



U.S. gov't cops rip up international law Invade Venezuelan embassy

What's at stake?

By Cheryl LaBash

On the morning of May 16, multiple Washington, D.C., and federal police agencies broke into Venezuela's Embassy through the basement garage. Equipped with battering rams, sledgehammers, wrecking bars and an army of police, some in flak jackets, others in shirt sleeves, they set a dangerous precedent by violating long-established international conventions protecting embassies in countries where diplomatic relations have been broken.

The fight to stop the U.S.-based, regime-change coup attempt in Venezuela, to stop the starvation sanctions on the people of Venezuela imposed by the U.S. government, is growing. On May 18, a major mobilization defending Venezuela's sovereignty will gather at the now-vacant embassy in Washington. On May 19, the Rev. Jesse Jackson will return to the embassy to launch a new anti-war movement.

Although the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela repeatedly stated that the Venezuela Embassy Protection Collective had the government's permission to be in the building, U.S. police agencies removed and arrested the four representatives of the collective on May 16. In fact, President Nicolás Maduro has ordered additional protection for the U.S. Embassy in Caracas after the violation of its embassy. Arrested were Dr. Margaret Flowers, David Paul, Kevin Zeese and Adrienne Pine. Still in jail, Pine published an article explaining why an educator was protecting the Venezuelan Embassy. In the article, she shows the similarities and outcome of the 2009 U.S. coup in Honduras with what is being attempted by the U.S. and its elites in Venezuela.

Vienna Convention bars entry of embassy premises

Article 22 of the Vienna Convention of 1961 clearly bars agents of the receiving state — in this case the U.S. — from entering embassy premises without the consent of the head of mission and is under special duty to protect the premises from intrusion, damage and disturbance.

The multiple police agencies of Washington, D.C., looked the other way — violating the Vienna Convention prior to the May 16 incursion — while what can only be described as a well-scripted mob blockaded the Venezuelan Embassy while members of the Embassy Protection Collective were inside. The mob smashed basement windows attempting to break into the building on behalf of U.S.-sponsored agent Juan Guaidó.

They blocked food deliveries and stole food packages. Police actively assisted by cutting ropes lowered from the embassy's second story windows to bring in donated food. Although the actual Venezuelan government had paid all utility bills, electricity and water were turned off by the electric utility Pepco working



Above, Embassy protectors who have been arrested are Kevin Zeese, David Paul, Adrienne Pine, and Dr. Margaret Flowers.

On May 13 police cut locks and chains on front door, but retreated.



with police agents. Service was reconnected on May 16.

On May 15, the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. delivered four bags of food, water and pre-charged telephone batteries to the Venezuelan Embassy for the collective blockaded inside. Although it took a struggle to break through the police-supported interference, all four bags were successfully lifted by rope. Unlike May 13, when police cut the ropes, they did not interrupt the effort this time. Instrumental defense came from Black Alliance for Peace members.

The Vienna Convention was established in 1961. Why was it proposed and agreed to? A global anti-colonial struggle raged at that time. The former colonial and imperialist powers sought to protect their installations against the Cuban Revolution, wars of independence in Vietnam, Algeria, Congo and more. Today, with capitalism at a dead end and in decline in the U.S. and Europe, they seem willing to jettison this agreement.

New public housing in Venezuelan

At a time when across the U.S. poor and working-class people find affordable housing beyond their reach, slowly crushed by austerity plans that enrich the 1%, Venezuela, like Cuba, shows that another, better world for all can be won. Bolivarian Venezuela's Great Housing Mission just reached 2,633,521 homes built and handed over to new residents. At an average of four people per home, that's over 10.4 million people in a country of roughly 32 million who now live in dignified public housing that became theirs at no to low cost.

Sharon Black from the Baltimore People's Power Assembly, who was outside the embassy in solidarity with the Embassy Protection Collective, said, "This is why all people struggling to live in this heartland of international capitalism have a stake in defending Venezuelan sovereignty." 📌

Inside

- Sandra Bland
- Odessa massacre anniversary
- Who pays Trump's tariffs
- Blood, oil & Iran
- U.S. bombing of China's embassy
- Havana May Day
- May Day 2019

#StopTheBans
We're the majority — and we're NOT going back.

RALLY FOR ABORTION RIGHTS
TUESDAY MAY 21, 12PM

Protect Roe
NARAL PRO-CHOICE WASHINGTON

#StopTheBans protests to defend reproductive rights

Supporters of reproductive rights are fighting back against the latest wave of attacks on reproductive rights by organizing nationwide protests and boycotts of states that have passed restrictive laws to challenge the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade ruling.

Just days after the governors of Alabama and Georgia signed off on "atrocious" abortion bans, a coalition of reproductive justice, women's rights, and progressive groups announced #StopTheBans protests on Tuesday, May 21.

"Across the country, we are seeing a new wave of extreme bans on abortion, stripping away reproductive freedom, and representing an all-out assault on abortion access," says the coalition's website, www.stopabortionbans.org. "This is Trump's anti-choice movement... and it's terrifying, particularly for women of color and low-income women who are most affected by these bans."

The website promises, in response to the recent anti-choice measures, "we will show up to speak out and fight back against this unconstitutional attempt to gut Roe and punish women. Politicians shouldn't be making decisions best left to women, their families, and their doctors."

Organizers of the #StopTheBans protests include the National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, International Women's Health Coalition, NARAL, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Council of Jewish Women, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Planned Parenthood Action Fund. 📌



Anti-war vigil on May 19

SLL PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Protest actions in solidarity with Venezuela

On May 18, hundreds gathered outside the White House in Washington, D.C., to protest the US government's seizure of the Venezuelan embassy and the arrest of four activists who resided in the diplomatic facility as guests of the Venezuelan government. The protesters initially gathered in front of the Venezuelan embassy and then marched on the White House.

The next day, Rev. Jesse Jackson led an anti-war vigil outside the Venezuelan embassy, targeting U.S. military operations against Venezuela, Iran, Yemen, Afghanistan, Libya and Korea. Rev. Jackson said: "We must fight for peace in order to achieve justice and equality." 📌



PHOTO: PLANNEDPARENTHOODACTION.ORG

4 years after mysterious death

Sandra Bland's phone provides answers

By Lallan Schoenstein

Sandra Bland was arrested in Prairie View, Texas, in July 2015. She was driving on a rural road traveling to a new job at her alma mater, Prairie View A&M, a historical Black university after a holiday visit with her family in Naperville, Ill.

State Trooper Brian Encinia pulled Bland over because he claimed she had failed to put on her turn signal while changing lanes to let his vehicle pass. The blurry police car dash-cam recorded a terrifying confrontation where Bland ended up face down on the ground with Encinia's knee in her back. Ms. Bland was booked and placed in the one-story Waller County Jail, where three days later she was found hanged in her cell.

The scenes from the dash-cam video, which became viral, along with the questionable jailhouse report of her "self-inflicted" death, created a storm of international outrage. In the subsequent investigation and hearing the only evidence was the dash-cam and a video shot by a bystander.

Four years later, on May 6, 2019, the Dallas television station WFAA broadcast for the first time a video that Sandra Bland made with her cellphone from inside her car. Bland had recorded the behavior of the state trooper who pulled her over.

The video begins as Texas State Trooper Brian Encinia orders Bland to put out her cigarette.

BRIAN ENCINIA: Get out of the car now.

SANDRA BLAND: Why am I being apprehended? You're trying to give me a ticket for failure to signal?

ENCINIA: I said get out of the car.

BLAND: Why am I being apprehended? You just opened my car door.

[The cell phone video shows Trooper Encinia pulling his Taser from his holster and thrusting it in Bland's face.]

ENCINIA: I am going to drag you outta here.

BLAND: So you're going ... You're threatening to drag me out of my own car?

ENCINIA: Get out of the car!

BLAND: And then you gonna stun me?

ENCINIA: I will light you up! Get out!

[The new account given by Bland's cell phone video reveals the face of this towering and armed rage in uniform, screaming with the vitriol of centuries of racist and sexist hatred. Now, everyone can see what Bland saw. She didn't cower or lose self-control. In fact, she demanded to know on what grounds she was being arrested. Not having a reason, Encinia refused to tell her.]



Bland's video show Encinia thrusting taser in her face

The cell phone video provides Bland's first-person account, giving substance to the data missing from the trooper's dash-cam recording that was released soon after Bland's death.

The only criminal charge filed after Bland's death was one of perjury against Encinia. He was accused of falsifying his police report about what happened during the traffic stop.

Because the dash-cam in his car proved this to be untrue, he was charged with perjury. In 2017, that charge was dropped and he signed an agreement saying that he would never work in Texas law enforcement again.

These agreements don't hold much weight. Waller County Sheriff Glenn Smith, whose department oversees the jail (and oversaw the subsequent investigation into Bland's death), had previously been fired from his job as the chief of police in Hempstead, the city in which the jail is located, over allegations of police misconduct, including racism.

In the U.S., where Black people face criminalization, racial profiling and violence at the hands of the law, police officers rarely face criminal charges or jail time for murder. Racism in the U.S. is so endemic that all a police officer has to do to justify killing a Black person is to claim she or he acted in self defense. "The legal standard for police to justifiably use deadly force varies from state to state, but is basically whether a "reasonable" officer would do the same in that same situation, rather than whether the victim actually posed a real threat." (CNN May11, David Love)

Bland's family is calling for authorities to reopen the investigation into her death. Her mother, Geneva Reed-Veal, doesn't believe that Bland would have ever taken her own life.

According to Houston Public Media, it was when the WFAA reporter Brian Collister realized the family had not seen the cell phone recording that he decided to make it public. (NPR May 7) Bland's family believes the video was intentionally not made public. They see the disclosure made by cell-phone video as an opportunity to reopen the case.

Sandra Bland's unsolved death has been a rallying cry of the movement against police brutality. In response, the news media scrutinized every detail of her private life in an effort to create a defense for the trooper who attacked her. A familiar racist deluge attempted make a fact out of the lie

that she was instrumental in her own destruction.

The racism and sexism exposed in her case begins early in the lives of African-American women. A National Women's Law Center report documents that Black girls, for example, are 5.5 times more likely to be suspended from school than their white counterparts.

Parents protested in January at a school in Binghamton, N.Y., where four 12-year-old girls, two Black and two Latina, said they were told to strip down to their undergarments because they were acting "giddy." One of the girls was served with an in-school suspension because she refused to strip. Another was given a drug test.

The racist and sexist stereotypes assumed by school authorities such as these are an attempt to criminalize African-American students. This bias in turn leads to rampant sexual abuse and not infrequently it leads to the murder of people of color. Public institutions such as schools and law enforcers aren't worried about suffering serious consequences because the history of racist abuse leads them to believe Black girls are without protection.

This grave misconception must be changed. In her final struggle, Sandra Bland has rearmed us. All who have heard her brave and righteous voice can make the change: Fight racism and sexism in the name of Sandra Bland. 📌

Workers will pay Trump's tariffs

By Stephen Millies

Trump's tariffs on goods made in the People's Republic of China could cost an average four-person family \$2,300 per year. That's a \$192 monthly pay cut.

That's because so much of the imports from China are consumer goods. Take shoes. Just because children regularly need new shoes doesn't mean working class families can afford them. Ninety-eight percent of the shoes worn in the U.S. are imported with about 70 percent of them coming from China.

That's \$11.7 billion worth of footwear whose price will be jacked up. Other leading imports from China last year were clothing and textiles (\$43.8 billion); furniture and household goods (\$22.7 billion); plates and utensils (\$7.9 billion); appliances (\$16 billion); cell phones (\$71.8 billion); toys and games (\$28.2 billion); and televisions and video equipment (\$11.7 billion).

It's working-class families that buy and need the vast majority of these products. Now they'll have to pay more for them.

Who's ripping off whom?

Trump complains that the U.S. imported \$539 billion worth of stuff from China but exported just \$120 billion to China. That's because the capitalist class has deindustrialized the U.S.

General Motors isn't interested in shipping cars to China or Japan. GM built auto plants in China instead.

It's actually China that's being ripped off by exporting over a half-trillion dollars in real economic values to the U.S. while getting back only \$120 billion in return. Real values include manufacturing, agriculture, mining and construction or services like medical care and passenger transportation.

Items like sales of stock, interest on loans or rent — which also appear in foreign trade statistics — are not values. Nobody can eat them, wear them or use them. These items don't produce any value.

U.S. capitalists have so relatively little to sell to China that China has been forced to invest over a trillion dollars in U.S. Treasury bonds.

Union members shouldn't fall for Trump's poison, either. Anti-China campaigns will lead to violence against Asian-Americans. Never forget Vincent Chin, who was murdered by bigots near Detroit in June, 1982.

Economic wars can lead to shooting wars. We need a war against the rich instead. 📌

Five years after Odessa massacre, anti-fascists demand justice



A banner with photos of the massacre victims was displayed at the memorial in Odessa on May 2, 2019.

By Greg Butterfield
Washington, D.C.

On May 2, five years after the massacre of 48 anti-fascists at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, Ukraine, Struggle-La Lucha activists joined the Odessa Solidarity Campaign (OSC) for a vigil outside the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

In 2014, shortly after a U.S.-backed coup over-

threw the government of Ukraine, neo-Nazis were bused into the city of Odessa. They attacked a protest encampment on Kulikovo Field. When anti-fascists sought refuge in the nearby trade union building, the fascists set fire to the structure, shooting and beating to death those who tried to escape the inferno.

Many videos and photographs document the massacre and identify those responsible. But none of the perpetrators have been punished. 📌

Blood, Oil and the Trump Regime

PART 1

Will U.S. attack Iran to bail out fracking industry?

By Bill Cecil

Why is the Trump regime threatening war against both Iran and Venezuela? For the only reason capitalists ever do anything: Money, lots of it. Trillions of dollars are at stake.

It's not just greed. It's need, from the capitalist point of view. The need to protect the massive capital investments "Corporate America" has made in energy production since the Iraq war. Much of this investment has been in the expensive and destructive practice of hydraulic fracturing — extracting oil and gas from shale rock — popularly known as fracking.

Speaking at a Liquefied Natural Gas export facility in Louisiana's "cancer alley" on May 14, Donald Trump touted the United States' "energy independence." Thanks to fracking, he bragged, the U.S. is now "the energy superpower of the world." He claimed the U.S. would replace Russia as Europe's energy supplier.

As the president bragged, two U.S. aircraft carrier strike groups and a squadron of B-52 strategic bombers headed toward Iran. The administration said it was considering sending 120,000 more troops to the region and accused Iran, without evidence, of sabotaging Saudi oil tankers.

On May 15, Trump's acting defense secretary and former Boeing executive, Patrick Shanahan, laid out options for war in a meeting at the Pentagon. These included massive guided missile strikes on Iran.

The threats from Washington have caused concern in Europe, especially in those countries without oil. Spain pulled a frigate from the U.S. naval armada.

A war in the Persian-Arab Gulf would disrupt Europe's energy supply and China's as well. The U.S. military's Central Command publicly denounced British Gen. Christopher Ghika, who said the "Iranian threat" was a fabrication. However, British Tory Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt rushed to show support for Washington. Britain controls considerable oil reserves in the North Sea, and British Petroleum is the country's largest corporation.

Trump a creature of fracking

The Trump regime is a creature of the poisonous U.S. fracking industry. Among its first acts was to unleash federal forces against Native water protectors in North Dakota. It rammed through the Dakota Access and Keystone pipelines and has worked day and night to expand fracking on Native land and public land. On May 12, the regime announced it would open nearly 1 million acres in California's Central Valley and Central Coast to destruction by fracking.

A few years ago, Wall Street looked at fracking as a \$26 trillion gold mine (see "Big Fracking Deal," Foreign Affairs magazine, March/April 2014). Today, that highly leveraged industry is in deep trouble.

"The Next Financial Crisis Lurks Under-

ground," said a 2018 New York Times op-ed piece about the fracking industry by financial journalist Bethany McLean.

On May 5, U.S. National Security adviser John Bolton announced that U.S. warships were headed to the region, targeting Iran. Like Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Bolton's political career has been funded by the multimillionaire Koch brothers, who are major investors in the U.S. fracking industry.

War profits

Politicians, both Republican and Democrat, claim that increased U.S. energy production will mean less U.S. military intervention abroad. This is a transparent lie. The rapid growth of the U.S. fracking industry would not have been possible without the asset-price bubble created by the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq.

In 2002, before U.S. invaders destroyed Iraq's state-owned oil industry, the price of oil hovered around \$20 a barrel. By April 2003, when U.S. tanks rolled into Baghdad, it was over \$40. By mid-2008, it had risen to \$147 a barrel. ExxonMobil and Chevron, the two biggest U.S. oil companies, saw their profits rise by 300 percent.

Sanctions and threats against Iran and Venezuela, the bombing of Libya, proxy wars in Syria, Ukraine and now Yemen prolonged the bubble. Now it has collapsed.

And now corporate flunkies in Washington are contemplating another war. The people can stop them. 📌

Never forget the U.S. bombing of China's embassy!

By Stephen Millies

Twenty years ago — on the night of May 7-8, 1999 — the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, was deliberately bombed by the U.S. Air Force.

This war crime was committed during the 78-day-long bombing of then-socialist Yugoslavia by NATO. Three Chinese journalists were killed. At least twenty were injured.

Ambassador Pan Zhanlin escaped being killed only because the bomb that crashed through the roof of his residence didn't explode.

The bodies of newlywed journalists Xu Xinghu, 31, and Zhu Ying, 27, were found under a collapsed wall. They wrote for the Communist Party daily newspaper Guangming (Enlightenment).

Forty-eight-year-old Shao Yunhuan of the Xinhua news agency was also killed. Her husband, Cao Rongfei, was blinded.

While it was one or more U.S. Air Force B-2 stealth bombers that attacked the embassy, it was the CIA that picked the target. The CIA director, George Tenet, later testified that the embassy bombing was organized and directed by his agency.

This liar claimed satellite images showed "no flags, no seals, no clear markings," when in fact all three were present.



The three Chinese journalists who were murdered in Belgrade: Xu Xinghu, Zhu Ying and Shao Yunhuan.

Why did the U.S. do it?

The CIA chose to bomb the embassy because the U.S. military-industrial complex wanted to launch a war on China. They viewed President Bill Clinton's murderous bombing of Yugoslavia as a poor substitute.

After the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe were overthrown — with the exception of Yugoslavia — the Pentagon wanted to destroy the People's Republic of China.

In 1996, Clinton had already used aircraft carriers in a military provocation against China, ostensibly over the stolen Taiwan province. But that wasn't enough for the military. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1996 was Gen. John Shalikashvili, whose father had been a general in Hitler's SS.

The attack on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade was answered by hundreds of thousands of Chinese students demonstrating against U.S. imperialism. Even Boris Yeltsin — whom the U.S. had reelected in 1996 — felt compelled to send troops to Yugoslavia at Pristina airport on June 12, 1999, a month after the embassy bombing. Just like the CIA-directed bombing of China's Embassy in Belgrade, the current attack on Venezuela's Embassy in Washington, D.C., by the State Department and Secret Service, is an international crime.

Whenever you hear the State Department or the capitalist media attacking any country for violating "the freedom of the press," remind them of the



three Chinese journalists who were murdered in Belgrade: Xu Xinghu, Zhu Ying and Shao Yunhuan.

The best way to honor their memory is to continue to defend Venezuela's Embassy. Hands off Venezuela! 📌

Many articles published here are abridged for space limitations. For the full version go to struggle-la-lucha.org

DONATE!

Keep us in the struggle

Dona y guárdanos en la lucha

No paywall • No subscription fees

Your support keeps

Struggle ★ La Lucha

free for all

tinyurl.com/donate-struggle-la-lucha

Or send a check.

Make checks payable to

Struggle-La Lucha

and send to: Struggle La Lucha,

703 East 37th St., Baltimore Maryland 21218

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA
for Socialism | por el Socialismo

West Coast office:

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

East Coast office:

2011 N. Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: 443.221.3775

Web: struggle-la-lucha.org

Email: info@struggle-la-lucha.org

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

Facebook: facebook.com/strugglelalucha

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution - NonCommercial - NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License.

Despite U.S. threats Cuban workers celebrate defiant May Day

By Cheryl LaBash
Havana

May 1 — “Unity, Commitment and Victory,” read the lead banner of Havana’s massive International Workers Day march. If anyone expected Cuba would respond with a military theme in the face of aggressive imperialist threats made in Miami by U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton, they were mistaken.

The Cuban working class answered the U.S. empire’s wild tirades — delivered on the anniversary of the soundly trounced April 17, 1961, Bay of Pigs invasion — with a joyous, disciplined, tightly packed, banner- and sign-festooned celebration led by medical workers in their white coats.

Más Médicos doctors rejected by Brazil’s U.S.-allied government to the detriment of their poor and rural patients; Cuban hospitals, pharmaceutical research and production facilities; Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine, scientific and medical research centers — all represented Cuba’s profound and respected international service.

It is accomplished professionals like these who have been maliciously and falsely characterized as a



PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

20,000-member Cuban army which the U.S. claims is in Venezuela. This lie became the stated excuse to devise new cruelty to add to Washington’s nearly 60-year unilateral economic, financial and commercial blockade of this exemplary island.

As difficult as life may get for the Cuban people in the near future because of new U.S. measures, the proof of Cuba’s resilience and progress watched from the José Martí

monument in Revolution Square. Appearing there were new President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez and Communist Party leader and former President Raúl Castro Ruz, who introduced a new, progressive socialist Constitution, discussed by all and overwhelmingly approved on Feb. 24. Whatever new measures the Trump-Pence-Bolton-Abrams horror show finally publishes, the Cuban 5 heroes who joined them won’t

be going back to U.S. prisons.

The blockade is a key component of the strategy first outlined in a U.S. State Department internal memo on April 6, 1960, as Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez pointed out in a press conference rebutting the April 17 attacks. The memo admitted the Cuban Revolution and its leaders were so popular that a credible internal opposition could not be concocted. It called for creating economic hardship, hoping to create enough popular dissatisfaction to end Cuba’s independence. But as the bosses and rulers so often do, they underestimated Cuba’s working class. Obama got it right: the blockade failed.

For more than 60 years, Cuba has weathered crises and the blockade through the mobilization and creativity of Cuban workers, through internationalism, unity and solidarity. Not only have the Cuban people kept 1950s vintage cars on the road, but they’ve also developed cancer vaccines, medications to avoid diabetic limb amputations and continue working to solve problems facing humanity, including the dangers of climate change and global warming, with a forward-looking 100-year plan — Tarea Vida. [\[U\]](#)

OAKLAND, CALIF.



MAY DAY 2019

May Day celebrations this year marked the many struggles that working people are waging against endless U.S. wars, both internationally and here, against workers facing militarized police and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Many of the demonstrations dedicated the day to building solidarity with Venezuela fighting U.S. imperialist attacks.

LOS ANGELES

The sentiment defending Venezuela and socialism was echoed at MacArthur Park near downtown Los Angeles, where the theme of community groups and groups independent of the Democratic and Republican Parties was “Fuck Trump! No wall! No war! Defend socialism!”

The event was initiated by Unión del Barrio, with participating organizations including MEChA de UCLA, United Electrical Workers (Local 1018), Frente Indígena de Organizaciones Binacionales (FIOB), Association of Raza Educators (ARE), the Socialist Unity Party, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA), BAYAN USA and Homies Unidos.

Earlier in the day, primarily major unions in Los Angeles and non-profit organizations with some community organizations held a rally and march starting at 3 p.m., also at MacArthur Park, with anti-Trump, pro-migrant themes. The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle for Socialism-La Lucha por Socialismo also tabled at this event, passing out papers and flyers on upcoming activities and gathering names of those interested in subscribing to the paper or attending meetings at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

— John Parker

BALTIMORE

Labor activists in Baltimore dedicated their annual May Day activity to showing solidarity with the effort of nurses at Johns Hopkins Hospital to form a union.

The rally was called by the Baltimore Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Members of many unions came to demand that Johns Hopkins Hospital reinstate a nurse who was one of the leaders of the organizing efforts to establish a local chapter of the National Nurses Association.

Vivian Obijekwu was fired in February over so-called infractions. This was an attempt by the hospital administration to try to break the will of those fighting for a union.

At the noontime rally, attendees lined the sidewalk in front of the East Baltimore campus of the hospital. Each person held part of a block-long red cord to which was attached petition sheets containing the names of hospital staff who support the call for reinstatement.

— Andre Powell

NEW YORK

Struggle-La Lucha activists answered the call of the December 12th Movement, a revolutionary Black organization, for an emergency protest against the latest U.S. coup attempt in Venezuela. The action, near the United Nations headquarters in Manhattan, embodied the fighting internationalist spirit of May Day.

Carrying Venezuelan, Haitian and Black Liberation flags, and signs denouncing U.S. imperialism, this Black-led, multinational protest marched on the U.S. Mission to the U.N.

SLL attended several other May Day actions held across New York, including a march for immigrants rights organized by Filipino organi-

zations in Queens, a 200-strong rally to support laundry workers in East Harlem, and multi-issue marches targeting Trump buildings on Wall Street and Midtown Manhattan.

— Greg Butterfield

OAKLAND, CALIF.

Thousands rallied and marched in Oakland, Calif. As was done last year and years before, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 10, shut down the city’s port in observance of the day.

Clarence Thomas, a retired longshore worker and ILWU spokesperson, told Struggle-La Lucha that he was marching on May Day to help protect union jobs and also to oppose the proposed the Oakland A’s baseball stadium and condominiums scheduled to be built at the Howard Terminal located at the port.

Thomas said: “This could create job losses and increase the drive toward gentrification in West Oakland. In addition, building on a maritime facility violates current restrictions, specifically the Public Trust Protections for State Tidelands, which includes waterfront property. John Fisher, who owns the Oakland A’s, is attempting to get exemptions so he can have a pass on environmental obligations. ... When a billionaire can get away with building a ballpark at a location that threatens the economic engine of northern California, it’s a sterling example of the crisis of capitalism.”

— Mary Lou Finley

SAN DIEGO

In San Diego, there was a combined march co-hosted by the San Diego-Imperial County Central Labor Council and a number of grassroots community organizations that had combined as the May 1st Planning Committee.

The Labor Council marched across the downtown area to the Sempra Energy building.

At the Sempra Energy building, the community organizations took over the march and continued to Chicanos Park in Barrio Logan. Throughout both legs of the march, chants of “Union power!” “The people united will never be defeated!” “When workers’ rights are under attack, we say stand up! Fight back!” “Hands off Venezuela!” and “¡Vive la revolución bolivariana!” were heard.

The second march was characterized by organizations that have waged militant political struggles against racist police brutality and imperialist war. This was laid out in a press statement from the coalition written by Socialist Unity Party member Gloria Verdieu stating: “Workers and the poor around the world must join across false barriers to build a new world where life is more precious than profits. Workers must unite to abolish capitalism and its poverty, and imperialist wars and oppression. Build socialism!”

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