequent, first escalating into full-scale combat on July 24. That round of fighting lasted four days and included air strikes, artillery exchanges, and sustained small-arms fire across the border. Dozens of soldiers and civilians were killed, and tens of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes.

Hostilities again intensified on Dec. 8 and continue as this article is being written.

The current escalation is significantly more severe than the July fighting. Over the past week, Thai Royal Air Force jets have carried out large-scale air strikes on Cambodian military installations. Both governments accuse the other of

targeting civilian areas with long-range missile systems. Fighting continues along much of the border, driving a growing refugee crisis.

## Conflict rooted in colonial rule

Mainstream media and official commentary often portray the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia as the result of ancient, unchangeable hostilities. The fighting is frequently reduced to a territorial dispute over the Preah Vihear temple, an ancient Hindu site near the border. Reducing the conflict to an ancient temple dispute hides its real origins.

While Thailand and Cambodia do dispute the precise location of their border, the disagreement is rooted in colonial boundaries, not ancient ones. France and Britain carved up much of the Indochinese peninsula in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, dividing the region with little regard for existing kingdoms, ethnic territories, or historical claims.

The 1896 Anglo-French Declaration effectively split mainland Southeast Asia into

spheres of influence, with the Mekong River serving as the primary dividing line. This agreement treated the entire region as colonial property to be parceled out between European powers.

Thailand, never formally colonized, functioned as a buffer state between British-ruled Myanmar and French-ruled Cambodia. Britain exercised substantial diplomatic and economic influence over Thailand, using it as a counterweight to French power in the region.

Thai kings were forced to cede territory, sign unequal treaties, and grant extraterritorial rights to European powers in exchange for maintaining nominal independence. This “independence” came at a steep price: Thailand lost significant territory to both French Indochina and British Burma through a series of coerced agreements.

French colonial rule in Cambodia was marked by repression and systematic resource extraction. The colonial administration

*Continued on page 13*

## How the U.S. lost its chip war on China

*Continued from page 11*

of “tech sovereignty” – became a case study in dysfunction, plagued by delays, disputes with U.S. unions over staffing, training, and work practices, and soaring costs. Engineers ultimately had to be flown in from Taiwan to retrain U.S. workers on basic fabrication protocols, exposing the lack of a trained industrial workforce after decades of deindustrialization.

Allied governments and corporations were forced into impossible positions. Companies in South Korea, Japan, and Europe were compelled to sacrifice profits and market access in China for a strategy that primarily served U.S. geopolitical aims. Rather than consolidating control, Washington imposed real economic costs on allied states and corporations, forcing them to absorb losses in markets, supply chains, and investment.

Globally, countries began diversifying away from U.S.-controlled supply chains. The open weaponization of technology made clear that dependence on U.S. systems carried political risk. Claims of a “rules-based order” rang hollow when rules were rewritten at will.

Inside the U.S., the policy fueled a growing military-digital complex. Government money flowed to tech monopolies and defense contractors while social needs went unmet. Even Biden warned of the emergence of a new military-tech complex, in which Big Tech is fused with the armed and intelligence apparatus, concentrating technological and coercive power.

The chip war did not revive U.S. industry. It exposed its fragility.

## Nvidia, CUDA, and a strategic retreat

This is the context in which the Nvidia decision must be understood. Allowing H200 exports to China is not a clever compromise. It is a retreat shaped by failure.

Washington is trying to keep Chinese AI firms tied to Nvidia’s CUDA software, slowing the shift toward domestic and open-source alternatives such as Huawei’s CANN. By blocking access to Nvidia’s newest Blackwell chips while allowing sales of the H200, the U.S. is holding back the most advanced hardware while maintaining dependence on U.S.-controlled systems.

Yet even this goal is tenuous. Chinese firms have already demonstrated the ability to train highly capable AI models with fewer resources. Systems such as DeepSeek matched the performance of leading U.S. models by emphasizing training efficiency and better use of available hardware rather than sheer computing scale, undercutting the assumption that restricting access to top-tier chips would halt progress. As domestic hardware continues to improve, software dependence will erode as well.

U.S. export controls were meant to slow China’s access to large-scale AI computing power long enough to give U.S. firms a decisive head start. But China continued advancing anyway – through domestic chip development, scale, and more efficient use of computing resources.

As that gap narrowed, the value of strict controls became increasingly uncertain. Faced with the prospect that the restrictions might not stop China but would certainly cut off U.S. corporate profits, Washington chose to reopen exports. In doing so, it accepted a weaker, less durable form of influence in exchange for continued market access.

## The end of monopoly enforcement

The chip war’s outcome is now clear. The United States did not fail because of a single mistake. It failed because the strategy itself was flawed. Imperialist monopoly capitalism cannot outplan a system organized for long-term development. Coercion cannot substitute for production. Sanctions cannot replace planning.

By attempting to freeze China’s development, Washington accelerated it. By weaponizing interdependence, it undermined its own position. By prioritizing monopoly profits, it weakened its industrial base.

The reopening of Nvidia exports is not a reset. It is an acknowledgment that the old model of technological domination no longer works. The era when the United States could dictate the terms of global technological development through choke points and monopolies is ending.

What comes next will not be decided by chips alone. It will be decided by which social system can organize production, labor, and technology to meet real needs over time. On that terrain, the chip war has already delivered its verdict. #



# Thailand-Cambodia war

*Continued from page 12*

transformed Cambodia into an economic appendage of France, exploiting its agricultural wealth, labor, and natural resources.

The border region between Cambodia and Thailand is rich in rice, fisheries, timber, gemstones, and – more recently – oil and gas. In the early 20th century, France used diplomatic pressure to impose a series of treaties on Thailand, transferring large areas of territory to French-controlled Cambodia.

The 1904 and 1907 Franco-Siamese treaties were particularly significant, forcing Thailand to relinquish provinces including Battambang, Siem Reap, and Sisophon – areas that had been under Siamese control or influence for generations. These colonial-era agreements, drawn up in Paris and imposed on the region, form the basis of today's boundary dispute.

The colonial powers drew borders with deliberate imprecision in certain areas, creating zones of ambiguity that could be exploited later. Maps produced by French colonial cartographers often differed from agreed treaty language, and the location of watersheds and mountain ranges – used as boundary markers – remained disputed. This was not accidental. Ambiguous borders served colonial interests by keeping local populations divided and dependent on European arbitration.

France ruled Cambodia for nearly 90 years, until independence in 1953. British-colonized Myanmar gained independence in 1948, and Thailand asserted greater formal autonomy during the same period. Yet imperialist influence did not disappear.

The United States, alongside former colonial powers France and Britain, has maintained neocolonial relationships with all three countries through economic investment, military aid, and regional security arrangements. The withdrawal of formal colonial administration did not erase the borders, economic structures, or political divisions that colonialism created – divisions that continue to generate conflict today.

## Imperialism sows chaos

Today, imperialist powers are less likely to launch large-scale invasions than to fuel instability through proxy wars, economic pressure, and military escalation. This can be seen in Ukraine, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Libya, Bolivia, Honduras, and Guyana.

The hand of U.S. imperialism can be clearly seen in the conflict between Thailand and Cambodia. The U.S. has no interest in peace between these countries. Instead, Washington seeks to counter China's growing economic influence in Southeast Asia by flooding the re-



Refugees flee fighting along the Cambodia-Thailand border. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced while U.S. weapons manufacturers profit from both sides.

gion with U.S. weapons and military advisors. The result is instability, conflict, and war – weakening both countries while U.S. weapons manufacturers profit.

The post-pandemic years have seen economic developments in Southeast Asia that run counter to U.S. imperialist goals. First, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has consistently grown its GDP and regional diplomatic influence since the easing of the COVID pandemic in 2022.

Second, China has played a major role in ASEAN's economic growth. The China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement was updated in 2025 to deepen trade ties through joint investment in e-commerce and AI. The updated agreement was signed in October of this year and is in part a response to growing U.S. tariffs.

Third, Thailand has been diversifying its military suppliers, with a recent surge in purchases of tanks and armored vehicles from China.

Thailand practices a “balancing act.” While they bought Chinese tanks, they recently purchased U.S. Stryker infantry carrier vehicles and continue to fly U.S. F-16s. They are actively trying to ensure they are not dependent on any single country – China or the U.S.

In response to these developments, the U.S. has intensified its military and economic presence throughout the region. Washington has deepened military ties with both Thailand and Cambodia in recent years, selling weapons to both sides and conducting joint military exercises with each country. For a relatively transparent summary of U.S. goals in the region, read the testimony of Barbara Weisel before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, titled “Building Bridges, Countering Rivals: Strengthening US-ASEAN Ties to Combat Chinese Influence.”

All of this points to a deliberate U.S. strategy: Flood the region with weapons, deepen military ties with both sides, and create the conditions for conflict. War may be good for U.S. billionaires and their benefactors, but it

is terrible for everyone else it touches. Societies find incredible difficulty in establishing healthy economic and political life while embroiled in war. This is a stick that the U.S. has used consistently and effectively for years to weaken its enemies and open markets to its predatory investment.

## War profits

Whenever a war erupts – such as the one between Thailand and Cambodia – workers should ask: Who benefits?

The answer to this question is certainly not Cambodia or Thailand. Both countries will face the awful toll of war. This imperialist-fueled conflict will mean death, destruction, and underdevelopment for both countries.

Prolonged conflict could mean economic collapse. Factories will close. Agricultural production will fall. Trade will decline.

Both countries buy weapons from foreign arms dealers, with U.S. companies like General Dynamics, Lockheed Martin, and Raytheon supplying both sides. Neither country manufactures its own tanks, jets, or artillery. Every bomb dropped and every bullet fired means more profits for U.S. weapons manufacturers.

Only U.S. imperialism benefits from war between Thailand and Cambodia.

Donald Trump has claimed that the United States is committed to peace in the region. At a recent rally, he declared, “I’m going to make a phone call and stop a war of two very powerful countries. We’re making peace through strength.”

This is empty talk. War is unpopular with most in the U.S., including parts of Trump's own base that are weary of “entanglement in foreign conflicts.” But Trump's talk about peace does not change the fact that U.S. weapons manufacturers will make billions from this war.

Just like in Ukraine and Syria, the people of Thailand and Cambodia will suffer while billionaire shareholders in New York and Washington grow richer from war. #

# Greta Thunberg arrested as Britain lets Palestine Action prisoners starve

By Gary Wilson

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg was arrested in London on Dec. 23 under Britain's Terrorism Act for holding a placard in support of imprisoned Palestine Action activists on hunger strike. Her arrest has drawn global attention to a rapidly escalating crisis inside Britain's prisons, where activists opposing Israel's arms supply chain are risking death after months of detention without trial.

Thunberg was detained during a protest outside the London offices of Aspen Insurance, a company that provides mandatory insurance services to Elbit Systems, Israel's largest weapons manufacturer. Without such coverage, Elbit cannot legally operate its arms factories in Britain. Protesters sprayed red paint on the building to symbolize bloodshed in Gaza. Two others were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage.

Police confirmed that Thunberg was arrested not for property damage, but for "displaying an item in support of a proscribed organization," namely Palestine Action. Her placard read: "I support Palestine Action prisoners. I oppose genocide."

Under Section 13 of the Terrorism Act 2000, displaying a sign that authorities claim "arouses reasonable suspicion" of support for a banned organization carries a potential sentence of up to six months in prison.

## A hunger strike born of prolonged detention

The protest Thunberg joined was organized in solidarity with Palestine Action members imprisoned awaiting trial and engaged in a rolling hunger strike that began in early November. At least eight activists initially took part. As of late December, several have been refusing food for more than 50 days.

Seven of the eight original hunger strikers have been hospitalized at least once. Their conditions have steadily deteriorated.

Amu Gib, now past day 50, was hospitalized after becoming unable to walk without a wheelchair. Kamran Ahmed, 28, has lost more than 30 pounds since entering prison and has been hospitalized with chest pains, high ketone levels, and slurred speech. Teuta Hoxha is suffering from constant headaches and severe mobility issues and can no longer stand for prayer.

More than 800 doctors, nurses, and health professionals have signed an open letter warning that the prisoners face imminent risk of



Activist Greta Thunberg joins a protest outside the offices of Aspen Insurance and holds a sign saying 'I support Palestine Action prisoners, I oppose genocide' on Dec. 23, 2025, in London.

organ failure, irreversible neurological damage, and death. Physicians note that serious brain damage can begin after 35 days without food and that death may occur between 60 and 70 days – or sooner.

Despite the medical emergency, the British government has refused all requests from lawyers and family members to meet or intervene.

## Held without trial for years

The hunger strikers' demands are straightforward: immediate bail, fair trials, an end to censorship of their prison communications, the removal of Palestine Action from the government's terrorism list, and the closure of Elbit Systems' operations in Britain.

Supporters argue these demands are rooted in basic legal rights. Although standard pre-trial custody limits in Britain are six months, several Palestine Action prisoners will have been held for more than a year before their cases are heard.

Kamran Ahmed's trial is not scheduled until June 2026. Teuta Hoxha has been on remand since November 2024 and will not face trial until April 2026. Amu Gib, already detained for more than 170 days, is not expected to be tried until 2027.

The charges relate to property damage and protest actions targeting Elbit Systems sites and RAF Brize Norton. None involves injury to any person.

## Terrorism laws turned on protest

The legal basis for this crackdown was laid in July 2025, when the government formally proscribed Palestine Action as a terrorist organization. It was the first group banned under a provision of the Terrorism Act that defines "serious damage to property" as terrorism – even in the absence of violence against people.

Since the ban, more than 2,700 people have been arrested in connection with Palestine Action, including roughly 2,000 accused merely of expressing support. Holding a placard, wearing a badge, or posting a message online can now trigger arrest.

The proscription is currently under judicial review in the High Court following a legal challenge by the group's founder, Huda Ammori.

## Targeting the arms supply chain

At the center of the confrontation is Elbit Systems, which produces the vast majority of Israel's drones and land-based military equipment. Palestine Action's campaign has focused on disrupting Elbit's factories in Britain and the corporate infrastructure that allows them to operate.

Aspen Insurance has become a focal point because it provides Elbit's legally required employer liability insurance. #

**FREE PALESTINE ACTIVISTS ON HUNGER STRIKE: AMU GIB, KAMRAN AHMED, TEUTA HOXHA !**



# Embargo movement exposes Oakland airport's role in weapons shipments to Israel

By Lallan Schoenstein

Unions and community organizations demonstrated at the Port of Oakland on Dec. 18 as part of an ongoing campaign to demand an embargo on the shipment of weapons to Israel from both the city's sea port and air port (OAK).

The Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), in coordination with The People's Embargo for Palestine (PEP), released a report titled "Exposing Oakland's Military Cargo Shipments to Israel" last August. They were horrified to discover that Oakland, California, a city with a progressive history of solidarity with Palestine, had become one of the most frequent departure points for shipping F-35 bomber components to Israel.

The report details FedEx's routine shipments of components for the Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jet to Israel's Nevatim Air Base. It describes OAK as a "dependable conduit for critical military technologies," concluding "beyond a reasonable doubt that military cargo being shipped out of OAK has been used by the Israeli Air Force to carry out airstrikes and commit genocide in Gaza."

"At the same airport where we pick up and send off our loved ones, bomb droppers and surveillance systems for the lethal F-35 jet are being loaded and transported to Israel," said Aisha Nizar of the Palestinian Youth Movement. "Oakland's central role in the global F-35 supply chain was concealed from its union members, educators, city officials, and residents, and is now indisputable. Serving as a hub for military cargo to Israel is an attack on everything this city stands for."

According to their research, the shipments included bomb release units for 2,000-pound bunker-busters, guidance systems, and targeting components – all transported through civilian infrastructure.

The revelation was particularly shocking because Oakland passed one of the first ceasefire resolutions in November 2023, and International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 has long refused to handle Israeli military cargo at the maritime port.

Clarence Thomas, a lifelong resident of Oakland and a retired member of the ILWU Local 10, said at the Dec. 18 protest: "For three generations, my family has made their living working the docks at the Port of Oakland. As an executive board member of the ILWU San Francisco Pensioners, I am here today, speaking in support of the Oakland People's Arms

Port of Oakland, Dec. 18 – Union and other activists protested against the shipment of weapons to Israel.



Embargo to demand that the port of Oakland halt the transportation of military materials to Israel, facilitating the genocide, displacement, and human suffering of the Palestinian population in Gaza.

"ILWU Local 10 has a long history of taking solidarity actions in support of workers and people fighting against oppression. Nelson Mandela, speaking at the Oakland Coliseum in 1990 before 60 thousand people, acknowledged that Local 10 refused to unload South African cargo for 11 days in 1984, contributing to the success of the anti-apartheid struggle.

"This history has served as the foundation for Local 10's Palestinian solidarity actions for 'Block the Boat' by not crossing picket lines of AROC and the Palestinian Youth Movement protesting ZIM shipping lines.

"As a radical trade unionist, I believe that 'Peace is Union Business,' which is why I'm lending my voice to stopping the Port's complicity in genocide. That makes the Port of Oakland junior partners, with the defense contractors, who are benefiting from the killing of our sisters and brothers in Gaza.

"These defense contractors include: Lockheed Martin, which Supplies F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, Hellfire missiles, and components for other systems used in airstrikes; Boeing, which provides F-15 fighter jets, Apache helicopters; General Dynamics, which produces metal bodies for MK-80 series bombs and artillery shells used in Gaza.

"This explains why the Port wanted to keep

the supply chain deal for the Oakland Airport transporting weapons of war materials to Israel hidden from the public. No transparency, no democracy, just complete the blood money deal. No one has to know. Well, guess what? Now we know and we want it to stop!! STOP the Genocide! FREE FREE PALESTINE!"

The People's Embargo for Palestine has built strong roots in the Oakland labor movement, where, along with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10, others have pledged support, including: UNITE HERE Local 2; United Auto Workers Region 6; Oakland Education Association; California Faculty Assoc.-San Francisco State University, SEIU Local 1938; National Organization of Legal Service Workers, UAW Local 2320; Adjuncts Come Together – United Auto Workers, Local 7902; Bay Area Legal Aid Workers, UAW Local 2320; Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific – San Francisco region; California Nurses Association; Service Employees International Union (SEIU) LOCAL 1021; Berkley Federation of Teachers; Greenliners United – UAW; Local 2103; UAW Local 2350; United Educators of San Francisco (UESF); Labor for Palestine National Network; Trabajadores Unidos Workers United; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees – Local 3299

Contact The People's Embargo for Palestine (PEP):

[oakland@armsembargonow.com](mailto:oakland@armsembargonow.com)

[#">https://www.embargoforpalestine.com #](https://www.embargoforpalestine.com)



San Juan, 17 de diciembre – el colectivo activista Se Acabaron Las Promesas se manifestaron contra la presencia militar de EUA en Puerto Rico y los ataques del imperio Yanqui contra Venezuela. El lema principal de esta campaña es: “¡Fuera Yanquis de Nuestra América!”

# No a la re-militarización de Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Ya estamos a las puertas de un nuevo año, y para el pueblo boricua significa una renovación de nuestra lucha por la independencia y soberanía para que con nuevos bríos retomemos a la vez, la batalla contra la militarización de nuestro archipiélago.

En el año 2003 pudimos sacar a la fuerza naval más poderosa del mundo, a la Marina de los EUA. Luego de 4 años de lucha incesante donde todo el pueblo, independientemente de sus creencias políticas, se unió valientemente, enfrentando palizas y arrestos por parte de las fuerzas de seguridad gringas. Un pueblo unido, decidido a cerrar las bases que almacenaban todo tipo de armas mortales y practicaban su terrorismo bombardeando las playas cristalinhas de nuestra pequeña isla de Vieques, sembrando dolor, enfermedades y muertes en esa población. El pueblo dijo “¡Basta!” Y lo logró.

Ahora, con su nueva versión de la Doctrina Monroe, pero con la adición de la nueva tecnología bélica, el imperio pretende utilizarnos nuevamente para atacar países hermanos. Principalmente a Venezuela con el objetivo de apropiarse primordialmente de sus recursos energéticos. Y para eso, están llenando nuestra Isla Grande, Puerto Rico, de tropas, armamentos y vehículos militares tanto terrestres, como marinos y aéreos para entrenar a su ejército de muerte.

Y no se circunscriben a sus bases militares que desgraciadamente aunque algo inactivas, aún tienen regadas por nuestro territorio, sino que practican en todo el terreno que les convenga. Sin permiso, sin disculpas, sin piedad a sus residentes. Lo hacen porque pueden. Porque en el 2015, en un caso jurídico de doble exposición, donde se discutía si a una persona se le puede juzgar por el mismo crimen en cortes federales estadounidenses y en cortes

puertorriqueñas, la Corte Suprema de los EUA dejó claro que PR le pertenece a, pero no es parte de los EUA. O sea, que para quienes aún pensaban en la falacia del Estado Libre Asociado como un estado en colaboración con los EUA, tuvieron que despertar a la realidad de que somos una colonia clásica del siglo pasado. Sin derechos ni autonomía.

Así que la única forma de detener el abuso de los gringos, es la independencia.

Mientras tanto, se organizan manifestaciones en solidaridad con Venezuela a la vez que se seguimos con nuestra lucha centenaria por la liberación definitiva.

¡Fuera gringos del Caribe!

¡Venezuela se respeta!

¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

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



# No to the re-militarization of Puerto Rico

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

We are now on the threshold of a new year, and for the Puerto Rican people, it means a renewal of our struggle for independence and sovereignty. With renewed vigor, we may resume the battle against the militarization of our archipelago.

In 2003, we were able to expel the most powerful naval force in the world, the U.S. Navy, after four years of relentless struggle. The entire population, regardless of political beliefs, bravely united, facing beatings and arrests at the hands of U.S. security forces. The people were determined to close the bases that stored deadly weapons and from which the Navy bombed the pristine beaches of our small island of Vieques, sowing pain, disease, and death among its inhabitants. The people said, “Enough!” And they succeeded.

Now, with its new version of the Monroe Doctrine, but with the addition of new military technology, the empire intends to use us again to attack sister nations. Primarily Venezuela, with the main objective of seizing its energy resources. And for that purpose, they are filling our island, Puerto Rico, with troops, weapons, and military vehicles – land, sea, and air – to train their army of death.

And they don't limit themselves to their military bases, which, unfortunately, although somewhat inactive, are still scattered throughout our territory, but rather they operate wherever they please. Without permission, without apologies, without any regard for our residents. They do it because they can. Because in 2016, in a double jeopardy case in which the issue was whether a person could be tried for the same crime in U.S. federal courts and Puerto Rican courts, the U.S.

Supreme Court made it clear that Puerto Rico belongs to but is not part of the U.S. In other words, those who still clung to the fallacy of the Commonwealth as a state in collaboration with the U.S. had to wake up to the reality that we are a classic colony from the last century. Without rights or autonomy.

So the only way to stop the abuse by the gringos is independence.

Meanwhile, demonstrations are being organized in solidarity with Venezuela while we continue our century-long struggle for definitive liberation.

Gringos out of the Caribbean!

Venezuela must be respected!

Long live a free Puerto Rico! #

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