

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Cuba reopens to visitors Despite U.S. blockade, 90% vaccinated

Report from Havana. Lars Bertling, Russell McClain and Sharon Black, three reporters for Struggle-La Lucha, members of the Socialist Unity Party, and representatives of the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly are participating in the 31st U.S.-Cuba IFCO-Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan.

Havana, Nov. 16 — It was an all day ordeal on Monday, Nov. 15, on the U.S. side. We waited in grueling airport security lines and spent hours checking in. Two of our representatives barely got their passports. We had to get up at 5 a.m. and drive to the passport office in Miami and keep our fingers crossed.

But when we got to Cuba it was all worth it.

On landing our spirits soared and our energy returned. Cuban people and their leaders were waiting at the airport, along with a bevy of news media. Our group was literally the first delegation to travel to the newly opened Cuba, which had been closed to international visitors because of the pandemic. Nov. 15 was the opening of schools and services in Cuba and is also a day celebrating the anniversary of Havana.

When we got to the Cuban Martin Luther King Center (yes, there is such a thing) young Cuban singers and musicians greeted us along with local Marianao community and political leaders and representatives of the MLK Center.

Today, Tuesday, was our first whole day of learning and visiting. Our entire group was large, over 70 people, so we split up.

Memorial de la Denuncia

Most people living in the U.S. only equate terrorism with the 9/11 attacks. It's a sad hypocrisy. Far more Cuban people, many who are young children, have died in terrorist attacks. Only these attacks were perpetrated by the Pentagon, CIA, the right wing, and U.S. imperialism.

This state-of-the art, modern museum documents those countless attacks.

The entrance has a revolving, updated count of the number of people who have lost their lives to terrorism. This does not cover those impacted by the blockade but strictly through bombings and violent acts of terrorism. Today the count is 3,476.

There were 637 (known) attempts to assassinate Fidel; 21 CIA air raids; 11 CIA bombings; and 581 terrorist attacks aimed at Cuban missions overseas.



Struggle-La Lucha reporters Sharon Black, Russell McClain and Lars Bertling in Havana.

A special film documents the March 4, 1960, bombing of the French freighter La Coubre in the Havana port and the loss of 110 lives. Fidel and Che lead the massive street marches to honor those who lost their lives and to defy U.S. imperialism. The families of the victims still mourn their loss.

Terrorist and CIA agent Luis Posada and his accomplices, who were all sheltered in the U.S., bragged of the cowardly bombing of Cubana Flight 455 on Oct. 6, 1976, killing all 73 passengers, many Cuban children and all 24 members of a youth sports team that had just won every gold medal in the Central American and Caribbean Championships.

There seemed to be no end to the U.S. war on Cuba: from Operation Peter Pan that kidnapped 14,000 Cuban children over a two-year span from 1960 to 1963 and later in 2000, the kidnapping of Elián González. The U.S. also carried out biological warfare against Cuba, including the destruction of the pig industry and the sabotage of agricultural crops.

These are just a few examples.

The Memorial will grip your heart and change your view on who the real terrorists are.

Finlay Vaccine Institute

Our next stop was the Vaccine Institute which helped produce three Cuban COVID-19 vaccines: Soberana, Soberana 2 and Soberana Plus.

So many things stood out in the discussion and presentation by the representatives of the institute.

Under the most difficult conditions due to the blockade, Cuba was able to produce these three highly effective vaccines, rivaling the effective-

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RITTENHOUSE IS GUILTY! No justice, no peace! Smash white supremacy!

SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY STATEMENT

Nov. 19 — Another empowerment of white supremacy occurred today, and it was endorsed by President Joe Biden, who blessed the jury decision exonerating a racist killer.

We demand federal charges be brought against Kyle Rittenhouse in a real trial with a jury representing the community of Kenosha, Wis.

We demand the prosecution of white supremacist groups like the Proud Boys, with which Rittenhouse made a public appearance, and others that have proven to be violent racist, terrorist organizations. Fascist, racist, terrorist organizations have no right to exist.

We demand justice for Ahmaud Arbery, whose killers are now on trial in a Georgia court like the white supremacist-friendly court in Wisconsin.

Biden's first public comment about the exoneration of Rittenhouse was: "The jury system works and we have to abide by it."

That's right: In Biden's eyes, the jury system that usually exonerates cops and white supremacists terrorizing Black or Brown lives — even when the juries are 99% white — is working and above question.

The movement for social justice should take note of how comfortable Biden's administration feels in dismissing the rage that is being felt by Black people and all progressive people at this moment.

What this verdict and the Biden administration are doing is actively empowering white supremacist, fascist forces: those who feel comfortable as Rep. Paul Gosar threatens to murder Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and gets away with no criminal charges. Or with killing Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man in Georgia who was simply jogging.

Or storming the Capitol, especially targeting Black and Brown Congress members for death with a hangman's noose erected nearby, getting at most a slap on the wrist. Or basically deputizing fascists in Texas, who could get a \$10,000 bounty for their part in abusing women and denying their right to an abortion.

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By John Parker



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

Nov. 25, 2021 12:00 Noon Cole's Hill, Plymouth, MA

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Dedicated to Moonanum James, Bert Waters, and others who have returned to the ancestors.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!

We welcome all our relations crossed by the U.S. border & ICE.

In 2021, while some supporters will attend in person, we will also livestream the event in Plymouth and have additional online content, with messages from many struggles as well as music.

E-mail: info@uaine.org Website: Uaine.org

Please join and check the UAINE facebook group at Facebook.com/groups/UAINE for updates.



People before patents: Moderna's 'Grand Theft Vaccine'

By Stephen Millies

The World Health Organization estimates that 5.1 million people have died of the coronavirus. The Economist magazine claims that the real number of deaths may be three times as many.

Meanwhile Pfizer expects to rake in sales of \$36 billion from its COVID vaccine in 2021. The collective wealth of Moderna's three top shareholders — Noubar Afeyan, Robert Langer and Timothy Springer — ballooned to \$12.7 billion because of vaccine sales.

Moderna didn't create its very effective vaccine by itself. The corporation, which has never brought out a product before, got \$1.4 billion from the U.S. government to develop it. Uncle Sam paid Moderna another \$8.1 billion for a half-billion doses.

More importantly, it was scientists from the National Institutes of Health who helped design the genetic sequence used in Moderna's vaccine. These NIH scientists were Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, Dr. Barney Graham and Dr. John Mascola.

Yet when Moderna filed its patent application in July for the vaccine, these scientists weren't mentioned. That's particularly rotten in the case of Dr. Corbett, a Black woman.

It's not just a matter of stealing credit. Moderna wanted government money and crucial help from NIH scientists but it didn't want to share any of the profits.

Moderna has only sold a million vaccine doses to poor countries. It charged the African country of Botswana \$29 per dose, a 79% higher price compared with its deal with the U.S. government.

That's typical behavior for the big drug outfits known as Big Pharma. Every minute BioNTech, Moderna and Pfizer are together collecting \$65,000 in profits from their



The collective wealth of Moderna's three top shareholders — Noubar Afeyan, Robert Langer and Timothy Springer — ballooned to \$12.7 billion because of vaccine sales.

COVID-19 vaccines, according to the People's Vaccine Alliance.

That amounts to \$93.5 million per day. At the same time, just one out of fifty people in poor countries have been fully vaccinated.

Patent robbery = death

Patents are legal monopolies that are supposed to encourage innovation. The medical-industrial complex uses them to jack up prices on life saving medications.

Take the EpiPen, which is a brand name for an injectable device that delivers the drug epinephrine to people suffering a severe allergic reaction. Access to EpiPens can mean the difference between life and death.

Mylan Pharmaceuticals, which later merged with Upjohn to form Viatris, increased the price of EpiPens by over 500% between 2006 and 2016.

Insulin is a life saving medication for millions of people with diabetes. The Canadian Dr. Frederick Banting discovered insulin along with James Collip and Charles Best in 1923.

Banting refused to put his name on the patent for insulin. He wrote that "insulin does not belong to me, it belongs to the world." Banting's two co-discoverers sold the insulin patent to the University of Toronto for one dollar.

That doesn't prevent the drug outfits from increasing the average annual cost of insulin by over 15% since 2012. That's an increase of three-and-a-half times in nine years.

By 2016 the average monthly cost of insulin had risen to \$450 per month. As a result, one in four people using insulin have reduced their dosage. That's why Minneapolis restaurant worker Alec Smith died

in 2018, because he couldn't afford insulin's high cost.

It isn't just insulin that's overpriced. The communist activist David Schechter, a former math teacher and computer programmer, suffered a stroke because he couldn't afford his medication. He died eight years later in 2014.

Take over Big Pharma!

The failure to vaccinate billions of people in Africa, Asia and Latin America has allowed the coronavirus to mutate into the more spreadable Delta variant. In a world of jet planes and global supply chains, everyone has to be able to be vaccinated.

Cuba and China want to do that. These socialist countries are sharing their vaccines with the rest of the world while capitalist Big Pharma is stalling.

Patents need to be shared and new vaccine plants need to be built in Africa. Don't count on the U.S. government to do so voluntarily.

The Al-Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Sudan was destroyed in 1998 by a U.S. cruise missile. This was the largest medicine factory in Africa and could have produced millions of vaccine doses.

However, when Uncle Sam needed more aluminum for its airplanes in World War II, it broke Alcoa's monopoly on the metal. That's despite the billionaire Mellon dynasty controlling the company. The U.S. Senate Defense Committee and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes advocated taking over Alcoa.

In a world of nearly 8 billion people, the Biden Administration's plan to produce a billion more vaccine doses by the end of 2022 isn't enough. To defeat COVID-19, the power of the people has to be mobilized to smash the greed of Big Pharma and take over their patents. 📌

RITTENHOUSE IS GUILTY! No justice, no peace! Smash white supremacy!

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Empowering white supremacists

When then-President Donald Trump implied that Rittenhouse was acting in self-defense, that empowered his beloved Proud Boys. When the police, during last year's protests in Kenosha, offered water to this 17 year old, who was actively inciting violence and illegally in possession of an AR-15 assault rifle, then allowed him to walk away after killing two protesters and wounding another, that empowered and encouraged white supremacist violence.

The inciting event in Kenosha that started this nightmare of racism and terror was the racist police shooting of Jacob Blake by Rusten Sheskey, a white cop. Sheskey shot Blake in the back four times, then an additional three times in the side, simply because Blake was trying to get into his own car.

This cop also received no punishment. In October, the U.S. Department of Justice said it would not

bring charges against this racist cop, who can clearly be seen on video unnecessarily shooting and attempting to kill Blake in front of his children.

The justified outrage and protest by the community after Blake's shooting was met with heavily-armed police using tear gas and lethal force, while these same cops did nothing to stop the openly racist militias organizing with assault weapons to attack the protesters. This undoubtedly made Rittenhouse feel above the law and righteous in his white supremacy.

Rittenhouse felt invincible when he aimed his weapon at protesters while walking around to taunt them. When the cops offered him water that night, he knew he was being encouraged in his "sacred mission" — one he shared with the Proud Boys he later posed with.

After making bail, Rittenhouse was photographed in a bar flashing a white supremacist hand sign while standing next to high-ranking members of that group. That photo

was not allowed as evidence to show his intent. Neither was a video where he proclaimed his desire to shoot "shoplifters."

Right to self-defense against racist killers

During the trial it was made clear that Rittenhouse went into a community that was not his own to provoke a confrontation. Rittenhouse was driven for more than half an hour, across state lines, from his home in Illinois to Kenosha, where he stood in illegally possession of a military-style assault rifle with murderous intent.

The first person he shot and killed was Joseph Rosenbaum, whom Rittenhouse admitted was unarmed. In fact, the prosecution presented evidence from an FBI surveillance plane showing Rittenhouse following and confronting Rosenbaum. After the initial shot that brought Rosenbaum down, Rittenhouse continued shooting until he was dead.

This is what led to Rittenhouse

being chased by those who put their lives on the line to protect the protesters against an active shooter. Another anti-racist protester, Anthony Huber, who like Rosenbaum was white and concerned for the welfare of the mostly-Black participants at the rally, was also killed by Rittenhouse. Gaige Grosskreutz was shot and wounded.

Rosenbaum's and Huber's solidarity and courage demand justice, along with the community under siege by racist thugs and the police. But justice won't come from Biden — who admitted he didn't even care enough to watch the trial.

Justin Blake, uncle of Jacob Blake, said at a protest after the verdict: "This President Biden and Harris sold out our family, sold out the Floyds ... and the Taylor family. They said they were going to do things to square up what was going on in the African American community and have not, so juries like this will continue to happen ... this was

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U.S. charges against Russia about space are height of hypocrisy

By Press TV

The U.S. charge that Russia is polluting space with orbital debris is the height of hypocrisy, according to political analyst Bill Dores.

Dores, a writer for *Struggle-La Lucha* and longtime antiwar activist, made the remarks in an interview with Press TV on Nov. 18 after the United States called a recent Russian anti-satellite missile test “irresponsible” and “destructive,” claiming that it caused a debris field in space that forced astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) to temporarily seek shelter.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters on Monday that Russia had “recklessly conducted a destructive satellite test of a direct ascent anti-satellite missile against one of its own satellites.”

He said the test “has so far generated over 1,500 pieces of trackable, orbital debris and hundreds of thousands of pieces of smaller orbital debris that now threaten the interests of all nations.”

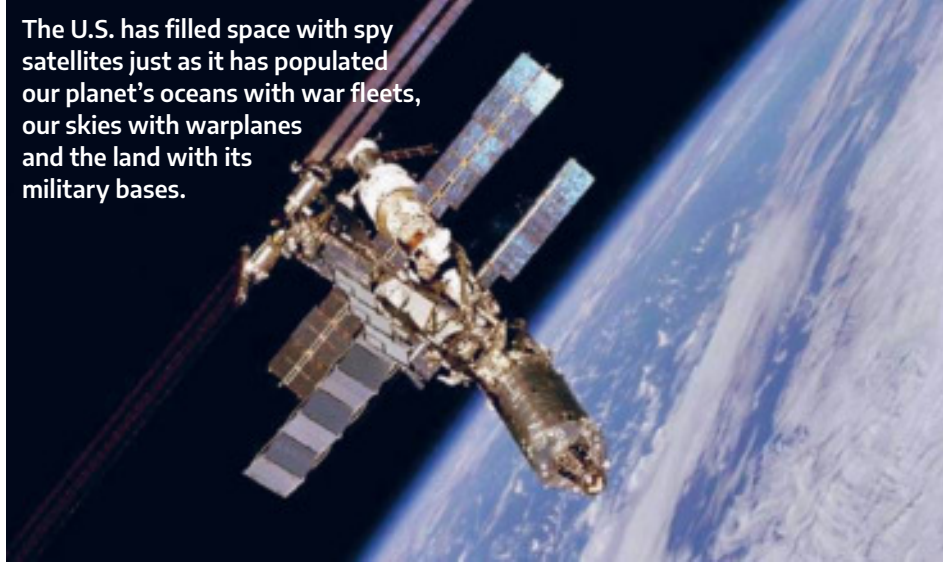
Price warned the test “will significantly increase the risk to astronauts and cosmonauts on the International Space Station, as well as to other human spaceflight activities.

“Russia’s dangerous and irresponsible behavior jeopardizes the long-term sustainability of our outer space and clearly demonstrates that Russia’s claims of opposing the weaponization of space are disingenuous and hypocritical,” Price said.

Russia on Nov. 16 rejected U.S. accusations that its missile test that struck a defunct space satellite potentially put astronauts aboard the ISS at risk.

The Russian Ministry of Defense confirmed that it had “successfully conducted a test” to hit an old Russian satellite launched into orbit by the Soviet Union in 1982, according to reports.

The U.S. has filled space with spy satellites just as it has populated our planet’s oceans with war fleets, our skies with warplanes and the land with its military bases.



“Ned Price’s charges against Russia are the height of hypocrisy. Before he was with the State Department, Price spent 10 years at the CIA. That agency uses spy satellites to facilitate its covert wars and terrorist activity around the world. Lockheed Corporation, now Lockheed Martin, began building spy satellites under CIA direction in 1959,” Dores said.

“The USSR put the first satellite and the first man and woman in space. Washington was horrified at this advance for science. The U.S. also launched a space program, but its prime focus was military. The Pentagon created the National Reconnaissance Office in 1961,” he added.

“Since then the U.S. has filled space with spy satellites just as it has populated our planet’s oceans with war fleets, our skies with warplanes and the land with its military bases. It has used its spies-in-the-sky to facilitate mass murder in its endless wars of aggression from Vietnam to Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. They give the U.S. a critical advantage when attacking and invading poorer countries,” Dores said.

“A U.S. spy satellite targeted the Amariyeh air-raid shelter in Baghdad in February 1991. The Air Force

hit it with two laser-guided bombs, murdering at least 408 children, women and men,” he noted.

“Air Force Undersecretary Peter Teets, who headed the National Reconnaissance Office in 2003, claimed the use of satellites made the U.S. invasion of Iraq ‘the most integrated and precise military engagement in history.’ Much of the intelligence used in that war came from spy equipment the CIA installed on commercial satellites,” he said.

“Iraq War Boosts Space Spending,” Reuters reported on June 6, 2003.”

‘Pentagon seeks to turn space into a battlefield’

Dores said, “Of the 3,372 satellites now orbiting Earth, 1,897 belong to the United States. (China is second, with 412.) Of those 160 are officially military. But most of the commercial and weather satellites also carry spy equipment.

“The United States has also destroyed satellites in space. In February 2008, the U.S. Navy carried out Operation Burnt Frost, destroying a malfunctioning U.S. military satellite that threatened to unleash toxic debris onto our atmosphere,” he noted.

“But the Pentagon seeks to go beyond spying. It aims to turn space into a battlefield. In 1984, they created the U.S. Space Defense Command with a view to weaponizing outer space,” Dores said.

“In 2019, the Trump regime created the U.S. Space Force. The Pentagon also set up the Space Development Agency that same year,” he said.

“Trump was rightly ridiculed for the Space Force. Yet the Biden White House has continued it, even as it battles Congress to fund badly needed infrastructure and social programs,” he said.

“On April 26 of this year, Space Force News — yes, there is such a publication — reported: ‘U.S., Israel expand cooperation to the space domain.’ The article quoted a Space Force colonel who said, ‘Israel is one of the U.S. Space Force’s strongest partners in the Middle East, and we look forward to increased collaboration with them in the space domain,’” Dores stated.

“The United States and the occupation regime in Palestine share satellite intelligence to direct airstrikes in Syria and Iraq,” he explained.

“The U.S. militarization of space is not only a massive theft of resources from human needs in the United States. It forces other countries to divert their own resources in self-defense. And as the Russian test showed, if the U.S. continues to pursue this dangerous course, it will be answered,” he said.

“Space exploration should be for the good of humanity and life on earth, not a means to destroy it. It should be an area of cooperation, not armed confrontation. The United States should shut down the Space Force and deactivate its military satellites before it’s too late,” Dores concluded. □

Rittenhouse is guilty! No justice, no peace! Smash white supremacy!

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a god-awful sight for the world to see, the racism and the underbelly of racism that runs throughout this country in every jurisdiction.”

Both Democratic and Republican administrations have sold out the victims of racism and police terror by design — the design of a system in decline, where more vital services are being cut while poverty, homelessness and sickness grow, sacrificed at the altar of profit for the ultra-rich ruling class. The people’s demands for healthcare and economic justice are met with repression to discourage activism.

Repression includes the use of shock troops or extrajudicial entities, which are given cover by court chambers like that of Judge Bruce Schroeder. After the exoneration of all charges, the judge said he “couldn’t have asked for a better jury.”

Cops, courts and Klan work hand in hand

This judge — who screamed at the prosecution during the trial and

had Trump rally music as his cellphone ringtone that interrupted the prosecution during the trial — was confident in the outcome, since he suppressed vital evidence and dismissed the charges that had the best chance of conviction, like being in possession of an assault weapon while underage.

Yes, it’s by design.

We need a better design of coordinated and unified activism, solidarity and unity, especially with the most oppressed Black, Brown and Indigenous communities. We need a design to build the type of actions outside of the courtrooms and legislative halls that shut down business as usual, unify our working class and people’s organizations like unions, support anti-racist and national liberation struggles, women’s struggles, LGBTQ2S movements, and provide defense from these emerging fascists empowered by

racist judges and the white supremacist capitalist system.

The truth is that victories, like the conviction of George Floyd’s killer Derek Chauvin, are vital and important to move forward. But it must be remembered that this victory came from the militant protests demanding it. As we have just seen, that progress can be stolen as soon as the local, state and federal government feel the heat of militant street activism is off.

Not only is it necessary to keep up the heat, but also to better understand the necessity of bringing down this system that denies working people a voice in government; allows the use of all-white or nearly all-white juries; denies our demand that the profits we create be used for responsible, effective and universal healthcare that could have prevented most of the deaths from COVID-19 here in the U.S., instead of being used

for imperialist war or racist police institutions that enable white supremacists.

That’s what socialism is all about — giving workers and poor and oppressed peoples the right to govern the profits they create for society, determine their own security forces, and eliminate those entities that protect and serve only the needs of the rich.

In the broad fight-back movement, we won’t all have the same opinion on the type of government we need or even if a revolution is necessary. But we can all agree today that action is needed to increase the heat on the Biden administration, to make it a lot less comfortable with its daily empowerment of the growing white supremacist, fascist danger.

Federal charges against Rittenhouse now! End white supremacy!

John Parker is the West Coast coordinator of the Socialist Unity Party.

NATO abuses refugees, threatens to ignite war on Poland/Belarus border

By Greg Butterfield

Nov. 11 — The U.S. and its European allies are staging a dangerous provocation at the border between Poland and Belarus, which threatens both a humanitarian catastrophe and a military conflict that could quickly explode into a wider war.

Thousands of refugees, fleeing imperialist-fueled wars in West Asia and beyond, have gathered on the Belarusian side of the border, demanding entry into the European Union. Poland's far-right government — a NATO member, acting on behalf of Germany and other EU powers where the refugees wish to go — has responded with a massive buildup of military forces.

Polish border guards and troops have violently abused refugees who attempted to cross into the country. In one case, on Nov. 10, four Kurdish men were found beaten by Polish security forces. They were treated by Belarusian doctors. The same day, a young boy was pepper-sprayed by Polish border guards.

The Border Committee of Belarus stated: "All these people, including women and children, do not pose a threat to security and do not behave aggressively. According to the stories of the refugees themselves, they organized themselves into such a large group in order to prevent forcible displacement by the Polish side, as well as to draw the attention of the international community to the actions of Poland in terms of non-observance of human rights.

"Taking into account the statements of Polish officials about the concentration of armed forces and equipment near the border, we do not exclude provocative actions by the Polish side aimed at justifying the use of physical force and special equipment against refugees," the statement concluded.

The government of Belarus has called for high-level consultations to defuse the situation and resolve the crisis. So far, Poland has refused — with strong backing from its powerful U.S. and European sponsors.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration, other Western governments and corporate media are spreading wild rumors about supposed Belarusian government "trafficking" of migrants and refugees, reporting this as fact.

They claim this is a plot by President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus to pressure Europe to lift brutal economic sanctions imposed by the West, rather than the all-too-predictable outcome of Western military and economic interference in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan and North Africa.

Polish gov't vs. the people

While presenting a one-sided, hostile view of the Belarusian government and the refugees, these same governments and media actively cover up the behavior of the U.S. puppet regime in Poland, including its pro-fascist policies and its war on women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ2S people, workers and communists.

A refugee family stranded at the Polish/Belarus border.

PHOTO: MINSK PRAVDA

Below, Polish riot police and coils of razor wire face off against migrants, including families with children, camped just across the border in Belarus.



In fact, while Western media were completely focused on presenting the Polish side of the border crisis, on Nov. 6 tens of thousands of women and supporters were protesting in the streets of Poland's capital Warsaw after a woman died of pregnancy complications as a result of the country's Draconian abortion ban, similar to the one imposed recently in Texas. Last year millions of people across Poland protested the abortion ban.

And buried amidst the anti-Belarus propaganda, the Associated Press noted that Poland's government is supporting a fascist demonstration planned in Warsaw on Nov. 11, the country's independence day — much like those held annually in the neighboring Baltic republics.

The far-right regimes of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia — also NATO members that dance to Washington's tune — claim Belarus "posed serious threats to European security by deliberately escalating its 'hybrid attack; using migrants to retaliate for EU sanctions,'" Reuters reported Nov. 11.

This latest U.S.-sponsored information war combines the crude racism of Donald Trump's anti-migrant rhetoric with the vicious smear campaigns used against so many countries that suffer brutal U.S./European sanctions, like Venezuela and Cuba, into a toxic stew meant to justify acts of racist brutality and regime change.

Belarus aids refugees

Estimates of the number of refugees at the border vary widely, between 3,000 and 8,000. But the number continues to grow daily.

Correspondents for Minsk Pravda have been documenting the situation with interviews and photos. On Nov. 8, Minsk Pravda reported: "Most of them, the migrants said, are Kurds. ... There are many children in the crowd. They are not allowed into Poland.

"We are being sprayed with gas [by the Polish side]. See what happens,' an elderly man shouts emotionally. His son was brought on an impromptu stretcher from the



side of the border. In a mixture of languages, he explains: the young man's legs are lost, he can no longer walk.

"Many of us are with families. I have six children. All are small. No food, no milk for them, no diapers. We have no firewood to keep warm, no tents to shelter from the rain, and we are not allowed into Europe,' says another man. He says that he and his family have already made several unsuccessful attempts to get into the EU."

Hard hit by Western sanctions, Belarus is ill-equipped to provide the necessary humanitarian support but is doing what it can. Border guards and soldiers are trying to maintain order and protect the refugees while attempts to negotiate with the Polish regime and the EU continue.

The government and people's organizations, including the Belarusian Women's Union and Communist Party of Belarus, have expressed solidarity with the refugees and are helping to provide them with food, water, shelter and health care.

At a meeting of government ministers Nov. 10, Belarus declared that priority must be given to the needs of children and pregnant women at the border. Education Minister Igor Karpenko said Nov. 11 that children's health camps and other facilities, established during Soviet times and still maintained in Belarus, would be organized to provide safe havens for them, including teachers for the children.

On Nov. 9, dozens of people protested outside the Polish Embassy in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Signs and banners read: "Leopards [Polish tanks] against women and children?!", "Stop genocide at the border!", and "Stop torturing women and children."

Organized on just three hours' notice and in bitter cold, the action included members of the Belarusian Republican Youth Union, Belaya Rus and the Communist Party, and ordinary workers.

One woman interviewed on the picket line condemned the hypocrisy of the Western powers: "Those people who say that some human rights are being violated in the world are violating them themselves, not allowing migrants to enter the EU. We are ordinary peaceful Belarusians who came out in support of ordinary people who do not deserve such an attitude."

West escalates tensions

A new European Union threat to ban flights between West Asia and Belarus won't just harm those countries' economies, but may force thousands of refugees to make the dangerous journey to Europe across the Mediterranean, which has already cost so many lives in recent years. It is also, of course, an egregious violation of those countries' independence, just like all U.S.-EU sanctions.

Responding to the threat of a fifth round of sanctions, President

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Lukashenko pointed out Nov. 11 that Europe's main transnational gas pipeline, Yamal-Europe, goes through Belarus, and recently Russia has significantly increased the volume of gas transit to the West.

"We provide heat to Europe, and they are threatening us with the border closure. What if we block natural gas transit? Therefore, I would recommend the leadership of Poland, Lithuanians and others to think hard before opening their mouths. But it is up to them. They are welcome to close the border. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should warn everyone in Europe that if they impose additional sanctions, 'indigestible' and 'unacceptable' for us, we will hit back."

Struggle-La Lucha spoke with Nadezhda Sablina, a Minsk Pravda journalist and Belarusian representative of the Anti-Imperialist Front. She explained: "We saw last year, against the background of protests in Belarus after the presidential elections, Poland brought soldiers and military equipment to its eastern borders. The troops stood ready to 'come to the rescue' of those who intended to overthrow Lukashenko here.

"The slightest manifestation of weakness by the Belarusian authorities could serve as a signal for NATO's military invasion of Belarus," Sablina warned. "The Belarusian authorities and Belarusian military survived, including by strengthening the concentration of troops on the western border. At that time, half of the armed forces of Belarus were transferred to the west.

"Now, against the background of the growing migration crisis, Poland is again bringing its troops and armored vehicles to the border. The formal reason for this, according to the Polish side, is the protection of the Polish border. However, the number of military personnel already exceeds the number of migrants at the border by 3-4 times!

"This suggests that Poland intends to fight not with migrants," Sablina said, "but with Belarus, as well as with Russia, since we are united in the Union State and the military bloc (CSTO). It is clear that Poland does not act independently, but is subordinate to the stronger countries in the EU and the United States. So it cannot be ruled out that the imperialist forces of the West may start an armed conflict with Belarus at the hands of the Poles, staging some kind of provocation as a pretext to start an attack."

Sablina added: "Poland is suitable for a military conflict with Belarus like no other country. After the counter-revolutionary coup in the late 1980s, the Poles were actively instilled with nationalism and Russophobia. And now a lot of Poles are hostile to Russia and sincerely believe that in 1939 it took away part of their territory, which they call the East Cresses (Western Belarus). Therefore, if, for example, Poland invades Belarus and occupies its western cities (Grodno, Brest), then ordinary Poles may well consider this step to be fair, because, in their opinion, the lands taken from them will return to them."

Both the anti-war and immigrant rights movements need to be on full alert and get ready to take to the streets to demand: "Let them all in! No war, no repression! Hands off Belarus!" 📢

Solidarity with refugees at Poland/Belarus border!

Stop U.S.-NATO military threats and sanctions!

The U.S. and its European allies are deliberately inflaming a dangerous situation on the border of Poland and Belarus. Thousands of refugees fleeing U.S./European-instigated wars in West Asia and North Africa have gathered at the border in Belarus demanding entry to the European Union and respect for their international human rights. But the far-right-wing government of Poland, backed by Washington and the EU, refuses to let them in.

NATO member Poland is building up its military and police forces on the border. Refugees attempting to cross have been gassed and beaten by Polish security forces. Western governments and media lay the blame on Belarus, which is struggling to provide humanitarian aid to the refugees despite suffering under Western sanctions.

Belarus and its ally Russia have called on Poland and the EU to hold high-level consultations to peacefully resolve the growing humanitarian crisis. Instead, NATO — the U.S./West European-dominated military alliance — has launched snap war games in the Black Sea. British military advisors were dispatched to aid Polish troops at the border. Right-wing governments in Lithuania, Ukraine, Latvia and Estonia are further militarizing their borders.

What is the U.S. interest in this crisis? Besides its long-term military aims against Russia, Washington has an immediate interest in a regional war to disrupt the flow of Russian gas to Western Europe as cold weather sets in. This would drive up fuel prices and fatten the bottom line of U.S. Big Energy companies.

The U.S. and EU often brandish charges of "human rights violations" against any government that refuses to bend to their will, while they blatantly violate the human rights of refugees and migrants. This is true in Europe, just as it is in the U.S. with the racist Trump-Biden policies toward migrants and refugees from Central America, Haiti and elsewhere. The recent exposure of the horrific whippings of Haitian refugees by U.S. border agents show the depths of U.S. immigration policies.

Belarus, recently the target of a failed "color revolution," is being demonized like Cuba, Venezuela and other governments under U.S.-EU sanctions. Yet the corporate media buries the Polish government's horrendous attacks on women's reproductive rights and the promotion of fascism by Poland and other regional regimes.

Sanctions are an act of war. Now the EU is using the threat of "secondary sanctions" against businesses and third countries, of the kind that have done so much damage to Cuba and Venezuela during the pandemic, to force airlines to ban residents of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and other countries from flying to Belarus.

The U.S. and EU are playing with the lives of refugees, the people of Belarus and the whole region, as well as working people in Europe who need access to affordable heat. A regional military conflict could quickly escalate into a full-blown international war between the U.S./NATO and Russia and its allies.

We call on anti-war activists, advocates for refugees and migrant rights, and all progressive people to join us to demand:

Solidarity with refugees!

From the European Union to the U.S.: LET THEM ALL IN!

U.S./NATO, stop playing with people's lives!

Stop provocative NATO war games in the Black Sea!

Hands off Belarus!

Initiated by Socialist Unity Party (U.S.) and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper

Signers (list in formation):

Prof. Jose Maria Sison, chairperson emeritus, International League of Peoples' Struggle

Berta Joubert-Ceci, initiator, International Tribunal on U.S. Colonial Crimes against Puerto Rico

Jesus Rodriguez-Espinoza, editor, Orinoco Tribune, Venezuela

Federico Guillermo Bonhous Abogado, Coordinadora Revolucionaria Simon Bolivar, Argentina

Darya Mitina, secretary for international affairs, Central Committee of the United Communist Party, Russia

Massimiliano Ay, general secretary of the Communist Party (Switzerland) and MP of the Republic and Canton of Ticino, Switzerland

Jürgen Geppert, deputy chairman, Communist Party of Germany (KPD)

Sergei Kirichuk, coordinator, Borotba (Struggle), Ukraine/Donbass

Alexey Albu, coordinator, Borotba (Struggle), Ukraine/Donbass

Panagiotis Papadomanolakis, journalist, co-organizer of Panhellenic Antiwar Kinematic Coordination (PAKC), Greece

Stanislav Retinsky, secretary, Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic

John Parker and Sharon Black, coordinators, Socialist Unity Party, U.S.

Phil Wilayto, coordinator, Odessa Solidarity Campaign, U.S.

Dr. Balwinder Singh Tiwana, former professor, Punjabi University, India

Milos Raickovich, composer and activist, Brooklyn, NY

Lamprini Thoma, journalist, Greece

Dr. Dimitrios S. Patelis, professor of philosophy, Technical University of Crete, Greece

Galina Tishchenko, Lugansk People's Republic

Bistra Staykova, Bulgaria

Ruby Arnone, Minneapolis, U.S.

Boris Ikhlov, Russia

Women In Struggle / Mujeres En Lucha, U.S.

Communist Party (Switzerland)

Communist Revolutionary Action, Greece

Communist Workers League, U.S.

Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Los Angeles

Peoples Power Assembly, Baltimore

Solidarity with Novorossiia & Antifascists in Ukraine

To sign the statement, email [refugeesolidarityvs nato \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:refugeesolidarityvs nato@gmail.com)



Minsk picket in solidarity with refugees at Polish Embassy, Nov. 9.

PHOTO: NADEZHDA SABLINA

Reportaje desde la Habana: A pesar del bloqueo de EE. UU., Cuba ha vacunado al 90% y se abre a visitantes del mundo

Lars Bertling, Russell McClain y Sharon Black, tres reporteros de *Struggle-La Lucha*, miembros del Partido Socialismo Unido y representantes de la Asamblea del Poder Popular de Baltimore están participando en la 31ª Caravana de la Amistad USA-Cuba IFCO Pastores por la Paz.

Habana, 16 de noviembre — Fue dificultoso todo el día el lunes 15 de noviembre en el lado estadounidense. Esperamos en las agotadoras filas de seguridad del aeropuerto y pasamos horas registrándonos. Dos de nuestros representantes a duras penas obtuvieron sus pasaportes. Tuvimos que levantarnos a las 5 a.m. y conducir hasta la oficina de pasaportes en Miami con la esperanza de obtenerlos.

Pero cuando llegamos a Cuba, todas estas dificultades valieron la pena.

Al aterrizar, nuestro espíritu se aligeró y nuestra energía regresó. El pueblo cubano y sus líderes esperaban en el aeropuerto, junto con un grupo de medios de comunicación. Nuestro grupo fue literalmente la primera delegación en viajar a Cuba tan pronto se dio la apertura, luego de haber estado cerrada a visitantes internacionales debido a la pandemia. El 15 de noviembre fue también la apertura de escuelas y servicios en Cuba además de ser un día de celebración por el aniversario de la Habana.

Cuando llegamos al Centro Cubano Martin Luther King (sí, existe tal centro), jóvenes cantantes y músicos cubanos nos saludaron junto con la comunidad local de Marianao, líderes políticos y representantes del Centro MLK.

Hoy martes, fue nuestro primer día completo de aprendizaje y visitas. Como nuestro grupo era grande, más de 70 personas, nos dividimos.



Russell McClain y Gail Walker comentan la exposición sobre la guerra biológica de la CIA contra Cuba.

Los guías cubanos en el Memorial de la Denuncia hablan del museo que documenta las 3.478 personas que han muerto a causa del Pentágono, la CIA y la derecha de Estados Unidos. Las cruces en el fondo de este moderno Memorial representan las vidas perdidas.

SLL PHOTO

Memorial de la Denuncia

La mayoría de las personas que viven en los EE. UU. solo equiparan el terrorismo con los ataques del 11 de septiembre. Es una triste hipocresía. Muchos más cubanos, muchos de ellos niños pequeños, han muerto en ataques terroristas. Solo que estos ataques fueron perpetrados por el Pentágono, la CIA, la derecha y el

imperialismo estadounidense.

Este moderno museo documenta esos innumerables ataques.

La entrada tiene un recuento rotatorio actualizado del número de personas que han perdido la vida a causa del terrorismo. Esto no incluye a los afectados por el bloqueo, sino estrictamente a las víctimas de bombardeos y actos violentos de terrorismo. Hoy la cuenta es de 3.476.

Hubo 637 (conocidos) intentos de asesinar a Fidel; 21 ataques aéreos de la CIA; 11 bombardeos de la CIA; y 581 ataques terroristas contra misiones cubanas en el exterior.

Una película especial documenta el bombardeo del carguero francés La Coubre ocurrido el 4 de marzo de 1960 en el puerto de la Habana y la consiguiente pérdida de 110 vidas. Fidel y el Che encabezan las marchas callejeras masivas para honrar a quienes perdieron la vida y desafiar al imperialismo estadounidense. Las familias de las víctimas aún lamentan su pérdida.

El terrorista y agente de la CIA Luis Posada y sus cómplices, que estaban todos protegidos en los Estados Unidos, se jactaron del cobarde bombardeo del vuelo 455 de Cubana de Aviación el 6 de octubre de 1976, matando a los 73 pasajeros, muchos niños cubanos y los 24 miembros de

una organización deportiva juvenil, equipo que acababa de ganar todas las medallas de oro en los Campeonatos Centroamericanos y del Caribe.

Parecía no haber fin a la guerra de Estados Unidos contra Cuba: desde la Operación Peter Pan que secuestró a 14.000 niños cubanos durante un período de dos años desde 1960 a 1963 y más tarde en 2000, el secuestro de Elián González. Estados Unidos también llevó a cabo una guerra biológica contra Cuba, incluida la destrucción de la industria porcina y el sabotaje de cultivos agrícolas.

Estos son solo algunos ejemplos.

El Memorial le conmoverá y cambiará su opinión sobre quiénes son los verdaderos terroristas.

Instituto Finlay de Vacunas

Nuestra siguiente parada fue el Instituto Finlay de Vacunas que ayudó a producir tres vacunas COVID-19 cubanas: Soberana, Soberana O2 y Soberana Plus.

Tantas cosas se destacaron en la discusión y presentación de los representantes del Instituto.

Bajo las condiciones más difíciles debido al bloqueo, Cuba pudo producir estas tres vacunas altamente efectivas, rivalizando con la efectividad de las vacunas estadounidenses. El bloqueo había impedido a

Cuba importar los reactivos necesarios para la producción de la vacuna. Y las restricciones internacionales sobre patentes impidieron que los científicos cubanos compartieran información importante.

Además, era casi la primera vez que Cuba tenía que producir una vacuna dirigida a un virus (no a una infección bacteriana) y pudieron hacerlo en muy poco tiempo. Así que se podría considerar un milagro.

Entonces, ¿cómo lo hicieron?

Una de las principales razones aducidas fue la cooperación entre organizaciones cubanas, la falta de competición y lucro personal. De hecho, estas fueron algunas de las mismas razones, junto con algunas otras, de la alta tasa de vacunación en Cuba que ahora ha alcanzado un asombroso 90% de la población.

En este momento los niños menores de 2 años no están siendo vacunados, por lo que dado que el 90% incluye a toda la población, el porcentaje de vacunaciones entre los elegibles es aún mayor.

El pueblo de Cuba confía en las vacunas porque el país tiene una larga historia de atención médica preventiva que está basada en la educación e implementación comunitaria. No hay ningún requisito de lucro para bloquear la atención médica en Cuba.

Cuba reopens to visitors Despite U.S. blockade, 90% vaccinated

Continued from page 1

ness of U.S. vaccines. The blockade had prevented Cuba from importing the reagents necessary for the production of the vaccine. And international patent restrictions blocked Cuban scientists from sharing important information.

In addition, it was nearly the first time that Cuba had to produce a vaccine aimed at a virus (not a bacterial infection) and they were able to do it in a very short time. So you might consider it a miracle.

So how did they do it?

One of the major reasons given was the cooperation between Cuban organizations, the lack of competition and personal profit. In fact, these were some of the same reasons, along with a few others, for the high vaccination rate in Cuba that has now reached an astounding 90% of the population.

At this moment children under 2 years of age are not being vaccinated, so given that 90% includes all the population, the percentage of vaccinations among those who are eligible is even higher.

The people of Cuba trust the vaccines because the country has a long history of preventative health care that is steeped in education and community implementation. There is no profit requirement to block health care in Cuba.



Amazon worker tells all Sharon Black
www.struggle-la-lucha.org



The long shadow of the 1919 Chicago race riot
Stephen Millies

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