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China-Iran agreement to bust U.S. economic sanctions

By Scott Scheffer

The People's Republic of China and Iran have announced an agreement that is a direct challenge to the punishing U.S. sanctions against Iran and strikes back against the economic war on China.

China will invest \$400 billion in Iran over 25 years for infrastructure and other purposes. Iran will supply China with oil for its growing economy. Both countries have been targeted by U.S. economic sanctions, and this is an agreement to forcefully bust the sanctions.

The Biden White House has carried forward a reactionary and punishing foreign policy from previous administrations. Sanctions that cause starvation and deprivation in targeted countries have become a favored weapon for U.S. imperialism, and were responsible for more than 1 million deaths in Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War.

Slander campaigns and gunboat diplomacy have become stock in trade for the White House and the Pentagon. Now Iran and China are drawing their own line in the sand.

The sanctions against Iran were increased when the Trump administration pulled out of a deal struck between the U.S. and Iran during the Obama administration. Iran had been developing a nuclear energy program to alleviate the domestic burden on petroleum reserves and free up petroleum for export. As part of its ongoing aggression and slander, the U.S. government accused Iran of building a nuclear weapons program.

The Obama administration negotiated a deal with Iran that it said was to limit the processing of uranium to levels that couldn't be used for nuclear weapons. In reality, the agreement also limited low-level processing of uranium. What the U.S.



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was targeting was in fact Iran's attempt to ease the economic suffering caused by the sanctions by selling petroleum on the world market.

Sanctions mean hunger, shortages

In return for these nuclear limitations, Washington was supposed to ease the sanctions. The additional sanctions imposed when Trump broke the agreement are far worse than anything in the 40 years of U.S. animosity toward the Iranian Revolution, and are actually causing hunger and shortages of medicine and other vital supplies.

The Biden administration says that it wants to reinstate the nuclear agreement, but is insisting that Iran comply with all the restrictions first. In the meantime, none of the 240 sanctions imposed by Trump have been reversed. Iran, with China's support, is demanding that the sanctions be eased first, to finally get some relief for the people.

The 1979 Iranian Revolution threw out the U.S.-backed monarch, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

vi. The shah was a butcher whose feared Savak agents terrorized the Iranian people and murdered tens of thousands during the 25 years that the U.S. supported him.

The shah was installed via one of the earliest major CIA actions in 1953. The U.S. orchestrated the overthrow of President Mohammad Mossadegh, a popular and progressive leader who had nationalized U.S. and British oilfields.

The 1979 revolution

The 1979 revolution in Iran is still a thorn in the side of U.S. imperialism. Iran has remained at the core of anti-imperialist resistance in West Asia and North Africa. For more than four decades, Iran has rejected every carrot offered or stick wielded by the U.S. or other imperialist countries.

Iran is aligned with the Palestinian struggle against Israeli apartheid. It has provided mili-

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BALTIMORE

Celebrate victory, continue struggle against police terror

By Russ Mack

Baltimore demonstrators rallied at City Hall on April 20 after it was announced that Derek Chauvin was found guilty on all three counts in the murder of George Floyd.

Organized by the Peoples Power Assembly, protesters made their way through several working-class neighborhoods and past Baltimore City's Correctional Center and Police Headquarters.

The prevailing attitude among the participants was one of celebration. Many had been unsure if Chauvin would actually be declared guilty, and braced themselves for the very real possibility that the cries from last summer's hard-fought rebellion would continue to go unheard.

Impassioned comments from key voices of the Baltimore struggle bookended the march. Pub-

lic housing activist Rev. Annie Chambers and Tawanda Jones, sister of slain Baltimore police victim Tyrone West, were just two of the speakers. Their powerful declarations of victory, as well as their urgent calls for continued mobilization and community justice, were essential in bolstering the crowd's morale.

The outcome of this trial marks a huge win for the movement, but the struggle continues as Derek Chauvin still awaits sentencing. Chauvin is also only one among the countless racist, murderous cops that must be held accountable for their crimes. We must continue to act in solidarity with all victims of police brutality and those who fight back tirelessly.

For updates on upcoming events, please visit the Peoples Power Assembly on Facebook or call (410) 218-4835.



Lee Patterson

On the possession and unethical use of the remains of the children of MOVE and the Africa Family p. 3

Zimbabwe celebrates 41 years of independence

By Stephen Millies

Forty-one years ago the people of Zimbabwe won independence on April 18, 1980. Thousands of Africans died for it. For decades Zimbabwe's people fought for freedom.

As a young man, Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa was sentenced to death for being a freedom fighter. He was tortured and spent years in prison after being relieved from the gallows.

Great Zimbabwe is the country's most famous monument. Tall stone walls protected the ancient city that was nearly three square miles in size.

Capitalist robber barons lusted after the country's 150,000 square miles of fertile land and mineral wealth. The fantastically wealthy diamond and gold mine owner Cecil Rhodes invaded Zimbabwe with British mercenaries in the 1890s.

They used an early machine gun, named the Maxim gun after its U.S. inventor, to murder Africans. This didn't stop people from fighting back during the first "Chimurenga" or freedom struggle.

One of the Chimurenga's leaders, Chingaira, was shot by a firing squad on Sept. 4, 1896. Facing his executioners, he declared, "It is all very well to call me a rebel but the country belonged to me and my forefathers long before you came here."

The British called Zimbabwe "Southern Rhodesia" after moneybags Rhodes, while they called neighboring Zambia "Northern Rhodesia." White settlers stole most of the land while Africans were forced by a "hut tax" and systematic violence to work for them.

This led to more than 15 years of

a Chimurenga against the white settler regime of Ian Smith during the 1960s and 1970s. Guerrilla warfare was launched. Smith responded with wholesale terror that included using the biological weapon anthrax against liberation fighters.

Smith was propped up by support from Britain. Big Oil outfits BP and Shell supplied petroleum to the Smith regime in violation of U.N. sanctions.

The U.S. allowed imports of chrome from occupied Zimbabwe, which also violated U.N. sanctions. None of this prevented the white settler regime from being forced to surrender to Zimbabwe's people.

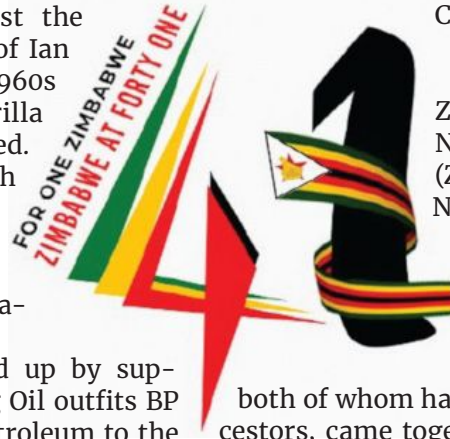
Celebration in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The December 12th Movement held a rally in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community of Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 18 to celebrate Zimbabwe's independence. The revolutionary organization has always defended the African country. Its leaders supported Zimbabwe's liberation struggle for decades.

One of the D12 leaders, Field Marshal Coltrane Chimurenga, who passed away in 2019, is buried in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital. He was interred in the Harare Provincial Heroes' Acre and given a 21-gun salute by the Zimbabwean military.

Speaking in front of Sistas' Place on Nostrand Avenue at Frederick Douglass Square, D12 Chairperson Viola Plummer talked about the liberation struggle in Zimbabwe.

She stressed the need for unity and praised two leaders of the



Chimurenga:

Robert Mugabe, leader of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), and Joshua Nkomo, who led the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU).

These freedom fighters,

both of whom have joined the ancestors, came together to form the Patriotic Front. Cuban leader Fidel Castro supported this effort and the military struggle.

After achieving independence, ZANU and ZAPU merged their organizations to form ZANU-PF (Patriotic Front) in the late 1980s.

For big capitalists in the U.S. and Europe — who've enslaved and exploited Africans for over 500 years — Zimbabwe's unforgivable sin was taking back the land. Starting in 2000, President Robert Mugabe led the restoration of the land to Africans that had been stolen by white farm owners and ranchers.

That's what should have been done in the United States in 1865. The plantations should have been given to the Africans who worked on them — from "no see" in the morning to "no see" at night — and to Indigenous nations that the land was stolen from.

Fighting COVID and sanctions

The U.S. government, which openly violated U.N. sanctions to help Ian Smith, has imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe for 20 years for liberating their land. According to a D12 leaflet, Zimbabwe lost \$42 billion because of this cruel economic blockade.

Importing medical supplies and

agricultural implements has been hindered. The African Union's 54 nations have demanded the lifting of sanctions. So has AU Chair and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and the U.N. Secretary General.

Despite these sanctions, the country's economy is expected to grow 7.4% in 2021. In his Independence Day speech, His Excellency President Mnangagwa reported on the new roads, bridges, dams and electrical plants being built. The country's "look East" policy has encouraged trade with the People's Republic of China, Iran and the Russian Federation.


Zimbabwe has the highest literacy rate in Africa. Before independence, there was only one high school for Africans. Now there are many and every province has a college.

At the Brooklyn rally, Colette Pean, a D12 leader, explained how Zimbabwe was able to beat back the coronavirus pandemic. With ZANU-PF party members rooted in the countryside, as well as in the cities, the country was able to mobilize against the virus.

Zimbabwe shut down to stop the spread. As of April 17, the country of 14 million people had 37,980 cases of COVID-19 with 1,555 deaths.

In contrast, the nearly 13 million people in Pennsylvania have had over 1.1 million cases and suffered nearly 26,000 deaths.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa reported that Zimbabwe launched a national vaccination program to contain the virus. Vaccines have been obtained from China, the Russian Federation and India.

Despite the slander in the corporate media, Zimbabwe is moving forward. Forty-one is a prime number. Lift the sanctions on Zimbabwe! 

U.S.-Japan statement threatens China with nuclear weapons

By Gary Wilson

On April 16, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, the first foreign leader to visit the Biden White House, issued a joint statement lashing out at China.

The statement, which covers a range of issues, includes the following: "We also recognize the importance of deterrence to maintain peace and stability in the region. We oppose any unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the East China Sea. We reiterated our objections to China's unlawful maritime claims and activities in the South China Sea."

On Taiwan specifically, the statement adds, "We underscore the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and encourage the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues."

What caught the most attention, though, was the statement's assertion: "The United States restated its unwavering support for Japan's defense under the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security, using its full range of capabilities, including nuclear."

The statement continues: "Each Party recognizes that an armed at-



President Joe Biden held a joint news conference with Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and at the White House, April 16.

tack against either Party in the territories under the administration of Japan would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common danger in accordance with its constitutional provisions and processes." This would apply to Japan's claim to the Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea.

Biden and Suga pledged to intensify military cooperation "across all domains, including cyber and space,

and to bolster extended deterrence."

At the press conference, Biden said: "Prime Minister Suga and I affirmed our ironclad support for the U.S./Japanese Alliance, and for our shared security. We [are] committed to working together to take on the challenges from China and issues like the East China Sea, the South China Sea, as well as North Korea."

Suga said: "We also had serious talks on China's influence over the peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific and the world at large. We agreed to oppose any attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion in the East and South China Seas and intimidation of others in the region."

China's Global Times responded with an editorial statement:

"U.S. President Joe Biden and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Friday issued a joint statement which mainly focused on dealing with China. The statement talked a lot about the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance, an alliance being touted as a 'U.S.-Japan global partnership for a new era.' In the statement, the two countries pledge to work together to resist 'challenges to the free and open rules-based

international order.' The statement outlined the situation in the Indo-Pacific region, accusing China of conducting 'economic and other forms of coercion' in the region. It also mentioned the Taiwan question — the first time since 1969 American and Japanese top leaders have done so in their joint statement.

"An ocean separates our countries, but commitments to universal values and common principles, including freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, international law, multilateralism, and a free and fair economic order, unite us," said part of the statement. But this sentimental rhetoric is hypocritical. U.S.-Japan ties are a kind of relationship where a victorious country of World War II dominates a defeated country, Japan. There is a strong 'master-servant' feature in this relationship in terms of diplomacy. The joint statement has strengthened the compulsive dominance the U.S.'s extreme China policy has on Japan's diplomacy, while Japan has actively and cautiously catered to it.

"Japan has become the country in Asia that follows the U.S. policy

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On the possession and unethical use of the remains of the children of MOVE and the Africa family

A collective statement from the Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA), the Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA), and the Black in Bioanthropology Collective (BiBA)

April 28 — On May 13, 1985, after almost a decade of relentless harassment and confrontation, the City of Philadelphia dropped two bombs on the roof of 6221 Osage Avenue, the compound of the MOVE organization — a revolutionary group of Black people opposed to capitalist growth and committed to environmental justice and interspecies harmony. The bomb caused a fire that ripped through the compound, incinerating 11 of the 13 MOVE members inside, including five children aged seven to 13 (Tree Africa (14), Netta Africa (12), Delisha Africa (12), Little Phil Africa (12), and Tomasa Africa (9)), and razed the neighborhood, destroying at least 61 homes.

This past week, a number of outlets revealed the disturbing history of what became of the remains of one (and perhaps two) of the child victims of the bombing. What emerged was the disturbing complicity of anthropologists and anthropological institutions. Two forensic anthropologists, Alan Mann (at the time, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania), and Janet Monge (at the time Mann's PhD student) had been hired by Philadelphia officials to identify the remains. While Mann and Monge were unable to make a positive identification, the assumption is that the remains belonged to Tree and Delisha Africa, aged 14 and 12, respectively. After the investigation, apparently either Mann or Monge kept the remains in their personal possession, moving them between the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Princeton University. As late as last week, the remains were the focal point of the Princeton online Coursera course titled, "Real Bones: Adventures in Forensic Anthropology," taught by Monge. Some 5000 students were enrolled. Princeton claimed not to know the location of the remains; UPenn later admitted that they were

in Mann's possession and that he would release them.

The parents of Tree and Delisha were not notified of the existence of the remains, nor were the remains returned. The Africa family believed that their children were buried, and were not aware that their children's bones were being used as specimens for the forensic anthropology course. Mike Africa, Jr., speaking on behalf of the family, lamented: "Nobody said you can do that, holding up their bones for the camera. That's not how we process our dead. This is beyond words. The anthropology professor is holding the bones of a 14-year-old girl whose mother is still alive and grieving."

The Association of Black Anthropologists, the Society of Black Archaeologists, and the Black in Bioanthropology Collective are painfully aware of the barbaric history of anthropology, especially when it comes to populations of peoples of African descent. We know that our discipline has been mobilized to rationalize eugenics and white supremacy and to justify slavery and colonialism. We also know that ethnographic museums, like Penn's Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (which houses the collection of the notorious racist Samuel Morton,) have supported the academic rationale for the institutionalization of racism in anthropology textbooks, courses, and curricula.

It is because of this history of racism in anthropology, and because of the missions of ABA, SBA, and BiBA to counter it, that we as organizations condemn in the strongest possible language the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Coursera, along with Professors Alan Mann and Janet Monge, for their horrific treatment of the remains of Tree and Delisha Africa, and for the unfathomable heartlessness and disrespect shown towards the Africa family. We are outraged by the stun-



MOVE family, May 4, 1978.

Photo: On a MOVE

ning ethical indifference shown by all parties involved to both Tree and Delisha and to the Africa family, but also by the fact that these entities effectively monetized the remains of Black children murdered in a state terrorist attack — a fact made all the more painful given the heightened public awareness of brutal murders of Black children and youth by the police over the past few years.

Moreover, this revelation represents a painful reminder of anthropology's history with the Black dead — of which the Penn Museum, as the physical manifestation of Morton's legacy, provides a potent symbol. Even as UPenn earlier this year has tried to grapple with the legacy of Morton, we are faced with yet another affront to Black life and dignity.

Black anthropologists should not be alone in expressing this outrage and bearing this heavy ethical burden. All anthropologists should be enraged. All anthropologists need to condemn this barbaric and savage act by its own practitioners. And white anthropologists, in particular, should not only hold themselves accountable to the ways that they continue to uphold normalized forms of antiBlackness and harm through their research and theorizing, but should also actively work to undo the centuries of violence and trauma done to nonwhite communities.

We support and are republishing the demands of Mike Africa, Jr.,

a MOVE family member who was 6 years old at the time when the Philadelphia police dropped the bomb on MOVE, currently circulated in the following online petition: [tinyurl.com/MOVE-children](https://www.tinyurl.com/MOVE-children)

We demand:

- The immediate return of the remains of Delisha Africa and Tree Africa to The MOVE Family.
- An immediate apology by the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, the Penn Museum, and Coursera to The MOVE Family and the Black community of Philadelphia for this racist and abhorrent behavior.
- Financial reparations to The MOVE Family for the continued harm and trauma caused by Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, the Penn Museum, and Coursera, for the profits made by the use of our relatives as teaching tools and research objects.
- The immediate removal of all online content in which these remains are used, including the online course Real Bones taught by Janet Monge.
- The termination of Janet Monge from her role as curator at the Penn Museum and faculty in the department of anthropology.
- The creation of a transparent, public investigation led by a MOVE-approved investigator and funded by the Universities, into how these remains ended up in the Museum's possession over the past 35 years.

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Global protest demands: Biden, 'Unblock Cuba'



Los Angeles

By teleSUR

Protests in over 50 cities around the world took place Sunday, April 25, demanding an end of the United States economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba.

Events took place in major U.S. cities such as New York, Washington, Detroit, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Oakland, San Diego, San Francisco, Tampa, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Seattle, and Indianapolis.

In Cuba, some 3,000 people rode Cubans caravans in two cities: Las Tunas and Villa Clara, which were selected for being the two of the least affected by COVID-19 contagions.

Similar caravans took place in Miami, New York, Tennessee, California, Illinois, Beijing, Illinois, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Winnipeg, and Montreal, among many others across the five continents.

This initiative came from Carlos Lazo, a Cuban professor living in the United States.

Caravans aim at showing worldwide rejection of the 60-year old blockade imposed on Cuba right after the Cuban Revolution led by Fidel Castro in 1959.

The blockade is a burden for Cuba's development. Since 1992, year after year the United Nations General Assembly approves by large margins resolutions calling on the U.S. to stop the unilateral and illegal punishment of the Cuban people. To no avail.

The laws and sanctions that make up the blockade are an illegal attempt of regime change, infringing severe food and medicine shortages on Cuba's 11 million people.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the embargo was heavily strengthened in 2020, causing losses of over \$5 billion to the Cuban economy.

International actions demand: End U.S.-Ukraine war in Donbass

By Greg Butterfield

Protests were held in at least seven cities across Europe from April 16–20 against the escalation of Ukraine's war crimes in the Donbass region and the danger of a U.S.-NATO war with the Russian Federation.

The Anti-Imperialist Front (AIF), an alliance of revolutionary organizations including groups from Turkey, Europe and the former Soviet republics, called for an International Day of Solidarity with Donbass on April 17. Their call was joined by others, including the Red Square-Molotov Club and the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic.

AIF was inspired by the April 10 protest in New York, initiated by the U.S.-based Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine, and the statement "No U.S.-Ukraine war on Donbass and Russia," which has gathered numerous endorsements and been reprinted in several languages.

Borotba, a Marxist organization banned by the U.S.-backed Ukrainian government and a member of the AIF, emphasized the importance of international solidarity with people in the independent Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. People there face an escalation of the 7-year-long war waged by Ukraine with U.S.-NATO support.

On April 3, 5-year-old Vladik Shikhov was killed by a Ukrainian drone in the yard of his home in a Donetsk village. He is the youngest of several civilians killed and wounded since Ukraine's military buildup began in January.

'Peace to children of Donbass'

Actions kicked off April 16 in Košice, Slovakia. "Communists, anti-fascists and peace fighters held a protest on Main Street in Košice," reported the organizers. "Residents ... expressed their disagreement with war and anti-Russian propaganda in the main media of Slovakia and Europe.

"They expressed solidarity with the persecuted citizens of Ukraine, with wounded and killed citizens of Donbass, with all the people in eastern Ukraine who are victims of the current fascist regime."

Signs and banners declared, "Stop



Košice, Slovakia. PHOTO: AIF

the U.S. war in Donbass" and "We don't need NATO bases in Slovakia." A hand-drawn poster made by students at a local primary school said, "Peace to the children of Donbass."

In Vienna, Austria, anti-fascists and left activists rallied at the Red Army Memorial on April 17 "For Peace in Ukraine." "In addition to the red flags of anti-fascism, a poster with the national flowers of Ukraine with the inscription 'Fascism — never again' and several posters with slogans against war and fascism were displayed during the rally," reported the AIF.

Speakers noted that the Western media ignores Ukraine and NATO military threats to the region, only accusing Russia for concentrating its armed forces within its own borders.

"No one asks about the Ukrainian Army that attacks daily and just killed a 5-year-old boy and other civilians in violation of the Minsk ceasefire agreements," explained one speaker. "And no one mentions that it was not Russia that moved all its warships to the U.S. borders, while U.S.-NATO troops continue their maneuvers in the Black Sea, which clearly increases tensions."

Anti-Fascist Action and International League of Peoples Struggle (ILPS) joined AIF at the protest.

NATO bases out!

April 17 was the day of an important protest in Athens, Greece, against NATO military bases. A contingent organized by AIF-Greece carried a banner in the 500-strong march which declared "From Turkey to Greece, from Palestine to Don-

bass, unite to defeat imperialism!"

A statement from one of the participating groups, Communist Revolutionary Action, quoted U.S. President Joe Biden's pontifical declaration that "America is back." The group explained: "The war on the part of Kiev and its imperialist patrons is an unjust, imperialist war.

"It was Western imperialism that started the unrest, that financed and orchestrated the 2014 coup [in Ukraine] spearheaded by fascists. The coup d'état and the rise to power of the American-backed reactionaries degraded the Russian-speaking population to second-class citizens, directly threatening their very existence and forcing them to take up arms.

"The war on the part of the People's Republics is just and anti-imperialist. A possible Russian involvement will not change the nature of this war at all.

"The fundamental global task for all who take a stand against oppression and exploitation, and a prerequisite for any positive world development, is the defeat of Western imperialism on all fronts in which it is involved. For those living in the West, this task is even more imperative — as it is the bloc of 'their' bourgeoisie which is embroiled in an unjust war."

On that day in Rome, Italy, a solemn commemoration and march was held to mark 100 years since the first units of anti-fascist partisans were formed to combat the ultra-right. The event was initiated by Patria Socialista (Socialist Homeland) and attended by several communist and anti-fascist organizations.

Among the featured speakers at

the Partisans Monument in Verano Cemetery was Alberto Fazolo of the Donbass Anti-Nazi Committee, who spoke about the current Ukrainian escalation and the important role of internationalists who traveled to Donbass to join the anti-fascist militias.

In Berlin, Germany, several hundred people gathered to honor the 135th birthday of Ernst Thälmann, a German communist leader murdered in 1944 by the Nazis in the Buchenwald concentration camp. Supporters of the German Communist Party (DKP) called for solidarity with the people of Donbass, and a banner was displayed from organizers of the movement "No Staging Area Against Russia," which opposes NATO's war buildup.

The DKP said: "Ukraine's aggressive policy is openly supported by the USA and NATO. The Federal Republic of Germany, which together with the Russian Federation and France is one of the guarantor states of the Minsk agreements between Ukraine and Donbass, sides with the Ukrainian government; instead of condemning the artillery attacks on the civilian population, it blames the Russian Federation, as it has done so often.

"In the eyes of the German government, Russia should not station its troops in its own country, while at the same time NATO troops are stationed in ever greater numbers on the Russian border. The danger of war in Europe is increasing considerably as a result of this policy."

'The war must stop'

On April 18 in Sofia, Bulgaria, the organization Bulgaria Stronghold held a protest against the war in Donbass outside the U.S. Embassy. Protesters delivered an appeal to the U.S. ambassador, which was read aloud during the demonstration. It said in part:

"The people of Bulgaria disagree in their vast majority with the decisions and laws adopted by your government. Thus, we do not share the recently-signed military minister Karakachanov's 'military cooperation road map,' which marks the continuous development of military preparedness and military capacity

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U.S.-Japan statement threatens China

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of containing China most closely. There are two reasons for this: First, as mentioned above, the U.S. has so far maintained its military occupation of Japan and it can be said that Japan's diplomacy is only at a 'semi-sovereign' level. It's unlikely for Japan to contradict the U.S.

"Second, Japan is the Asian country that most wants to contain China. The biggest 'shared value' between the U.S. and Japan is actually the jealousy and hatred they both have against China's strong development momentum. The U.S.'s hegemonic thinking can't accept its status being matched by China, while Japan can't accept becoming a 'second-class country' compared to China, again.

"Has Japan forgotten how many

times it inflicted devastation on China? Has China ever truly harmed Japan and can Japan cite an example? The tiny Diaoyu Islands are just a territorial dispute between China and Japan, and in Asia there are many similar disputes. But Japan takes the dispute as a strategic-level issue and hypes it up every day. What's the point of it?

"The U.S.-Japan alliance could evolve into an axis that can bring fatal disruption to Asia-Pacific peace, just like the Germany-Italy-Japan axis alliance before and during WWII. The core intention of the U.S. is to maintain its hegemony and contain China's development through violating international laws and rules. The arbitrary acts of the U.S. could eventually end the peace

in Asia-Pacific. And Japan is positioning itself as the top Asian accomplice of the U.S.'s vicious policy.

"Washington and Tokyo want to build the Quad mechanism, comprising Japan, the U.S., India and Australia, into an expanded and upgraded U.S.-Japan alliance, and draw more countries in to jointly confront China. They trumpeted 'shared values,' but the world is supposed to be diverse. The most dangerous thing is confrontation, group-based confrontation in particular. The U.S. and Japan are tearing the so-called 'Indo-Pacific' apart at the cost of eroding and destroying cooperation. They are attempting to make confrontation the main theme of the entire region.

"They always emphasized 'rules-

based,' but the rules should refer to those made by the U.N., rather than those defined by the U.S. and Japan. The U.S. has willfully wielded the stick of trade war against China, and cracked down on Chinese high-tech enterprises by cutting off the supply of key technology products. Are these actions in line with the rules? The U.S. is enticing Japan to establish supply chains that exclude China. But does this comply with rules? Besides, the U.S. and the West arbitrarily interfere in internal affairs of other countries; is this encouraged by the U.N. Charter?

"Japan once met China halfway in the past few years, which led China-Japan relations to return to the

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Coverage of Navalny vs. Mumia Abu-Jamal highlights corporate media hypocrisy

By Greg Butterfield

In recent weeks, U.S. corporate media has been flooded with coverage of imprisoned Russian opposition figure Alexey Navalny's hunger strike and stories of his failing health. After three weeks on hunger strike, Navalny's personal doctors called his symptoms "life threatening."

On April 19, a panel of doctors recommended that Navalny be transferred to a hospital for treatment, which he was.

The Biden administration warned of serious "consequences" if Navalny, a pro-Western politician, should die.

Navalny's imprisonment and alleged health problems have been front-page news in major media outlets like the New York Times and Washington Post. Amidst the public anticipation of the Derek Chauvin verdict, NBC Nightly News devoted several minutes to Navalny.

We say "alleged health problems" because, before returning to Russia earlier this year, Navalny had claimed to have been poisoned by the Russian government with the deadly Novichok nerve agent while traveling to Germany in 2020. The problem is, Novichok is so deadly that, had his story been true, not only Navalny but his entire entourage would likely be dead.

Navalny subsequently spent several months "recovering" in Germany, under the protection of the Berlin government. The alleged poisoning was used to make Navalny a cause célèbre in the Western media and pump up his reputation here as the main opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

It's worth drawing attention to the fact that Navalny chose the week of Joe Biden's presidential inauguration to return to Moscow, where he was arrested for violating the terms of his probation in a 2014 money-laundering case. In early February, he was sentenced to 3½ years in prison.

That Navalny's case is filling the airwaves and websites right now should come as no surprise. Not only is it a convenient distraction from the rash of racist police mur-

ders and right-wing violence in the United States; it's also propaganda for the growing war drive against Russia by Washington and its NATO allies.

Other evidence of this dangerous course includes the recent escalation of Ukraine's war on the Donbass republics bordering Russia, more sanctions being imposed on Moscow, and the massive U.S.-NATO war games called Defender-Europe 2021 that are currently underway.

What about Mumia?

What makes the U.S. media's hypocrisy glaring is the near-complete lack of coverage by these esteemed media goliaths of the well-documented, truly life-threatening condition of the most famous imprisoned U.S. political dissident — the internationally lauded journalist and former Black Panther, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abu-Jamal — who has been unjustly imprisoned for 40 years! — underwent emergency open-heart surgery on April 19, the same day Navalny was transferred to the hospital. But you would be hard-pressed to find a word about it in the mainstream U.S. media.

For months, supporters have been shouting at the top of their voices to alert anyone who will listen about Abu-Jamal's deteriorating health. "Before this week's health emergency," says Dr. Ricardo Alvarez, his personal physician, "Mumia Abu-Jamal was already suffering from COVID-19, congestive heart failure, hypertension, diabetes, liver cirrhosis, and a worsening of a severe and debilitating chronic skin condition."

It took years of battle with Pennsylvania prison officials to win treatment for Abu-Jamal's hepatitis C — a struggle that opened the door



At a Philadelphia rally in March 2021, Pam Africa displays photos of Mumia that show the decline in his health.

PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

for other prisoners to also finally receive treatment.

Hundreds of political prisoners are held in U.S. jails. Many of them are now seniors, veterans of the militant Black, Latin and Indigenous liberation struggles of the 1960s-70s, and have been imprisoned for decades. Activists have spent the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic demanding "Free Them All."

Where are the declarations warning of serious consequences to Pennsylvania officials from President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris? Where are the front page articles in the Times and the Post? Where are the high-profile televised interviews with Abu-Jamal's physician, Dr. Alvarez, who has said "the only treatment is freedom"?

The answer is blatantly simple. The for-profit media, the bought-and-paid-for politicians of both parties in Washington, are only interested in those deemed political prisoners when those politics suit their ends and benefit their system of divide-and-rule.

Stop U.S. drive to war

Capitalism's global economic crisis, which the pandemic served to sharpen and expose, drives Washington toward war. The U.S. spends more on the military than the next 10 countries combined, year in and year out. President Biden has pro-

posed raising the Pentagon budget even higher, by at least \$12.3 billion.

That money isn't being spent for nothing. It's being used to prepare for new, bigger wars. And Russia, like China, is one of the main targets.

Within the Russian left and workers' movement, there are different views on the efficacy of Navalny's imprisonment. As a collaborator with Western imperialism, as an advocate of privatization and exploitation of workers,

and as a figure with a history of racism and association with neo-Nazis, some are happy to see the Russian government lock him up.

Others point out that Russia's capitalist government has used Navalny as an excuse to ban protests, and this measure is primarily directed against left movements that are fighting for workers' rights and which oppose Western imperialism. Imprisoning Navalny also risks giving him greater credibility with young people angry about cutbacks and repression.

This is an important conversation within the Russian movement. But progressives and revolutionaries in the U.S. and Europe must recognize why the West is promoting Navalny's case — as a pretext for war.

Let's fight for the release of Mumia Abu-Jamal and all the political prisoners and prisoners of war held by U.S. imperialism. And let's fight to end the U.S. war drive, dismantle NATO and bring all the troops and weapons home.

A century ago, the peoples of what was then the Russian czarist empire carried out one of the most profound revolutions in human history. If we do our duty and remove the U.S.-NATO boot heel from their necks, the peoples of Russia will undoubtedly make any political and social changes they feel are necessary — without Western interference. ■

On the possession and unethical use of the remains of the children of MOVE and the Africa Family

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We ask those who are able to attend the MOVE Children Deserve to Rest in Peace Rally on Wednesday, April 28 at Penn Museum to demand the repatriation of the remains of Delisha Africa and Tree Africa and reparations for MOVE family members for these atrocities. We encourage everyone to review the MOVE Press Conference 4/26, the documentaries "40 Years a Prisoner" and "Bombing of Osage," and the official website of the MOVE Organization at <http://onamove.com>.

We realize that Penn and Princeton are not the only universities trafficking in the human remains of nonwhite peoples. And while both the Penn Museum and Princeton Anthropology have issued state-

ments of contrition, we believe that they must do more. The Association of Black Anthropologists, Society of Black Archaeologists, and the Black in Bioanthropology Collective therefore demand, first, that the Penn Museum self-report this egregious IRB violation. Second, we demand that the American Anthropological Association (AAA) work in haste to help facilitate the repatriation of the remains of the Africa family children, as well as other remains held in the many anthropology museums and departments throughout the country. These include, but are not limited to, the numerous remains of peoples of African descent. Towards this end we also call for a national audit of all human remains in museum and university collections.

We believe it is imperative that this information become public record, allowing descended communities to reclaim sovereignty of the remains of their ancestors.

As we come upon the 36th anniversary of the state sanctioned bombing on May 13, we ask that you keep the families and friends of MOVE in your thoughts, prayers, and actions. Continue to push MOVE's call for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners!

And let us bury our dead.

In solidarity,

The Association of Black Anthropologists (ABA)

The Society of Black Archaeologists (SBA)

The Black in Bioanthropology Collective (BiBA) ■

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right track. But now, it has abruptly changed course and become a part of the U.S. containment strategy against China. This has ruined the momentum of improvement in China-Japan relations. It's not only a result of the U.S.'s pressure, but it's also caused by Japan's expanding strategic selfishness. Japan is too short-sighted; it formed an alliance with Germany and Italy before WWII and is now singing a chorus with the U.S.'s radical line. Japan hasn't learned its lessons. It is, instead, proactively creating and sinking into a vortex of confrontation.

"Finally, we advise Japan to stay away from the Taiwan question. It may play diplomatic tricks in other fields, but if it gets involved in the Taiwan question, it will draw the fire upon itself. The deeper it is embroiled, the bigger the price it will pay." ■

El Pueblo contra Luma

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana que se celebra a nivel mundial el Día de las y los trabajadores el primero de mayo, en Puerto Rico se ha cometido una enorme injusticia contra esa clase.

El jueves 29 de abril la gerencia de la Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica que hasta ahora es una agencia pública, envió una carta de relocalización a todos sus empleados sindicalizados efectivo el primero de junio. La realidad es que esto es un despido forzado disfrazado.

Lo hicieron bajo la nueva Ley de Transformación y Flexibilidad Laboral aprobada en el 2017 que instituye al Gobierno como Empleador Único y establece el concepto de Movilidad.

Imagínense que a celadores de línea, un trabajo difícil que requiere

mucho adiestramiento y experiencia, particularmente en una topografía montañosa y con numerosos cuerpos de agua como la nuestra, les han enviado a trabajar, y aún no se sabe en qué, a la policía, a la Orquesta Sinfónica, y a otras agencias del gobierno.

Este apuro es para destruir al sindicato Utier, dismantelar la agencia de energía, y privatizarla bajo la compañía extranjera Luma el 1ro de junio.

La guerra ya está declarada, es el Pueblo contra Luma, el gobierno y la Junta de Control Fiscal que están empujando este proceso. Aquí el primero de mayo es el comienzo de la lucha Todo Puerto Rico contra Luma con movilizaciones y caravanas por todo el país.

Desde Puerto Rico para RADIO CLARIN de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



Leyes 20 y 22

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hace unos días salió en las noticias que la casa más cara y lujosa en la historia de Puerto Rico se había vendido por treinta millones de dólares en Dorado, una de las zonas costeras más asediadas por millonarios gringos.

Sin embargo, cientos de familias aún tienen techos de plástico desde los huracanes Irma y María del 2017, y en el sur tampoco se han arreglado ni las casas ni las escuelas que se afectaron con los terremotos de enero del 2020.

La advertencia de Pedro Albizu Campos se está cumpliendo, “los invasores yanquis quieren la jaula pero no los pájaros” decía. Y tan reciente como hace un año se leían expresiones de puertorriqueños arrastrados en el gobierno pro-yanqui dándole vigencia al decir que “sueñan con un Puerto Rico sin puertorriqueños”.

Esta segregación y expulsión se ha acelerando con leyes favorecidas por EU, las Leyes 20 y 22 aprobadas en el 2012 para incentivar la llegada de inversores extranjeros quienes pagan cero contribuciones al erario del país mientras expulsan a los boricuas de sus terrenos.

Dentro de nuestra lucha está también el derogar estas leyes y sacar a todas estas garrapatas inservibles que se chupan nuestros recursos y no aportan sino escoria.

Desde Puerto Rico para RADIO CLARIN de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.

China-Iran agreement to bust U.S. economic sanctions

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tary aid and political support as the people of Yemen continue to fight back against a brutal war by Saudi Arabia that has blocked food and caused widespread starvation. Saudi Arabia is armed with advanced U.S. weapons.

Iran also stood by the Syrian people as the U.S., its allies and mercenaries attempted to throw out Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Iran's alliance with the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon has also been a crucial part of Syria's resistance.

U.S. murdered two leaders

U.S. animosity reached a peak in January 2020 when Trump ordered a drone strike in Baghdad that killed General Qassem Soleimani of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Soleimani was recognized as the top military leader of Iran's anti-imperialist struggle in the region. The strike also killed Abu Mahdi Muhandis, deputy chief of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), a group of anti-imperialist militias in Iraq.

People's China, though in a much stronger position relative to U.S. imperialism than Iran, is also increasingly a target of imperialist threats.

As part of the “Pivot to Asia” that began under the Obama administration and has continued since, imperialist strategists have militarily threatened and sought to isolate China in every way possible. U.S. warships steam around China as a matter of routine.

But when China asserted its right by way of international maritime law to defend against ships entering its territorial waters, Trump's secretary of state, the vile Mike Pompeo, cried bloody murder, accusing China of breaking international law.

The U.S. has forged an alliance called the Quad, consisting of India, United States, Japan and Australia, with the sole purpose of isolating and attacking China economically, diplomatically and — in the hopes and dreams of imperialist

strategists — militarily.

The South China Sea is about 8,000 miles from U.S. territorial waters. Imagine if China's warships were in the Gulf of Mexico!

Biden continues Trump's aggression

Biden's administration has continued the campaign of aggression and threats against China in its entirety. Since the earthshaking 1949 Chinese Revolution, under the leadership of the Communist Party, China has lifted more than 800 million people out of deep poverty, and in recent decades has become a global industrial powerhouse.

Moreover, China's scientific achievements in many areas have surpassed the Western capitalist powers. China's great success in containing the deadly COVID-19 virus demonstrated the superiority of socialist planning to the entire world.

Not only is it a rival for the giant capitalist corporations that Biden answers to, but China is also an example of what socialism can accomplish as capitalism languishes in crisis after crisis. This double threat is what underlies the hostility, aggression and slanders that emanate from every succeeding U.S. administration.

The significance of the growing relationship between Iran and China can't be overstated. More than a trade deal, it reflects the anti-imperialist defiance of millions and millions of people.

Iranian and Chinese leaders know well that the reaction of U.S. imperialism may be dangerous. The U.S. has seized oil tankers in the past to try to enforce the terrible sanctions. No one can predict how far the U.S. will go to continue the pressure on Iran and China.

But the two countries have confidence that together they can defend their people and break the back of the sanctions regime. Anti-imperialist supporters around the world must be on the alert against U.S. aggression, and ready to defend China and Iran. 🇺🇸

U.S.-Ukraine war in Donbass

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of Bulgaria. This is aimed at engaging the Republic of Bulgaria in the war against its alleged and already-designated opponent — Russia, and with it both China and Iran.

“Unfortunately, Bulgaria also contributes [to Ukraine's war in Donbass] — weapons and ammunition are transferred there. The war must stop!”

In Zagreb, Croatia — part of Yugoslavia before that country's NATO-instigated breakup — an action in solidarity with Donbass was held on April 20, organized by the Socialist Workers' Party of Croatia and the Young Socialists of Croatia. Participants demanded an end to NATO military aggression.

Solidarity with Odessa and Donbass

More actions are being planned. May 2 will mark the seventh anniversary of the Odessa massacre. On that day in 2014, in the multinational Ukrainian port city, at least 48 anti-fascists and labor activists were killed when neo-Nazis set fire to the House of Trade Unions and butchered people trying to escape the blaze.

At the initiative of the U.S.-based Odessa Solidarity Campaign, the Red Square-Molotov Club has initiated an international call for actions on May 2 to demand justice for the victims of the Odessa massacre and an end to the U.S.-Ukraine war in Donbass.

In the U.S., actions are planned in Richmond, Va., and New York City. 🇺🇸

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