

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

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# Migrant caravans flee U.S.-made crisis Demand Biden let them in!

By Greg Butterfield

While the eyes of the world were fixed on the presidential transition in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 17, the Guatemalan army attacked a caravan of 8,000 Honduran refugees trying to reach the U.S. border 2,400 miles away.

"In the town of Vado Hondo, in the department of Chiquimula, bordering Honduras, the security forces confronted the migrants with tear gas and stun grenades. The security officers charged the crowd with batons and sticks, and managed to stop the migrants from advancing beyond Vado Hondo. In the incident of violent repression, hundreds of people were injured," reported Peoples Dispatch.

People are fleeing terrible conditions under the repressive, drug-trafficking Honduran regime — put in power after a U.S.-engineered coup in 2009 — and a string of subsequent disasters, including hurricanes and the pandemic. They had managed to cross the border between Honduras and Guatemala the day before.

This brutal attack on women, men and children is deeply connected to both the outgoing U.S. administration of Donald Trump and the incoming one headed by Joe Biden.

Trump, of course, openly and with extreme cruelty condemned the caravans coming from Central America to the U.S.-Mexico border, which began in late 2018.

For more than two years, thousands of people from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and other countries have remained in ramshackle conditions waiting for an opportunity to apply for asylum that never came. Thousands more were forced to return home to dangerous situations or seek whatever work they could find, stateless and homeless.

Others — including refugees from Haiti — have been waiting even longer.

Trump's regime bullied and bribed Guatemala and Mexico to crack down hard on refugees and migrants.

But how different is the new Biden administration? In practice, so far, not much.

While speaking in more diplomatic language, the message from Biden transition officials to the refugees was the same: Don't come! And this posture encouraged the crackdown by the right-wing, U.S.-armed Guatemalan government.

By Jan. 19, both U.S. and Central

American media reported that the caravan had been largely dispersed by the Guatemalan army repression. Only a handful of refugees reached shelters near the border with Mexico, where Mexican soldiers were also amassed to block the caravan.

Many people were bused back to Honduras, where they faced an unknown fate. Many more drifted away in smaller groups, seeking other ways forward, such as the dangerous trip across the Suchiate River.

Despite the repression, two more caravans of Honduran refugees are preparing to risk the trek in the coming weeks.

## What Biden did and didn't do

Biden took office Jan. 20 and immediately signed 17 executive orders meant to reverse some of the most egregious Trump policies.

This included repealing the so-called Muslim Ban that blocked passport holders from several majority-Muslim countries from entering the U.S. and restoring the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that provides a pathway to citizenship for undocumented residents (popularly known as "Dreamers") who arrived in the U.S. as children. And he stopped construction of Trump's "border wall" boondoggle.

Biden also ordered the Department of Homeland Security and immigration agencies to put a stop to some deportations for 100 days while their policies are "reviewed." However, the moratorium order is full of holes and leaves much of the discretion up to agencies riddled with some of the worst white supremacist Trump backers.

The new U.S. regime has no plans to shut down or even curb the notorious Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) gestapo, only to "refocus" it on deporting people who are alleged to have committed crimes while in the U.S. and recent arrivals.

This was the same policy followed by the Obama administration when Biden was vice president and earned Obama the title "Deporter In Chief." The Obama administration deported more than 3 million people.

The first few days of the new government also failed to address the horrific detention of migrants and refugees, including children, who have managed against all odds to cross the border into the U.S.

As for the caravans, an unnamed Biden transition official told NBC

News, "There's help on the way, but now is not the time to make the journey."

"Over time, the official said, the Biden administration plans to set up a way to safely process migrants at the border and allow asylum seekers to make their claims."

Fighters for migrant and refugee rights are not convinced. "The 11 million [estimated undocumented workers in the U.S.] have seen this before," said a Jan. 20 statement from Movimiento Cosecha, "a Democratic Congress and president promising a pathway for all. And we saw 3 million deported and an absence of political willingness to fight for our families."

Cosecha chapters across the U.S. carried out banner drops and other actions during inaugural week, vowing that "the community is not waiting for others to take action, we are leading the fight for dignity and respect."

A banner appeared in Brooklyn, N.Y., on the morning of Inauguration Day that read, "Democrats deport and detain too. Permanent protections now! Abolish ICE!"

## Build working-class SOLIDARITY

By John Parker and Gary Wilson

Donald Trump made racism the core of his campaign and encouraged the recent coup attempt at the Capitol in order to negate especially the votes of Black people, who suffer a history of voter disenfranchisement in the U.S.

The electoral victory of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris was seen by most to be a rejection of Trump and racism. The election has removed Trump and put Biden in the office of president. And it's understandable that people would feel a sense of relief.

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## Appeal from Honduran activist

On Inauguration Day, Lucy Pagoada-Quesada, a teacher and leading Honduran activist living in the U.S., issued an open letter to President Joe Biden. Pagoada-Quesada represents Department 19 of Resistencia/LIBRE, the official North American chapter of the resistance movement in Honduras.

Guatemalan security forces repress Honduran migrants in Vado Hondo, Jan. 17.

"You were vice president when, in 2009, the government of your party led by President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supported the military coup in Honduras against our Constitutional President Manuel Zelaya Rosales," she reminded Biden.

"In 2010, the U.S. government imposed on us Porfirio Lobo-Sosa, whose son Fabio Lobo is imprisoned in the U.S. for cocaine trafficking. In 2013, they also imposed on us the narco dictator Juan Orlando Hernández, whose brother Antonio (Tony) Hernández is imprisoned

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# Organize workers and oppressed to fight the fascist movement

In April 1967, one year before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at a protest in New York against the Vietnam War. He said: “The security we profess to seek in foreign adventures we will lose in our decaying cities. The bombs in Vietnam also explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America.”

Since Dr. King’s death, the U.S. military, police and prisons have swollen beyond belief. The Congress and the presidents, both Republicans and Democrats, have used murderous, racist, fascist movements to seize power in many countries, from Libya to Ukraine to Bolivia. Today, just as Dr. King said in 1967, those violent forces unleashed abroad have returned to haunt poor and working people here.

The rich and powerful are playing a dangerous game with fascist, white supremacist movements around the world. They want to use them to crush the workers and oppressed, to get their hands on more profits and spread their military power. But sometimes, they get out of control.



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Martin Luther King Day rally in Harlem, Jan. 18.

And sometimes, one faction of the rich ruling class uses these modern day klansmen against the other factions, as we saw on Jan. 6 at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

The growth of military and police power has fueled the growth of fascist movements in the U.S. Those who led the attack on the Capitol were not the buffoons we see on the

news, but retired and active duty military and police.

Many of those who march with heavy weapons on state capitals or come out to threaten Black Lives Matter protests were trained by the U.S. military. Many of those in Congress, whose lives were threatened on Jan. 6, and those who will enter the White House on Jan. 20, including President-elect Joe Biden, have a long

history of supporting and funding military and police expansion.

We cannot stand aside when white supremacists and neo-Nazis march through the streets of Washington, a Black city, or anywhere else. We cannot rely on the military and police, who are the breeding ground for fascism, to protect our communities. We cannot trust politicians to

fight fascism when they have used the military against our sisters and brothers abroad to help Wall Street get its way.

So what can we do? We must take a lesson from Dr. King, from Malcolm X, from the Black Panthers and the Young Lords. We must organize the grassroots: our communities, our fellow workers and students, our unions and tenant organizations. We must unite and rely on ourselves rather than looking to politicians to save us. We must organize ourselves to effectively fight back against the bosses, the military and the fascists. We must organize to defend ourselves.

If we make this our goal, as a movement; if we share a vision of a future based on cooperation and solidarity, a socialist future — then we can push back the white supremacists, the police and the war makers. We can win gains for our class and help people around the world get the U.S. boot off their necks.

Jail Trump, his fascist mob and killer cops! Impeach the military and police state! [📌](#)

## Protesters say ‘Proud Boys out of New York!’

By Greg Butterfield

Jan. 10 — Early on this chilly morning, hundreds of people gathered at the statue of Cuban national hero José Martí in Central Park to say, “Proud Boys/Far Right Out of New York!” They had responded to a call from the United Against Racism and Fascism coalition to confront a planned event by white supremacist, misogynist groups.

In December, the Proud Boys attacked Black churches in Washington, D.C., while rallying for Donald Trump’s plot to steal the election. And on Jan. 6, they participated in the fascist coup attempt at the U.S. Capitol. In the aftermath, the Proud

Boys quietly cancelled plans for their New York event.

But New Yorkers, mostly young people, came out anyway to make sure the racists would be challenged if they tried to rally. United Against Racism and Fascism was well prepared to confront attacks from fascists and cops alike. As the march stepped off, dozens of activists wearing helmets and carrying shields led the way, while others on bicycles rode along either side of the route to protect the march.

Banging drums and chanting “Whose streets? Our streets!” “Black lives matter!” and “No cops! No KKK! No fascist USA!” the anti-fascists marched down Manhattan’s Sev-



SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

enth Avenue, through Times Square and Herald Square, to cheers from onlookers and street vendors. [📌](#)

## For real solution to crisis, build working-class solidarity

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However, Trump’s freedom to continue as president until the end of his term, after a myriad of violations of law and hate speech, helps

expose the fact that this is a change of executive, much like when a corporation replaces its CEO. It’s not a change in power — capitalism is still in power.

Workers — especially from the

Black, Latinx, Indigenous and Asian communities — gave Biden the votes needed to win. This was also a vote not just against Trump, but for health care, to end the pandemic, and for jobs and housing. That’s what’s expected from the Biden presidency.

The U.S. economy is in a crisis. Some 19.5 million workers are officially unemployed, four times as many as last year at this time. At least another 10 million are unemployed but not included in the official count. Over one-third of the adult population in the U.S. faces eviction or home foreclosure in the next two months.

In some states, food bank lines stretch for miles. An estimated 13.7 million households go hungry every day.

Yet stimulus money has mostly gone to big corporations. Over 160,000 small businesses have permanently closed.

Whatever promises Biden has made regarding stimulus and help

to combat the pandemic thus far are not nearly enough to combat the economic devastation and certainly won’t reverse it. For example, raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, which Biden says will be done slowly, is not a living wage.

The federal minimum wage of \$7.25, which hasn’t risen since 2009, does not provide a living wage. At that time, many workers fought for a \$15 minimum wage, but this is no longer enough. A living wage right now, according to the Living Wage Calculator at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is \$30 to \$35 an hour.

Inadequate policies by Biden will only lead to resentment and dissatisfaction, and an opening for the possible return of Trumpism.

How did we get here?

In the first place, the road to Trump was paved by the record de-



Bronx Teamsters victory

With community-labor solidarity, striking Bronx produce workers won a wage increase despite police repression.

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# 'Honor Dr. King's revolutionary vision'

By Rebecka Jackson-Moeser

*Message from the Socialist Unity Party for the COVID-safe car caravan protest in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., his work and legacy, on Jan. 18 in Los Angeles.*

Two weeks before he was assassinated, Dr. King told us, "If America does not use her vast resources of wealth to end poverty and make it possible for all of god's children to have the basic necessities of life, she too will go to hell."

Today we are living that hell. The conditions for Black Americans are as dire as they ever were, and the white supremacists that rule our nation are thriving.

Today, as we gather in the name of Dr. King, let us honor him for all of his revolutionary vision, that is all too often stripped of him by our white supremacist overlords, who have rewritten and sullied our history.

Let us never forget that Dr. King fought for socialist economics, guaranteed income, and an end to

imperialism and war. His bold opposition to the war in Vietnam and calls for economic equality are surely what ended his life.

As we gather, know that the real threat has nothing to do with whether you march peacefully, break windows, stay on the sidewalk or storm a capitol building. It has to do with your principles and what you represent.

You represent an end to the racist, imperialist agenda. You represent a new future, in which they cannot destroy and plunder the earth and our communities with no consequences.

As Biden and Harris gear up to pass more terrorism laws that will do nothing but terrorize Black and Brown communities, and funnel more money to the police who murder us, remember this system is not made for us. Biden too is a relic of the racist institution that is the United States.

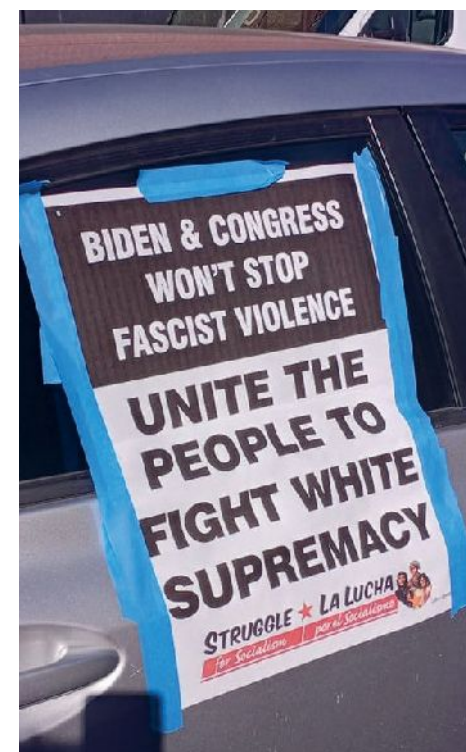
King warned us that their political system cannot serve us: "You can't talk about solving the eco-



Rebecka Jackson-Moeser

nomie problem of the Negro without talking about billions of dollars. You can't talk about ending the slums without first saying profit must be taken out of the slums.

"You're really tampering and getting on dangerous ground because you are messing with folks then. You are messing with captains of industry. Now this means we are treading in difficult water, because it really means that we are saying that something is wrong with capitalism." [📺](#)



SLL PHOTOS: SCOTT SCHEFFER

Los Angeles caravan

## Harlem remembers MLK the fighter



SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

Roger Wareham of the December 12th Movement speaks at Harlem rally honoring Dr. King.

Protesters carry banner celebrating freedom of MOVE 9 political prisoners.

By Stephen Millies

A hundred people braved cold winds to honor the fightback legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Harlem on Jan. 18. People gathered at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building plaza.

A car caravan had earlier started



from the Audubon Ballroom, where Malcolm X was allowed to be assassinated by the CIA and New York Police Department on Feb. 21, 1965. The event was organized by the People's United Front, a new activist coalition initiated by the People-Pueblo Party.

Starting off the rally was Roger Wareham, a member of the International Secretariat of the December 12th Movement. He pointed out how the wealthy and powerful have tried to "McDonaldize" King into a harmless ornament.

Wareham was at New York City's Riverside Church on April 4, 1967, when King denounced the U.S. war against Vietnam. King was attacked for speaking out and, as Wareham said,

told to "stay in his own lane."

Exactly a year later, Dr. King would be assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

The rally speakers stood next to the statue of the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell. In the 1930s, the future congressman led marches in support of Ethiopia after it was invaded by the fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

Later, as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, Powell pushed through increases in the minimum wage. Racist members of Congress retaliated by expelling Powell in 1967 — just a few months before Dr. King spoke at Riverside Church.

Across from the rally was the building that housed the old Hotel Theresa, where Fidel Castro met with Malcolm X in 1960.

### Police attack marchers

Other speakers at the rally included Betty Davis and Ralph Poynter from the New Abolitionist Movement. Both warned people not to trust the incoming Biden administration.

Baba Zayid Muhammad urged everyone to remember the political prisoners that are still being held in dungeons. He pointed out the case of 84-year-old Sundiata Acoli, who is now in his 47th year of imprisonment.

Acoli was arrested along with As-sata Shakur, who is being protected by the people of Cuba from a \$1 million bounty placed on her head by the FBI.

Roger Wareham spoke later on the fight for reparations. He led the crowd in chanting "They stole us! They sold us! They owe us!"

Later that evening, New York cops arrested dozens of people near City Hall. People were surrounded by the Strategic Response Group goons almost immediately after they had marched across the Brooklyn Bridge.

This was the cops' answer to being sued by New York State Attorney General Letitia James for their brutality during the Black Lives Matter demonstrations. [📺](#)

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portations and endless wars from the previous Obama administration, which included Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton. They and their Democratic Party, like all previous administrations before them, continually and increasingly legitimized the racist, anti-immigrant poison that Trump was able to exploit.

The drones that dropped bombs on the continent of Africa under both the Bush and Obama administrations helped legitimize the international terrorism of lethal drone strikes by Trump, who flirted with war against Iran.

It was Biden and Clinton in the Obama administration who supported the fascist-like forces that organized pro-U.S. coups in Honduras and Libya, negating the will and self-determination of the people in those countries.

In fact, the mob of well-connected white supremacists who met no

real opposition to their entering the Capitol in Washington, D.C., had foreign policy aims that mirror those of Joe Biden, and the Democratic and Republican parties.

Biden's support for pretender Juan Guaidó in Venezuela and the earlier-mentioned coups is an attack against the votes and self-determination of working people abroad, especially when they are Black, Brown or Indigenous peoples.

This is why we understand that we cannot rely on those who will tolerate fascist-minded actions and ideas to stop white supremacist groupings and ideology from gaining strength. Those forces in the ruling-class parties are okay with fascism as long as it helps to crush working-class movements, like the movement for Black lives and the struggle for immigrants — as long as it weakens the power of our class.

History instructs us here. An attempted fascist coup occurred before the Nazis came to power in Germany.

In Munich in 1923, Hitler attempted a takeover — but failed. Although Hitler was jailed, he was allowed to continue his ideological poisoning and political organizing and influence over the middle classes and workers, allowing the Nazi Party to eventually take control.

We must unify our progressive organizations, and unify our working class, in order to continue the struggle for what is the only real solution to the crisis of capitalism: that is, socialism.

We must build the working-class movement, independent of the ruling-class parties. Therefore, we must build solidarity between all sectors of our working class with its oppressed nationalities, women, LGBTQ2S members and Indigenous peoples. That can only come through an intolerance of racism and sexism, with the principle of solidarity.

The ruling-class parties have failed and will continue to fail in that regard. But we must not. [📺](#)

# Women accounted for all jobs lost in December

By Sharon Black

The U.S. Labor Department's December 2020 jobs report, released on Jan. 8, was staggering in terms of lost jobs for women. Bosses cut 140,000 jobs in December. Overall, women accounted for all of those job losses, losing 156,000 jobs in total, while men gained 16,000.

Black and Latinx women were the most impacted. Latinx women currently have the highest unemployment rate at 9.1%, followed by Black women at 8.4%, while white women have the lowest unemployment rate at 5.7%.

Women, especially Black and Latinx women, work in the jobs hardest-hit by the pandemic and the capitalist recession. They are often the lowest paid, without paid sick leave



Black and Latin women work in the jobs hardest-hit by the pandemic and capitalist recession.

or the ability to work from home. With schools and daycare centers closed, many women are forced to leave their jobs to parent children.

Of course, these are just statistics and numbers. What's lost in them

are the real lives of women and their children who are now on the brink of homelessness, hunger and despair.

In many states, the unemployment benefit system is filled with entanglements and is in disarray.

Many workers have yet to see any relief. But there is no despair amongst the very rich, as described in the Struggle-La Lucha article "Wall Street's New Year's party: Dancing on the backs of poor workers."

The Rev. Annie Chambers, Peoples Power Assembly activist and public housing organizer, told Struggle-La Lucha: "As women, it's time for us to stand up and fight back. Capitalism ensures that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. We must demand jobs or income now and much more." Chambers was also a founder of the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization.

What is crystal clear is that the women's movement must take up the demands of the hardest-hit women, those who are unemployed — especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous, Arab and Asian women. [📌](#)

# Bronx produce workers fight for justice

By Stephen Millies

*Bulletin: Because of the courage of the striking workers, and the support given to them by the community, a tentative agreement was reached Jan. 22.*

The 8.6 million people living in the Big Apple eat a lot of apples. Most of them come through the Hunts Point Produce Market in the Bronx. So does a majority of New York City's other fruits and vegetables.

A thousand workers, members of Teamsters Local 202, have gone on strike there. They're asking for a mere \$1 per hour wage increase.

They are all essential workers who've kept feeding New Yorkers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Six of the Teamsters have died of the coronavirus doing so. Another 300 have fallen ill from it.

"Don't say we should be lucky to have a job," said one of the strikers, Hiram Montalvo, who unloads trucks. "Say thank you that we're actually coming to work and risking our lives so that they can take care of their families as well."

New York City is awfully expensive. It's hard to find a one-bedroom apartment that rents for less than \$1,600 per month. Asking for a dollar more an hour is modest and necessary.

The response of the bosses has been to bring in the police. Three hundred police in riot gear attacked the picket lines after midnight on Jan. 19. Six strikers were arrested.

This is the same police force that's arrested thousands for asserting that Black lives matter. Now they're attacking workers on strike, most of whom are Black or Brown. That's another reason to expel police organizations from the AFL-CIO.

Union leaders made the connection. Teamster Joint Council 16, which represents 120,000 workers, tweeted: "Hands up! Don't shoot! We condemn the arrests of several peaceful strikers on the Teamsters picket line tonight at Hunts Point



Strikers on the picket line at Hunts Point Produce Market.

PHOTO: TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 16

Market. These essential workers deserve their \$1 raise."

People have already come to Hunts Point to show solidarity. Congressperson Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez skipped the presidential inauguration to join the picket line. AOC was targeted for assassination by the fascist mob that was allowed to enter the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

More important were the CSX workers who refused to deliver 21 railroad cars to the market on Jan. 20. As the locomotive engineer,

a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, declared, "We're Teamsters too!"

The produce bosses have to be made to come to the bargaining table. Behind them are bankers and other big capitalists who are trying to break the strike of 1,800 Spectrum cable workers. The 1,800 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 have been striking for nearly four years.

New York City power brokers want to give the same punishment

to Teamster produce workers in the Bronx. But the rich and greedy don't seem to be winning.

As one Teamster said after the CSX train reversed direction: "Another victory. Another day longer. Another day stronger. We're going to get this contract come hell or high water!"

*The writer is a retired Amtrak worker and member of the American Train Dispatchers' Association and the Transportation Communication International Union. [📌](#)*

# Migrant caravans flee U.S.-made crisis

## Appeal from Honduran activist

*Continued from page 1*

in New York for trafficking tons of cocaine and weapons to the United States. In 2017, the United States also imposed on us for the second time (and in an illegal reelection) the narco-dictator Juan Orlando Hernández (JOH)," Pagoada-Quesada wrote.

"It was from the moment that this violent narco-dictatorship of the National Party was imposed on us that our country, Honduras, plunged into the worst social, economic and political crisis in our history. It is for this reason and in the face of despair that the Honduran people flee in the

massive exodus of displaced human beings called caravans. They do not come in search of the American dream but rather they flee from the nightmare that the United States has imposed on them.

"Like you and the North American people, we in Honduras are fighting to recover our democracy, justice and peace, which was destroyed by the 2009 coup d'état. And this coming November 2021, we are going to hold presidential elections for the third time after that terrible historical moment that changed our lives.

"Therefore, the only thing we de-

mand from your government is to allow us to decide at the polls and that our sovereign decision as a people be respected. Do not let your government intervene," Pagoada-Quesada told Biden. "And I assure you, that, in this way, your government will not have to face the massive exodus of people who are fleeing from Honduras in search of what was unjustly taken away from them."

It is the responsibility of workers in the U.S. to act in solidarity with our class siblings fleeing crises in Central America imposed by our own

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# Disbar Rudy Giuliani Reinstate Alton Maddox!

By Stephen Millies

Rudy Giuliani may finally be kicked out of the courts. He's been busy there trying to get Black votes thrown out in cities like Detroit and Philadelphia.

The New York State Bar Association is considering whether to disbar the Trump mouthpiece. If Giuliani is disbarred he won't be able to be a lawyer anymore.

The former New York City mayor fired up the racist mob in front of the White House on Jan. 6 by declaring he wanted a "trial by combat." Thousands of bigots obliged by marching on the Capitol to overturn the presidential election.

Hundreds were allowed to invade the Capitol. A noose was set up outside. Five people died as a result of the assault.

These are all good reasons for Giuliani to be disbarred immediately and put on trial for inciting violence. This racist should have been prevented from being a lawyer decades ago.

## Decades of racist violence

On Sept. 18, 1992, Giuliani was the ringmaster when 10,000 New York City cops rioted against David Dinkins, the city's first and so far only Black mayor.

City Council member Una Clarke and other Black people were called a racist name by police. After the rally, cops broke the jaw of Black youth Ywunas Mohamed on the "J" subway train.

Giuliani's eight years as mayor were eight years of police terror. An unarmed African immigrant, Amadou Diallo, was killed when police fired 44 shots at him on Feb. 4, 1999.

Unarmed Patrick Dorismond, a father of two children, was killed on March 16, 2000, for saying "no" to an undercover cop trying to sell him drugs. Giuliani's cops attacked Dorismond's funeral in Brooklyn's Haitian community and arrested 27 people.

There was economic terror as well. Giuliani bragged that he kicked 640,000 poor people off welfare programs.

Giuliani should have been disbarred 36 years ago for trying to frame up the New York 8+ as a federal district attorney in 1985.

Field Marshall Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plummer, Ruth Carter, Omowale Clay, Yvette Kelley, Jose Rios, Robert Taylor and Roger Wareham faced fantastic charges of conspiring to rob banks and Brinks' trucks, and to stage jailbreaks. Even their political activity was claimed to be violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act.

The attempted frameup was part of the Reagan administration's drive to crush all liberation movements. Because of their courageous resistance, all of the defendants were acquitted of conspiracy charges.

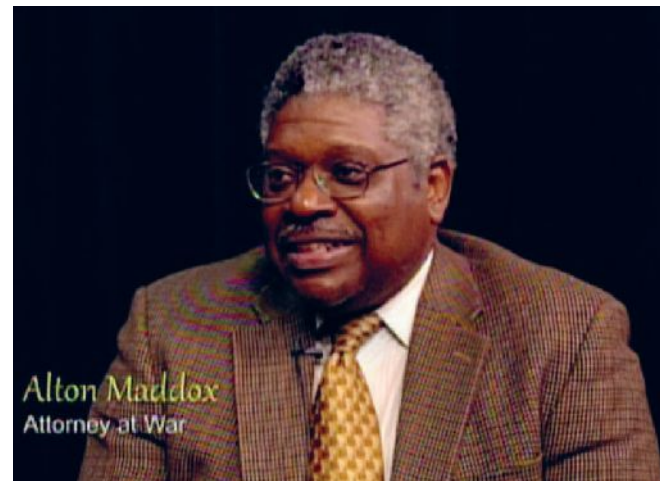
## Maddox: Fighter for oppressed

While Giuliani was made mayor and lionized by the capitalist media, Attorney-at-War Alton Maddox has been prevented from practicing law for 30 years. The Black lawyer was driven from the courtroom because he fought unconditionally for justice.

Maddox demanded a special prosecutor in the racist murder of Michael Griffith in 1986. The Black man was chased by a white gang in the Howard Beach section of Queens, N.Y. Maddox prevented a coverup.

Alton Maddox had earlier represented the family of Michael Stewart. The 25-year-old Black artist was beaten to death by a gang of cops after being arrested in a Manhattan subway station.

Alton Maddox has been barred from practicing law since 1990.



Then a federal prosecutor, Giuliani refused to press federal civil rights charges against the police who killed Stewart.

It was Maddox's courageous defense of Tawana Brawley that led to the racist courts suspending the Attorney-at-War. On Nov. 28, 1987, the Black woman was gang raped by six white men in Wappingers Falls, N.Y., a northern suburb of New York City.

Tawana Brawley was a 15-year-old high school student at the time. Her attackers were part of the local power structure.

One of them was a Dutchess County police officer, Harry Crist. He matched the description that Brawley gave of one of her rapists in a Nov. 30, 1987, interview.

Within 48 hours Crist was dead. The authorities claim he committed suicide.

If this was true, why did Crist take his own life? Was it out of fear of being exposed? Or was Crist murdered to eliminate a witness?

The pathologist who examined Crist's body— Dr. Alexander Aplasca— listed Crist's death as a homicide.

Aplasca never found a self-inflicted wound.

Nor was he shown the weapon that Crist allegedly used or even any crime scene photos. The autopsy report was suppressed for 11 years.

## Attacking Tawana Brawley and her lawyer

Dr. Aplasca was never called to the grand jury conducted by New York state Attorney General Robert Abrams. Instead of seeking justice for Tawana Brawley, the vile corporate media claimed the Black teenager was lying.

A coverup has been orchestrated for a third of a century. Here's a link to the real facts on this racist atrocity: [tinyurl.com/y5z36c7h](http://tinyurl.com/y5z36c7h)

Besides slandering Tawana Brawley, the capitalist power structure sought to silence Alton Maddox. He was suspended from practicing law in 1990.

It's outrageous that the courageous Black lawyer has been kept out of the courtroom. He's needed there to fight for the people.

Reinstate Alton Maddox! [📌](#)

## FREE LEONARD PELTIER NOT BLACKWATER WAR CRIMINALS

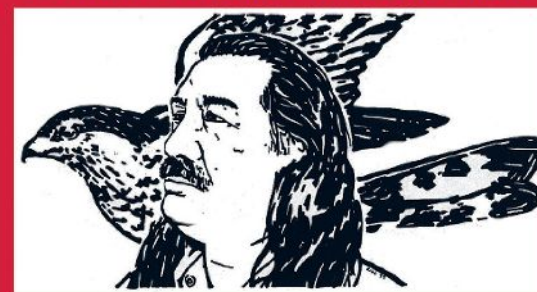
Leonard Peltier is an Indigenous political prisoner who has spent over 40 years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement, was framed for killing two FBI agents during a government invasion of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Federal agents and prosecutors manufactured evidence against him (including the so-called "murder weapon"), hid proof of his innocence and presented false testimony through torturous interrogation techniques.

People are commonly set free due to a single constitutional violation, but Peltier—innocent and faced with a staggering number of constitutional violations—has yet to receive justice.

To learn more, visit the [WholsLeonardPeltier.info](http://WholsLeonardPeltier.info). [📌](#)

PARDON LEONARD PELTIER  
NOT BLACKWATER WAR CRIMINALS  
Free All Political Prisoners Now!



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rulers. For more than a century, U.S. big business has plundered Honduras of its labor, and agricultural and mineral wealth. It imposed the Pentagon's Palmerola air base and successive right-wing regimes on the people.

We must demand an end to U.S. imperialist interference in Honduras and throughout the region, and reparations for the millions of people harmed as a result of the 2009 coup.

And for those already in motion, fleeing unbearable conditions, we must demand of Joe Biden: Let them in! Let them all in— with safe housing, free, quality health care, and guarantees against repression and family separation. [📌](#)

## In Cuba, 'We remember Lenin as we remember Fidel'

Continued from page 8

ment. From this moderate position, betrayal emerged quickly, as Reed explained. When the Bolsheviks disrupted this alleged compromise between classes, the moderates "found themselves fighting on the side of the possessing classes.... Today, in almost every country in the world the same phenomenon can be observed."

Reed did not hesitate to cast his lot with one of the extremes: "Contrary to being a destructive force, in my

opinion the Bolsheviks were the only party in Russia with a constructive program (...). If they had not come into government when they did, I have not the slightest doubt that the armies of Imperial Germany would have been in Petrograd and Moscow in December, and that Russia would again have been ruled by a czar." The Bolshevik Communists were the only real force willing to fight the imperialist powers.

Leading the extremist forces was "the great Lenin," as John Reed

called him.

Ninety-seven years since his death, we remember him here as we remember Fidel, our Lenin, the Lenin of the peoples of the Third World. We remember him here on this island, where the Bolsheviks of today, defenders of the redeeming "extreme" of the dispossessed, remain determined to confront the empire, convinced that these 62 years of shaking the world are the prelude to taking the heavens by storm.

Source: Granma

# Was Trump ousted from the military chain of command?

By Greg Butterfield

An unprecedented development took place during the Jan. 6 coup attempt at the Capitol building in Washington and in the days immediately after. It has big implications for people's democratic rights, as well as the expansion of U.S. military power in relation to civilian government bodies, and thus great importance to all workers and oppressed people fighting for their rights here and around the world.

Yet it has been carefully hidden from public view, with only a few veiled mentions in the most authoritative capitalist media.

It was first reported in a bulletin on the New York Times website's scrolling "Live Updates" on the Capitol attack. At 8:31 p.m. on Jan. 6, a short, four-paragraph article written by White House correspondent Maggie Haberman and Pentagon reporter Helene Cooper said, "Trump rebuffed initial requests to deploy the National Guard to the Capitol. Pence gave the go-ahead."

That day, pro-Trump white supremacists, led by a cadre of retired and off-duty military and police personnel, invaded the halls of Congress, egged on by President Donald Trump's call to overturn the results of November's election. The attempted coup sent elected officials inside scrambling for safety, including Vice President Mike Pence.

"President Trump initially rebuffed and resisted requests to mobilize the National Guard to quell violent protests at the Capitol, according to a person with knowledge of the events," Haberman and Cooper wrote.

"In the end, it was Vice President Mike Pence, defense and administration officials said, who approved the order to deploy. It was unclear why Mr. Trump, who is still technically the commander in chief, did not give the order.

"The order was initiated with the help of Pat A. Cipollone, the White House counsel, among other officials, according to the person with knowledge of the events.

"The Army activated 1,100 troops of the D.C. National Guard, an Army official said Wednesday, and Virginia's governor dispatched members of the Virginia Guard along with 200 Virginia State Troopers to quell the violence in the nation's capital. The troops were sent to the D.C. Armory to be deployed to the Capitol and to other points around Washington."

Congress reconvened after the attackers were dispersed. They ratified Joe Biden's election victory in the wee hours of Jan. 7.

Given the day's dramatic events, most readers wouldn't have noticed Haberman and Cooper's fleeting update, or have given it a second thought if they had. But the implications for the U.S. political system are great.

Why? Because Vice President Pence, whose own life was put in danger by his boss, had overruled Trump on deploying National Guard troops in the capital city.

In U.S. states, it is the governor that calls the shots when deploy-

ing the National Guard. But the city of Washington, D.C. — a majority Black, super oppressed city — is akin to a colonial possession, not a state. Washington's mayor, city council and other local officials do not have any say in deploying the National Guard.

The only person with that power is the commander in chief of the U.S. military: the U.S. president.

How then was it possible for Pence to deploy the troops, in opposition to Trump?

## More evidence emerges

Sometime after the initial report was posted, the Times' bulletin was updated to include this additional paragraph, which has the character of a blatant attempt to explain away what happened:

"Kash Patel, the chief of staff to Chris Miller, the acting defense secretary, responded: 'The acting secretary and the president have spoken multiple times this week about the request for National Guard personnel in D.C. During these conversations, the president conveyed to the acting secretary that he should take any necessary steps to support civilian law enforcement requests in securing the Capitol and federal buildings.'"

But the following day, more details emerged about the seeming break in the military chain of command. This information was buried deep in a Washington Post article under the headline, "After inciting mob attack, Trump retreats in rage. Then, grudgingly, he admits his loss," written by the Post's White House Bureau Chief Philip Rucker and two other reporters.

"As a mob of Trump supporters breached police barricades and seized the Capitol, Trump was disengaged in discussions with Pentagon leaders about deploying the National Guard to aid the overwhelmed U.S. Capitol Police, according to two people familiar with the talks.

"Vice President Pence worked directly with acting Defense Secretary Christopher C. Miller and the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, Gen. Mark A. Milley, as well as with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), concerning the unrest at the Capitol and military deployments, the people said.

"As for Trump, one of the people said, 'he was completely, totally out of it.' This person added, 'He made no attempt to reach out to them.'"

This is important because it indicates that not only Vice President Pence and Pentagon officials, but also Democratic Party congressional leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer and Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell were involved.

In a decision to break the military chain of command mandated by the U.S. Constitution, this makes sense.



Vice President Mike Pence inspects National Guard troops outside the Capitol, January 14.

As speaker of the House of Representatives, Pelosi would be next in line as acting president if Pence were incapacitated.

## Hidden from the masses

That Trump should be removed as commander-in-chief of the world's most powerful imperialist military machine is indisputable. It should have happened long ago.

But the problem, from the point of view of the class interests of the workers and oppressed, and of people's democratic rights generally, is how it was done.

Rather than invoke the 25th Amendment of the Constitution, which allows the vice president and a majority of the Cabinet to remove the president if they are unable to carry out their duties, the chain of command was broken behind the backs of the people, in secret.

Was there time to invoke the 25th Amendment during the crisis? Of course, we are not privy to the details. But it is indisputable that by the time the National Guard was mobilized on Pence's orders, the immediate danger was over and various local and federal police agencies had successfully cleared the far-right mob from the Capitol.

Even if the situation was so dire that the authoritative elected officials felt that it was impossible to follow constitutionally mandated procedure, they could have explained this publicly afterward while moving ahead to officially remove the president. But this didn't happen either.

Instead, Pence, Pentagon and White House officials, and congressional leaders of both capitalist parties have covered up what really happened.

## The impeachment show

Two days later, on Jan. 8, Trump made a statement condemning the Capitol attack, in which he falsely stated that "I immediately deployed the National Guard and federal law enforcement to secure the building and expel the intruders." Unusual for Trump, he read from a carefully worded script prepared for him in advance.

The same day, House Speaker Pelosi wrote a letter to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and spoke with its head, Gen. Mark Milley, about "available precautions" to prevent Trump from unilaterally ordering a nuclear strike or other military attack during his last two weeks in office.

Milley was said to reassure Pelosi of the many safeguards in place by which military personnel could refuse to carry out such an order if they felt it was illegal.

On Jan. 12, the House of Representatives formally requested that Pence invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office. As expected, Pence refused, and the following day the House voted 232-197 to impeach Trump for "incitement of insurrection." His impeachment trial in the Senate is not expected to begin until after Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20.

All of these developments amount to a show put on for public consumption and to assuage the anger of Congress members and others whose lives were endangered on Jan. 6.

The available evidence clearly indicates that Trump was removed from his role as commander in chief by the evening of Jan. 6, with the involvement of the Pentagon generals, Vice President Pence and congressional leaders.

A widely reprinted Jan. 15 Los Angeles Times article appeared under the title, "Trump retreats from his job, and Pence fills the void as 'acting' president." While the article doesn't explicitly address the military chain of command, it reports how Pence has taken on the role of visiting and thanking the thousands of National Guard troops deployed in the capital ahead of the Inauguration.

## What's the quid pro quo?

Why was Trump allowed to remain president for two weeks after the coup attempt, until his term expires at noon on Jan. 20?

Because, as Struggle-La Lucha has previously explained, Trump doesn't only represent himself, but a significant and increasingly desperate group within the capitalist ruling class that has deep roots in the state apparatus — that is, in police agencies and the military itself.

In removing Trump from the military chain of command, it was necessary to make a deal — not only with Trump, but with the class forces he represents. This is what makes the behind-the-scenes character of the events especially dangerous.

Some aspects of the deal are obvious. Trump read a scripted statement condemning the Capitol attack and didn't publicly expose his removal from the chain of command. In exchange, he was allowed to serve out the rest of his term without being removed under the 25th Amendment, which could have immediately subjected him to arrest for his role in the coup attempt.

Trump will instead be seen off with pomp and circumstance on the morning of Jan. 20 before flying to his base of operations at Mar-a-Lago in Florida.

The bigger question is: What guarantees and deals were made with the fracking billionaires and other Trump backers, who have been pushing for war with Iran to drive up their profits?

Whatever deal was made to subvert the military chain of command could paradoxically increase the danger of a U.S. war with Iran, Venezuela or other oil producing countries, to appease the pro-Trump bosses.

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### Militarism breeds fascism

It's also important to ask what the Pentagon brass got out of the deal.

Trump appointed several loyalists to key positions in the "Defense" Department and National Security Agency after his election loss. No doubt they played key roles in various coup schemes and scenarios, including the Capitol attack. But so far, no one is officially asking questions about that — only about individual military personnel and police who participated in the assault.

There is instability inside the Pentagon, just as there is in all U.S. capitalist political institutions. The year 2020 saw the greatest mass uprising against racism in generations after the police murder of George Floyd. Then came a violent racist backlash by the police and neofascist groups, which culminated in the events of Jan. 6.

Trump and his backers pushed hard to involve the military in domestic repression, beyond the militarization of local police that has gone on for decades under Republicans and Democrats alike. His first coup attempt on June 1, 2020, included direct involvement by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Milley, who later got cold feet.

At the same time, the global capitalist economic crisis, in tandem with the pandemic, is pushing the bosses toward ever more desperate measures to save their system. Historically, military expansion and war is their go-to solution.

That a struggle ensued inside the Pentagon for days after the Jan. 6 coup attempt is shown by the fact that it took another six days — until Jan. 12 — for the Joint Chiefs to issue a statement condemning the Capitol attack, affirming Joe Biden as the incoming commander-in-chief and reminding military personnel of their obligation to uphold the Constitution.

Only then, when the Pentagon had spoken, did the FBI and other sources begin to reveal the true intentions of the leaders of the Capitol assault to capture and execute Pence and members of Congress, the key role of military and police personnel, etc.

This was also the cue for an extraordinary military occupation of Washington by 25,000 National Guard troops, repressive agencies and police departments from across the U.S. While this massive armed presence may deter another fascist incursion at the Inauguration, it could also expose the ongoing instability within these state forces — perhaps violently so.

The occupation certainly poses a threat to the oppressed residents of D.C. It is unlikely that the military will retreat from the streets after Biden is sworn in.

The colossal expansion of the U.S. military, police and prisons over the last 40 years has been the breeding ground for the growth of the fascist movement in the U.S. Further expansion of military power won't stem the tide of fascist violence. It will hasten it.

An independent people's investigation of the Jan. 6 coup attempt is urgently needed. At the top of its agenda must be to uncover and expose the deals that were cut behind the backs of the masses to stave off the collapse of the crisis-ridden U.S. political system.

Impeach the Pentagon and the police state! 📧

# Trump & Pentagon in coup attempt

By Gary Wilson

Make no mistake about it: Trump and the Pentagon played key roles in the Jan. 6 coup attempt at the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

The Pentagon was deeply involved. Members of the U.S. military, both active and veterans, as well as from numerous police forces across the country, were leading participants. But that fact is being quickly covered up.

Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ) recognized it: "We can't have a democracy if too many members of our police and our military are acting to overturn it and undermine it," Sherrill said in a video posted on Facebook.

Sherrill knows the military. She was a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander serving at the U.S. Navy command center in Europe before she became a Congress member.

Sherrill also said that Congress members gave "reconnaissance tours" the day before the Capitol raid. "I was told later that members of that mob had zip ties, were wearing body armor and were looking to take prisoners ... members of Congress."

Many at the scene observed the military character of the assault on the Capitol.

A Black officer in the U.S. Capitol Police who was on duty during the attack told BuzzFeed News:

"That was a heavily trained group

of militia terrorists that attacked us. They had radios, we found them, they had two-way communicators and earpieces. They had bear spray. They had flash bangs. ... They were prepared. They strategically put two IEDs, pipe bombs, in two different locations.

These guys were military trained. A lot of them were former military," the officer said.

The Appeal reports that "at least 26 sworn members of U.S. law enforcement agencies from at least 11 states have been identified by law enforcement agencies and local reporting as attendees of the Jan. 6 rally."

The "Insurrection Timeline – First the Coup and Then the Cover-Up," published at "Moyers on Democracy," details the central role played by Donald Trump and his new acting secretary of defense, Christopher Miller.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser asked Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy — who reports to Miller — for more federal help to deal with the mob that had broken into the Capitol. McCarthy and Miller denied the mayor's request and blocked deployment of the National Guard until hours later, after the insurrection had already been put down.



'That mob had zip ties, were wearing body armor and were looking to take prisoners ... members of Congress.'

From the "Insurrection Timeline": "Who is Christopher Miller?"

"By Nov. 9, every news organization declared that former Vice President Joe Biden had won the election. On that day, Trump fired Acting Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and replaced him with Miller, an Army retiree who worked for a defense contractor until Trump tapped him as his assistant in 2018.

"Miller's promotion began a departmental regime change that embedded three fierce Trump loyalists as top Defense Department officials: Kash Patel (former aide to Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)), retired army Gen. Anthony Tata (pro-Trump Fox News pundit) and Ezra Cohen-Watnick (former assistant to Trump's first national security adviser, Mike Flynn).

"At such a late date in Trump's presidency, many asked why the shake-up at the Department of Defense? We may be learning the answer." 📧

## U.S.-Africom out! Justice and reparations for Somalia!

By Carl Muhammad

*Remarks by the Socialist Unity Party at a Jan. 16 protest in San Diego against the ongoing U.S. Africa Command (Africom) military intervention in Somalia. Despite an announced Jan. 15 withdrawal of several hundred U.S. troops from the African country, drone strikes and Special Forces operations will continue. The troops will not be brought home, but transferred to bases in Kenya and Djibouti.*

The actions of Africom sparked global controversy. Leaders around the world were alerted. As a result of the outcry, Amnesty International conducted an investigation. Their investigation of just nine airstrikes revealed 21 civilians killed, 11 wounded, many more displaced, and they ruled it a clear violation of international law.

Africom subsequently admitted to killing and injuring people in four separate airstrikes. Up to this very day, neither the victims nor their families have ever been compensated or even contacted by the U.S. or Somali governments.

So what is Africom for? We know it's not to help people. Nothing the U.S. ever does makes it better for the people there. I challenge anyone to show me one time where the lives of the average people improved when the U.S. moved in.

Imperialism is still the agenda — just like in the slavery trade, just like in the scramble for Africa. To steal and exploit the inexhaustible min-

eral wealth and to cause the continued underdevelopment of the continent and its inhabitants.

That's an important part, the underdevelopment, when we talk about slavery. When you take key people out of their community, guess what happens to that community? Don't let them tell you that they were all savages and barbarians.

In western Africa, we know that they had empires before the 1500s. They had doctors, teachers, what you would call professional people who maintained those societies. And when you went in and took millions out, you underdeveloped that entire continent. That's a crime in and of itself.

Specifically, the U.S. is in central Africa for the coltan mines that fuel the tech industry. Coltan is key. That's why they're there.

A news report from 2015 after the reporter visited a coltan mine demonstrated how the imperialists were exploiting the workers. After their haul is weighed and classified, the miners are paid \$5 a day for the backbreaking work to dig out the precious metals that power our smartphones.

Recently, Africom announced it would be withdrawing from Somalia. This is no doubt in response to the public outcry against their war crimes in the country. But Somalians are demanding justice for these



Carl Muhammad at Jan. 16 speakout in San Diego. PHOTO: PSL SAN DIEGO

crimes. You can't do the out-of-sight, out-of-mind trick. Pulling out of Somalia is not going to make us forget. It doesn't absolve you of those crimes or make you not responsible.

Citing Africom's own admission of wrongdoing, Amnesty International said the troop withdrawal must not derail this momentum. Africom has an ongoing duty to care for the civilians impacted by its operations.

It's been said that solidarity with Somalia is key. So we must stand with the Somali people in demanding justice, from Africom and its imperialist aims.

We must not only join in Amnesty International's demand for justice and for reparations, we must also call for an end to Africom. And we must call for the destruction of U.S. imperialism around the world. 📧

# Condena a la fraudulenta calificación de Cuba como estado patrocinador del terrorismo

## Declaración del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores condena en los términos más firmes y absolutos la fraudulenta calificación de Cuba como Estado patrocinador del terrorismo, anunciada por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos en acto cínico e hipócrita.

Desde hace meses, se viene especulando sobre la posibilidad de incluir a Cuba en la lista unilateral del Departamento de Estado que califica a países, sin mandato o legitimidad alguna, carente de motivación genuina, referida al terrorismo y sus secuelas, y como instrumento de difamación para aplicar medidas económicas coercitivas contra naciones que se resistan a doblegarse a los caprichos del imperialismo estadounidense.

El anuncio formulado por el Secretario de Estado Michael Pompeo constituye un acto soberbio de un gobierno desprestigiado, deshonesto y en bancarrota moral. Se conoce, sin lugar a dudas, que la verdadera motivación de esta acción es imponer obstáculos adicionales a cualquier perspectiva de recuperación en las relaciones bilaterales entre Cuba y los Estados Unidos.

Cuba no es un Estado patrocinador del terrorismo, verdad reconocida por todos. La política oficial y conocida, y la conducta intachable de nuestro



FOTO: BILL HACKWELL

país, es el rechazo al terrorismo en todas sus formas y manifestaciones, en particular el terrorismo de Estado, por quienquiera, contra quienquiera y dondequiera que se cometa.

Cuba es un estado víctima del terrorismo y nuestra población lo ha

sufrido en carne propia, al precio de 3 478 víctimas mortales y 2 099 personas con discapacidad, por actos cometidos por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos o perpetrados y patrocinados desde territorio de ese país con la tolerancia de las autoridades

oficiales. Los cubanos repudiamos con desprecio toda maniobra dirigida a manipular un tema tan sensible, para groseros propósitos de oportunismo político.

La Habana, 11 de enero de 2021

Fuente: MINREX

## EN CUBA,

# ‘Recordamos a Lenin como recordamos a Fidel’

Por Ernesto Estévez Rams

Al describir los acontecimientos de la Revolución de Octubre, John Reed, en el prólogo de su extraordinaria obra Diez días que estremecieron al mundo, hace un recuento de las fuerzas que pugnaban por el poder, en medio de una Revolución que aún no lograba definir el color de su destino.

Por un lado, lo que denomina las clases poseedoras que aspiraban a quitar al Zar y sustituirlo por un poder burgués, al estilo de las democracias occidentales de Estados Unidos y de Francia; por el otro, los bolcheviques, que reclamaban centrar a la Revolución en la lucha de clases y la necesidad de que todo el

poder fuera a los soviets.

Entre estas dos fuerzas que calificaba de extremas, John sitúa a los socialistas «moderados», las comillas son de él, no mías. Los moderados creían que Rusia no estaba lista para una Revolución que llevara a las masas populares al poder, es decir, una Revolución social: «Consecuentemente, insistían en la colaboración de las clases poderosas en el gobierno. De ahí a apoyarlas había solo un paso. Los socialistas «moderados necesitaban de la burguesía». De esa moderación emergió la traición o, en palabras de Reed, cuando los bolcheviques desbarataron todo el pretendido compromiso entre las clases, esos moderados «se vieron luchando del lado de las clases po-

seedoras... Actualmente, en casi todos los países del mundo se puede observar el mismo fenómeno».

Para cerrar su juicio de lo que acontecía, el periodista norteamericano no vacila en situar su militancia en uno de los extremos: «Contrariamente a ser una fuerza destructiva, en mi opinión los bolcheviques eran el único partido de Rusia con un programa constructivo (...). Si no hubieran llegado al gobierno cuando lo hicieron, no tengo la menor duda de que los ejércitos de la Alemania imperial habrían estado en Petrogrado y Moscú en diciembre, y que Rusia hubiera estado nuevamente dominada por un Zar». Los comunistas bolcheviques eran la única trinchera real contra el poder imperial que los amenazaba.

Al frente de la fuerza extremista «el gran Lenin», como lo llamó John Reed, quien lo describió «de pequeña y fornida figura, cabeza grande, calva, y protuberante, clavada en los hombros; ojos pequeños, nariz roma, boca ancha y generosa, y macizo mentón. (...) De apariencia poco relevante para ser el ídolo de multitudes que era amado y respetado, como quizá pocos líderes de la historia. Un extraño líder popular, que lo era solo por la virtud de su intelecto (...) con el poder de explicar profundas ideas en términos sencillos, el poder de analizar concretamente las situaciones. Y, combinada con la sagacidad, la mayor audacia intelectual».

A Lenin, a 97 años de su muerte, lo recordamos aquí como recordamos a Fidel, nuestro Lenin, el Lenin de los pueblos del Tercer Mundo. Lo recordamos aquí en esta Isla, donde los bolcheviques de ahora, defensores del extremo redentor de los desposeídos, nos mantenemos empeñados en ser trinchera contra el imperio, convencidos de que estos 62 años de estremecer al mundo son la víspera de tomar al cielo por asalto.

Fuente: Granma

## IN CUBA,

# ‘We remember Lenin as we remember Fidel’

By Ernesto Estévez Rams

Describing the October Revolution in Russia, John Reed, in the prologue of his extraordinary book “Ten Days that Shook the World,” describes the forces vying for power, in the midst of a revolution that had not yet managed to define its destiny.

On the one hand, what he calls the possessing classes who aspired to remove the czar and replace him

with a bourgeois power, in the style of the Western democracies of the United States and France; on the other, the Bolsheviks, who saw the revolution as based on the class struggle and insisted on the necessity of the soviets taking power.

Between these two forces, which he describes as extreme, Reed places the “moderate” socialists — the quotation marks are his, not mine. The moderates believed that Russia

was not ready for a social revolution, and insisted on collaborating with the powerful classes in the govern-

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