

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism / por el Socialismo



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SUMMER OF RAGE: Women sit in at White House

By Sharon Black

Washington, D.C. – Thousands of mostly young women marched in pouring rain from 14th and I streets to the White House July 9 as part of the “Summer of Rage” called by the Women’s March. When the group reached the White House, a sea of green bandanas with “Bans Off Our Bodies” written on them were tied to the White House fence.

In defiance of park rules at Lafayette Square, hundreds of protesters sat down in front of the White House preparing for arrest. While no arrests were made, the charge against the Biden administration was very clear: Not enough is being done to protect abortion rights.

The group is calling for President Joe Biden to declare a national emergency which would provide additional funds for abortion and health care. This includes access to abortion pills and the leasing of federal land to abortion providers.

Many protesters proclaimed that the White House and mainstream Democratic Party politicians are not doing enough and that “we cannot wait until the elections.”

On July 8, protesters organized by the Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee took over the streets in front of the Civil District Court in New Orleans where a hearing about Louisiana’s anti-abortion “trigger laws” was being heard.



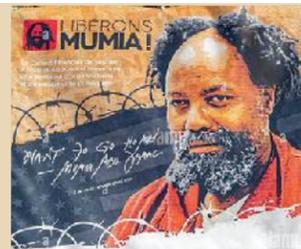
Washington, D.C., July 9.

Sally Jane Black from LARAC proclaimed at the protest: “We’re not going to let the Supreme Court’s Dobb’s decision stand! The original Roe v. Wade was won in the streets

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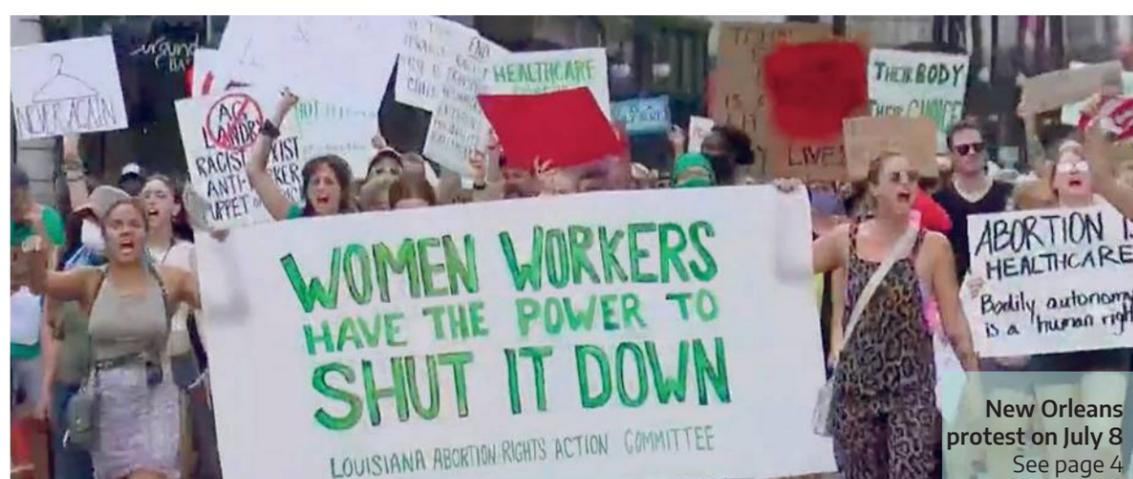
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Join the National Week of Civil Disobedience to Restore Abortion Rights

WOMEN’S LIVES ARE AT STAKE

Call for a National Week of Civil Disobedience to Restore Abortion Rights, Sept.18-24
► Higher Wages ► Workers’ Rights ► Full Funding for Childcare ► Healthcare ► Education
► No to Militarism and War ► Fight the Right! ► No Business as Usual!

Initiated by: Workers Voice Socialist Movement, Socialist Unity Party, Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee, Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha, Louisiana Workers Councils



New Orleans protest on July 8
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Sign on to the call:
Louisiana4AbortionRights@gmail.com
All Cities, All Organizations, United

It took a mass, militant movement coast to coast, north and south, to win Roe v. Wade – not politicians or the conscience of Supreme Court “justices.” We have had to fight for abortion rights every day of the almost 50 years since—not only against the openly extreme right wing but against the Democratic Party, which has supported anti-abortion judges and laws, including the hideous Hyde Amendment that took away the right of poorer women to get abortions.

Emboldened by the overturning of Roe, the right wing
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40 years too long! Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

By Stephen Millies

Demonstrators in Philadelphia on July 3 demanded freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. They carried colorful signs and banners under a blazing sun.

The rally was in front of the Municipal Services Building across from City Hall. Forty years before on the 4th of July weekend in 1982, the world-renowned political prisoner had been sentenced to death.

Abu-Jamal was framed for the death of police officer Daniel Faulkner. Abu-Jamal was really convicted for having been a member of the Black Panther Party.

Among the speakers was Mike Africa, Jr., who was born in prison. His parents — Debby Africa and Mike Africa, Sr. — were members of the MOVE 9 who spent 40 years in prison before being released.

Mike Africa Jr. reminded people of the illegal stunts that prosecutor Joseph McGill used in order to send Mumia Abu-Jamal to death row.

One of the “lost” items later found in the District Attorney’s office files was a letter written by a lying witness. The witness asked where was his money for testifying?



Philadelphia, July 3

SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

Demanding the death penalty, McGill read to the jury an interview with a 16-year old Mumia Abu-Jamal. The teenager quoted Mao Zedong that “political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.”

Judge Albert Sabo allowed McGill to inflame the jury. Sabo was overheard saying “I’m gonna help ‘em fry the n—r.”

It was only the power of the people that stopped Mumia from being executed, even though two death warrants had been signed by Pennsyl-

vania’s Gov. Tom Ridge. Jamal was finally taken off death row in 2011, but the wealthy and powerful want him to die in prison.

People marched around City Hall demanding justice. Some drivers honked their horns in approval.

Mama Pam denounced the racism of the wealthy and powerful. Nearby used to be a statue of former Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo who urged his supporters to “vote white.”

Authorities were forced to remove this obscene monument because of

the Black Lives Matter movement.

Twenty-three prisoners have been exonerated while Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner has been in office. They were convicted because of misconduct committed by cops, judges and prosecutors.

But Krasner is still trying to keep Mumia Abu-Jamal in jail, despite the same illegal practices having been used against the revolutionary political prisoner. Krasner needs to stop fighting Mumia’s release. Mumia Abu-Jamal must be set free. [📧](#)

‘Lamarca’: Movie about Brazilian revolutionary sparks lively discussion

By Linh Co

On a quiet Sunday afternoon, in Los Angeles folks chose to watch “Lamarca,” in a warm room, unintentionally replicating Brazil’s heat. “Lamarca” is a movie made in 1994 that depicts the true story of a Brazilian revolutionary who defected from the Brazilian army to fight against the regime. After the intense film, the viewers got up to chat and mingle. Then, a circle of chairs was made to facilitate a discussion.

Organizers and agitated folks of various classes, age, and nations shared a space at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice to answer the guiding questions:

- What is the role of women and other oppressed gender people in the revolution?
- What were the conditions that

would’ve made Carlos Lamarca and his comrades more successful?

- How do we build towards sustainability in the movement?
- What can we take from this movie into our organizing here in LA?

So much was shared, from personal life experiences to organizing successes and failures. All of these

accounts and opinions capture the concerns of the left here in the imperial core: How do we build an unpsy-opable (some new terms were developed in this discussion) united movement? How do we engage with the masses?

Though there weren’t clear answers, there were a lot of grounding

ideas to work with, and some concrete proposals to pursue. For one, let’s talk to those in our lives. We should learn and be willing to engage with the struggles of the people.

Linh Co is an organizer with LA MAS, Los Angeles Movement to Advance Socialism, the organization that put this event together.



SLL PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO

Protest demands justice for Jayland Walker



By Struggle-La Lucha
Baltimore bureau

Baltimore, July 9 — The Peoples Power Assembly held a protest demanding justice for Jayland Walker — gunned down in a hail of 60+ bullets by Akron, Ohio, cops — at the Douglas Homes Projects as part of a call by the National Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression.

Rev. Annie Chambers, who is a PPA leader and the co-chair of Welfare Rights Union, opened the rally with a clear call for an end to police terror. Joyce Butler, PPA radio host and organizer with the Unemployed Work-

ers Union, spoke on how the killing impacted her family; Ian Schlakman connected the increased police terror with the war on Russia and economic hardship in the surrounding community. Andre Powell led the group in counting out the 60 bullets that struck Jayland Walker, noting that 90 bullets were fired.

The rally was held at the site of Peoples Power Assembly food distributions. Chambers resides at Douglas Homes and is an organizer against the privatization of public housing. The surrounding area is being gentrified by John Hopkins Hospital in East Baltimore. [📧](#)

Baltimore

SLL PHOTO: SHARON BLACK

Wages, prices and the minimum wage

By Sharon Black

Today the federal minimum wage is \$7.25! Let that sad fact sink in. Right now you can barely buy a gallon of gas in some parts of the country with that little cash.

July 24 will mark the anniversary of the last increase that took place in 2009. In 13 years the capitalist government in the United States has not raised the minimum wage even a nickel. And this is in the wealthiest country in the world. Well, wealthiest for the wealthy!

Labor Department data for 2021 shows that approximately 250,000 people still earned \$7.25 and, to add insult to injury, domestic, farm, student, disabled, and restaurant workers can be paid less than \$7.25 an hour. It's called a "subminimum wage" — it's legal and it implies that these workers are considered subhuman by their bosses.

The majority of low wage workers are Black, Brown, immigrant, women and young.

It is such a disgrace that some states and local municipalities have been forced to pass minimum wage increases on their own — but only as a result of concerted struggle by groups like "Fight for \$15," labor unions and community groups.

But still close to 52 million workers — 32% of the workforce — earn less than \$15. And when you factor in the large number of workers who can only find part-time work, or do gig work, the situation is even more dire.

Of course, any worker can tell you that \$15 is a barely, barely, barely enough to get by wage.

A September 2021 broadcast on CBS Money Watch reports that the "minimum wage would be \$26 an hour if it had grown in line with productivity."

What the broadcast says in plain language is that workers are working themselves to death, producing more and more — utilizing productivity-boosting technology — and killing themselves on the job.

Workers have "been more industrious," in the words of CBS, making bosses' profits soar.

On top of this, today's inflation that continues to spiral upward has wiped away wages for all workers across the board. Wages were down 2.7% in April and are down much more than that in July.

So it is no wonder that workers and their organizations have begun to demand a minimum wage of \$25. In the case of Amazon workers, the Amazon Labor Union is demanding a \$30 minimum from the \$191 billion Bezos.

What did Karl Marx have to say about wages?

Karl Marx spent his entire life writing and explaining the inner workings of the capitalist system and the development of human history. Along with colleagues, Marx participated in the workers movement of the time and was forced to live in exile.

You could say Marx, who was impoverished and reviled by the ruling classes of that time, also worked himself to death. He drove himself tirelessly not under the direct whip of a capitalist boss, but in the service of emancipating the working class.

So what did he explain in a meticulous and scientific way that earned him the hatred of the industrialists, landlords, bankers and capitalist class?

He revealed how wages and prices were determined, what surplus value is and how profit is derived.

There is a pamphlet, "Value, Price



& Profit," that was presented first as an address at a gathering of the leading workers' organization at that time that sums up some of the more detailed analysis in "Capital."

Marx explains that profit for the capitalist bosses comes from the unpaid labor of workers, who produce surplus value, which is the source of profit and the source of wealth for the capitalist class.

It's amazing that at that time Marx was responding to some of the same arguments heard today against raising wages. But it's true. "Value Price & Profit" starts with a presentation of Marx's response to trade unionist John Weston who claimed that raising wages would be harmful to workers, causing inflation. Weston's views at the time were supported by John Stuart Mill.

It wasn't the individual Weston but rather his ideas that Marx argued with.

Karl Marx explained that raising wages will not automatically lead to higher prices. The only outcome of a

rise in wages is a decline in profits. There is no reason for prices to increase.

However, there is almost nothing that a capitalist boss won't do to make profit. It is not an individual thing, but built into the system. And so herein lies the heart of why there is so much propaganda about raising wages — that it will cause inflation, unemployment, and an endless list of disasters. The mere thought of declining profits causes terror.

So you might say that what Karl Marx described was wage theft, but only on a broader scale — meaning the entire system is predicated on ripping off the working class and that the real relations between bosses and workers is one of wage slavery.

Conclusion: We need to fight for every penny we can get and more. Let's raise the minimum wage to \$25 or even \$30 an hour. But, as Karl Marx proclaimed, the ultimate solution is to do away with wage slavery totally and build socialism. 📌

Justice for Jayland Walker and Randy Cox!

By Stephen Millies

The war against Black people never stops. Akron, Ohio, police fired over 90 bullets at Jayland Walker, killing the 25-year-old Black man. Cops in New Haven, Connecticut, gave a "rough ride" to Richard "Randy" Cox Jr., paralyzing him.

Jayland Walker was a DoorDash driver who the cops chased shortly after midnight on June 27 for an alleged equipment violation.

Police use the excuse of a broken tail light to brutalize poor and working people. Minnesota cops stopped Teamsters union member Philandro Castile dozens of times before a St. Anthony, Minnesota, police officer killed Castile in front of his fiancée and 4-year-old daughter.

After Jayland Walker got out of his car and ran, eight police officers fired at him. Their bullets hit him over 60 times. Following Walker's execution he was handcuffed by the cops.

"His body is just riddled with bullets, his face is shot with bullets ..." said Bobby DiCello, a lawyer for Walker's family who saw the police body-camera video.

The Rev. Roderick Pounds, pastor at Akron's Second Baptist Church, also saw the video. According to Rev. Pounds, Jayland Walker's "body was riddled from his face down to his knees."

U.S. police go berserk with their guns. New York City cops fired 41 bullets at Amadou Diallo on Feb. 4, 1999, killing the unarmed African immigrant from Guinea. Seven years later, New York cops shot 50 times at Sean Bell, killing the unarmed Black man on what was supposed to be his wedding day.

Akron was known as the "tire capital of the world" before its tire factories fled south to run away from unions. Its last big tire factory shut down 40 years ago.

Instead of being able to find a union job, Jayland Walker worked for Amazon before being employed as a delivery driver for DoorDash.

Fearing people's anger about Walker's murder, Akron's mayor



Jayland Walker

cancelled the city's Fourth of July festivities. Frederick Douglass condemned the United States in the most famous speech given about July 4th.

"There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody," said Douglass. The murder of Jayland Walker was certainly shocking

and bloody. Since 2015, 210 people have been killed by Ohio police.

Ban Rough rides

New Haven police desecrated Juneteenth by paralyzing Richard "Randy" Cox Jr. on June 19. Cox was arrested that day by police on charges that included possessing a handgun.

The Second Amendment "right to bear arms" was never meant for Black people.

Cox was also arrested for "threatening in the first degree." That charge sounds like something out of a slave code.

Police handcuffed Cox and put him in a patrol wagon without a seat belt. When the vehicle made a sudden stop, Cox slid into a metal wall, seriously injuring his neck and spine.

Cops ignored his pleas for help, just as George Floyd's pleas of "I can't breathe" were ignored. Police dragged Cox out of the vehicle, possibly further injuring him. They mocked Cox about his posture.

In 2015, Freddie Gray was given a "rough ride" by Baltimore police, killing the Black man. Baltimore exploded in righteous anger. Randy Cox may be paralyzed for the rest of his life.

New Haven is dominated by filthy rich Yale University with its \$42.3 billion endowment. Despite its efforts to look liberal, Yale got those billions by being a training school for members of the ruling class, like the Bush family.

But many Yale students are outraged by this atrocity, as are the people of New Haven. Rough rides must be abolished and guns need to be taken away from the cops.

We need to demand that two groups of gangsters be abolished: the U.S. Supreme Court and the police. 📌

New Orleans fighters for abortion rights close down streets

By Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee

More than 150 people took the fight to restore abortion rights to the streets of New Orleans July 8. We rallied outside the courthouse to send a message to the oil industry-puppet AG Landry and his millionaire cronies: we will not let them go forward with their war on women, trans people, and all workers. We shut down both Canal St. and Loyola Ave. to tell them we're done with business as usual.

As well as the fight for abortion rights, protesters also called for justice for Jayland Walker and Ronald Greene, murdered by racist police in Ohio and Louisiana, and for an end to attacks on LGBTQ people, immi-

grants, and other attacks on workers.

To no surprise, the billionaire-funded right-wing used the courts to overrule the will of the people and overturn the temporary injunction that was keeping Louisiana's 3 clinics open. The judge moved the hearing to Baton Rouge, so AG Landry could shop for a judge as sexist, racist, and anti-worker as he is. But we are sending Landry and company notice: your legal tricks are no match for the power of an organized militant movement fighting for our lives. We are committed to building this movement.

Alongside others across the country, we have taken a step forward in the growing movement to push back the right wing and win back abortion rights and more. Dozens of pro-



Activists shutting down the streets for abortion rights.

testers signed up to join the newly formed Louisiana Abortion Rights Action Committee. To get involved

in organizing what's next, email us at Louisiana4AbortionRights@gmail.com. [📧](#)

\$2 trillion for war vs \$100 billion to save the planet

By Murad Qureshi

During late April and early May, South Asia experienced the terrible impacts of global warming. Temperatures reached almost 50 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) in some cities in the region. These high temperatures came alongside dangerous flooding in Northeast India and in Bangladesh, as the rivers burst their banks, with flash floods taking place in places like Sunamganj in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Saleemul Haq, the director of the International Center of Climate Change and Development, is from Bangladesh. He is a veteran of the UN climate change negotiations. When Haq read a tweet by Marianne Karlsen, the co-chair of the UN's Adaptation Committee, which said that "more time is needed to reach

an agreement," while referring to the negotiations on loss and damage finance, he tweeted: "The one thing we have run out of is Time! Climate change impacts are already happening, and poor people are suffering losses and damages due to the emissions of the rich. Talk is no longer an acceptable substitute for action (money!)" Karlsen's comment came in light of the treacle-slow process of agreement on the "loss and damage" agenda for the 27th Conference of Parties or COP27 meeting to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

In 2009, at COP15, developed countries of the world had agreed to a \$100 billion annual adaptation assistance fund, which was supposed to be paid by 2020. This fund was intended to assist countries of the Global South to shift their reliance

on carbon to renewal sources of energy and to adapt to the realities of the climate catastrophe. At the time of the Glasgow COP26 meeting in November 2021, however, developed countries were unable to meet this commitment. The \$100 billion may seem like a modest fund, but is far less than the "Trillion Dollar Climate Finance Challenge," that will be required to ensure comprehensive climate action.

The richer states—led by the West—have not only refused to seriously fund adaptation but they have also reneged on the original agreements, such as the Kyoto Protocol (1997); the U.S. Congress has refused to ratify this important step toward mitigating the climate crisis. The United States has shifted the goalposts for reducing its methane

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SUMMER OF RAGE: Women sit in at White House

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with a mass movement. We shut it down this morning to show that we mean business and that they cannot continue like this."

Black emphasized that their battle was connected to the fight against racism and for workers' rights.

LARAC is one of several organizations, including the Workers Voice Socialist Movement and Socialist

Unity Party, calling for a national week of civil disobedience from Sept. 18-24. The Louisiana protest represents the mounting resistance taking place across the country.

On June 24, thousands of protesters in Phoenix, Arizona, were met with riot police firing tear gas outside the State Capitol. In defiance, protesters returned on July 8, despite the erection of razor wire fences.

The battle has just begun. [📧](#)



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Look for the audio link at the beginning of many SLL articles or check the list on the "Struggle - La Lucha audio articles" page: tinyurl.com/4yusm2xv

Join the Week of Civil Disobedience to Restore Abortion Rights

Continued from page 1

is pushing forward. They are seeking a national anti-abortion law and a ban on the abortion pill. They are escalating terroristic violence everywhere—including in "abortion-protected states." Attacks on protesters by fascists and police and bombings of abortion clinics across the country have not stopped protesters from taking to the streets. We will not let this stand.

We are not going to be content with politely lobbying Congress for a law it won't pass, Biden's toothless executive order, or a handful of cities making prosecution a "low priority" while the clinics stay closed and the state police take up prosecution of those who get abortions. Supporting and funding the courageous abortion underground is important, but many will be unable to travel or access their support. It is time we joined together, arm in arm, united against these assaults on our rights. They need to know that we are serious. We need to carry out mass civil disobedience across the country.

We stand against this attempt to control all women and child-bearing people of all genders, especially workers and other poor people and communities of color. We will not let them divide us. Our enemy is the super-rich and their government lackeys who

are trying to strip away our rights. We fight not only for the restoration of abortion rights, but for everything necessary to be able to choose to raise children, including free childcare, parental leave and more. We fight for unions and workers' rights, LGBTQ rights, environmental protections and universal healthcare, and we demand an end to racist terror and wars for profit. Their profits are not our concern — our survival is.

It is time to say NO to business as usual. Let's unite to get every city, group and individual to shut it down. Let's follow the example of the women in Ireland, Spain, Mexico, Poland and Argentina—we too can strike. We need to build up a united national fightback so we can move towards a women's strike—even for a day—and withhold our labor. The labor of women workers is super-exploited, especially women of color, but our labor keeps everything running. We are powerful if we assert our collective power. We can and need to hit back forcefully.

Resistance inspires, resistance can win!

We ask that you or your organization endorse this call for a National Week of Civil Disobedience to Restore Abortion Rights.

Sign on to the call: Louisiana4AbortionRights@gmail.com

Heat waves tied to Big Energy capitalism

By Scott Scheffer

The population of the world is enduring crises from climate change that, until recently, climatologists thought may only happen decades from now.

Still, major energy companies and their banking partners are quietly investing heavily in oil wells and coal mining projects that would produce a massive surge in greenhouse gas emissions. The capitalist government is supposed to rein in the greed of corporations when it threatens the stability of the system.

But the earth is cooking, people are dying, livelihoods being destroyed, and even larger environmental crises are looming, and the three branches of the U.S. government are enabling at best — and facilitating at worst — the continued deadly emissions of methane and CO2 that threaten the habitability of the Earth.

Contradictions of capitalist science

It was a long time before climatologists acknowledged the correlation between extreme weather events and greenhouse gasses. One of the great contradictions of the capitalist economy is that science has moved forward at an astonishing rate compared to previous social systems, but at the same time scientific knowledge is kept on a short leash.

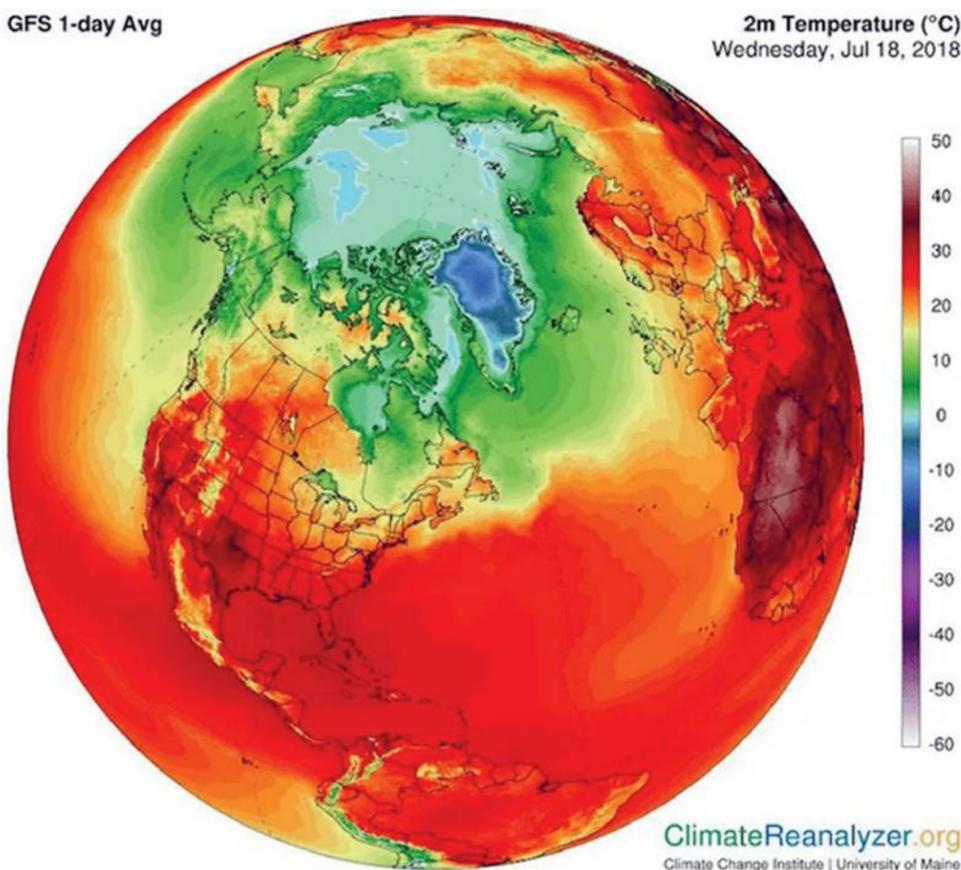
The unbelievable heatwave that hit the Pacific Northwest a year ago was so outside the realm of normality that it broke the scientific information blockade. Forces seeking to protect fossil fuel investors have pushed climate denial, but the June 2021 heatwave brought about the public debut of “Attribution Science,” a branch of climate change research that has been developing for years.

Attribution scientists can now use statistics and, with a good degree of confidence, determine how much more likely extreme weather events are in the era of rising global temperatures. Dr. Sjoukje Philip of World Weather Attribution Initiative asserted that the Pacific Northwest heatwave “would have been virtually impossible without human-induced climate change.” She and others estimated that event to be a one-in-a-thousand-year occurrence.

The science is still developing and some types of severe weather — like tornados — are less understood. But the study of heatwaves has yielded the most success. The study is more than academic. Understanding the relationship between heatwaves and other extreme weather and being able to forecast will help with adaptation to changing climate and can save lives.

A 2018 article on climate-xchange.org that focused on the increase in deadly heat waves over the last several decades said:

“Heat waves are more than just uncomfortable, they are dangerous, deadly, and the most obvious manifestation of a warming climate. They are repeated events of increased prevalence around the world, which are only forecasted to get worse as we keep pumping heat trapping gasses into the atmosphere.”



To understand the significance of this quote, one need only think back to the 1995 heat wave in Chicago that killed 739 mostly senior citizens over five days.

Year-over-year all-time temperature records are dropping like flies. BBC reported that in 2019 between May 1 and August 30 almost 400 records were toppled in 29 countries. The year 2022 has seen more high-temperature records broken.

On July 30, 2020 the temperature in Baghdad, Iraq, was 125°. Triple digit temperatures in two separate areas of India persisted for weeks, moderated slightly and then resumed until the monsoon season finally brought some relief.

Beginning in June and continuing as of this writing, heat records have been topped in France, Switzerland, Austria, Poland, Germany, Spain and Portugal. The second of nearly back-

to-back heat waves in the U.S. is affecting some 50 million people with temperatures in some parts of the South reaching 115° or higher. Also in June, the hottest temperatures ever for the region were recorded in 25 different areas of eastern China and throughout Japan.

Every dangerous event caused by the use of fossil fuels yields others. The crises are cascading. Scientists are now studying how the world’s ocean and air currents, distorted by the effects of greenhouse gasses, are distributing heat waves to particular areas of the Northern Hemisphere causing them to be concurrent, as they have been in the U.S. and India in 2022.

No ‘green new deal’

The Biden crew put on a good “green” show in the election campaign and in the early days after

winning the White House. The new administration pushed a \$2 trillion climate-change proposal.

The proposal was less substantial than the “green new deal” that was circulated by the more progressive Democratic congressional group nicknamed “the Squad,” but still stood no chance of passage in the face of an energy corporation-backed onslaught in Congress.

Now, however, Biden’s White House doesn’t look so “green.” They’ve issued more gas and oil drilling permits than the Trump administration, pushed Saudi Arabia to pump more oil and held the largest offshore drilling rights federal auction in years.

This is all being done to counter Russia’s oil and gas sales to Europe which the U.S. is trying to supplant. Their effort to do so has been ratcheted up with the sanctions against Russia and the pressure on European countries over the war in Ukraine. The surrender by Biden to the big energy section of the ruling class points to the dominance of energy companies and their investors under U.S. capitalism.

But none of that means that big energy can’t be stopped. After winning the drilling rights in Biden’s auction in the Gulf of Mexico, ExxonMobil and others were salivating over the potential profits. But in January, a federal judge invalidated the auction, saying that the Biden administration failed to properly account for the climate change impact.

Earthjustice and four other environmental groups had challenged the sale and won. Activism to stop the energy giants is the key. So many lives are affected that the struggle will inevitably be taken up by the working classes and oppressed people who suffer the most throughout the world. A portion of the U.S. ruling class recognizes that potential for a heightened struggle that could morph into a class battle that would finally bring capitalism itself to an end. ☐



On June 29, while the North Atlantic Treaty Organization met in Madrid, a “No to NATO” demonstration gathered and rallied in Detroit at the busy Nine Mile and Woodward intersection. The Michigan Peace Council initiative called on anti-imperialists to grow the movement against the U.S. provocative expansion of NATO and weapons deluge to fuel the anti-Russia war in Ukraine.

Organizations speaking at the rally in the grassy roadway median included the Michigan Peace Council, Young Communist League, Green Party, Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, League of Revolutionaries for a New America, Communist Workers League and Party for Socialism and Liberation, among others. Car horns were honked by supporters, with one driver stopped at a red light even donating cash. More united anti-imperialist actions are planned.

SSL PHOTOS

— Cheryl LaBash

Exporting blood and Benjamins: U.S. capitalism is the real Dracula

By Stephen Millies

Malcolm X declared, “you show me a capitalist, I’ll show you a blood-sucker.” U.S. capitalists are the biggest bloodsuckers on the planet.

In 2017, human blood and plasma were the tenth largest U.S. export items, with sales of \$28.6 billion. That’s half the value of car exports. Human blood easily outranked the sales of corn and soybeans abroad.

Most countries ban the selling of blood, just as it’s illegal to sell one of your kidneys. (Although there’s an underground market for body parts in the U.S.)

It’s poor people who are compelled to sell their blood plasma. Another occupation of the oppressed in some states is collecting bottles and cans for deposit money.

Jacqueline Watson’s imprisoned son needed money to make phone calls. Phone companies ripping-off prisoners and their families is big business.

She took a 40-minute bus ride to a plasma center in North Philadelphia. Watson sold her blood for \$30 so her son could talk to his family.

In 15 states, including Texas, New York and Illinois, it costs prisoners at least \$6 for a 15-minute-long

in-state phone call. In some states children have to pay almost \$1 per minute to talk to an incarcerated parent.

In 2019 there were 805 plasma centers in the United States. Forty-three of these blood sucking enterprises were located near the Mexican border.

Border Patrol pigs lock-up Mexican and other immigrant children in cages. But Mexicans can use a B1/B2 visa to sell their blood in the U.S.

In many cases they do so to buy food. This is what colonialism looks like. In 1848 the U.S. government stole half of Mexico to expand slavery.

People can sell their plasma twice a week or 104 times a year. For some people this has resulted in being exhausted and having weakened immune systems.

That’s particularly dangerous during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lubricating the drug trade

An even bigger U.S. export is its paper money. In 2018 the U.S. exported \$65.3 billion of its own currency, overwhelmingly in \$100 bills.

That’s larger than the Gross Domestic Product of Tanzania, an African country with a population of 60 million people.



The hundreds of billions in \$100 bills are not being used to play Monopoly or some other board game. Big corporations don’t keep huge amounts of cash.

Neither do most workers in the United States, even the millions who don’t have bank accounts. The 40% of U.S. people who can’t afford a \$400 emergency expense don’t keep stacks of \$100 bills.

It’s organized crime — especially the trillion dollar drug trade — that need \$100 bills with slave-owner Ben Franklin’s picture on them. Working with the drug cartels are the big banks.

Wachovia Bank — now part of Wells Fargo — laundered hundreds of billions in drug money through its

branches in Mexico. The \$110 million fine that Wells Fargo paid in 2010 was less than two percent of its profits that year.

At the same time Wells Fargo and the rest of the banksters foreclosed nearly 7 million homes between 2007 and 2014. That’s over 25 million people thrown into the street.

Half of U.S. exports in 1860 were the cotton picked by enslaved Africans. This supplied capitalism’s biggest industry at the time, the cotton textile factories in Europe and the U.S..

Today the U.S. exports over \$90 billion in human blood products and cash for the drug cartels. No wonder Karl Marx wrote that “capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.”

\$2 trillion for war vs \$100 billion to save the planet

Continued from page 4

emissions and has refused to account for the massive output of carbon emissions by the U.S. military.

Germany’s money goes to war not climate

Germany hosts the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In June, as a prelude to COP27, the UN held a conference in Bonn on climate change. The talks ended in acrimony over finance for what is known as “loss and damage.” The European Union consistently blocked all discussions on compensation. Eddy Pérez of the Climate Action Network, Canada, said, “Consumed by their narrow interests, rich nations and in particular countries in the European Union, came to the Bonn Climate Conference to block, delay and undermine efforts from people and communities on the frontlines addressing the losses and damage caused by fossil fuels.”

On the table is the hypocrisy of countries such as Germany, which claims to lead on these issues, but instead has been sourcing fossil fuels overseas and has been spending increasing funds on their military. At the same time, these countries have denied support to developing countries facing devastation from climate-induced superstorms and rising seas.

After the recent German elections, hopes were raised that the new coalition of the Social Democrats with

the Green Party would lift up the green agenda. However, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has promised €100 billion for the military, “the biggest increase in the country’s military expenditure since the end of the Cold War.” He has also committed to “[spending] more than 2 percent of the country’s gross domestic product on the military.” This means more money for the military and less money for climate mitigation and green transformation.

The military and climate catastrophe

The money that is being swallowed into the Western military establishments does not only drift away from any climate spending but also promotes greater climate catastrophe. The U.S. military is the largest institutional polluter on the planet. The maintenance of its more than 800 military bases around the world, for instance, means that the U.S. military consumes 395,000 gallons of oil daily. In 2021, the world’s governments spent \$2 trillion on weapons, with the leading countries being those who are the richest (as well as the most sanctimonious on the climate debate). Money is available for war but not to deal with the climate catastrophe.

The way weapons have poured into the Ukraine conflict gives many of us pause. The prolongation of that war has placed 49 million more people at risk of famine in 46 countries, according to the “Hunger Hotspots” report by the United Nations agencies, as a result of the



A woman stands in front of her house after a flood hit Kurigram district in northern Bangladesh, on July 26, 2019.

extreme weather conditions and due to conflicts. Conflict and organized violence were the main sources of food insecurity in Africa and the Middle East, specifically in northern Nigeria, central Sahel, eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Syria. The war in Ukraine has exacerbated the food crisis by driving up the price of agricultural commodities. Russia and Ukraine together account for around 30 percent of the global wheat trade. So, the longer the Ukraine war continues, the more “hunger hotspots” will grow, taking food insecurity beyond just Africa and the Middle East.

While one COP meeting has already taken place on the African continent, another will take place later this year. First, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, hosted the UN Convention

to Combat Desertification in May and then Sharm el-Sheikh will host the UN Climate Change Conference. These are major forums for African states to put on the table the great damage done to parts of the continent due to the climate catastrophe.

When the representatives of the countries of the world gather at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022 for COP27, they will hear Western representatives talk about climate change, make pledges, and then do everything possible to continue to exacerbate the catastrophe. What we saw in Bonn is a prelude to what will be a fiasco in Sharm el-Sheikh.

This article was produced by Globetrotter. Murad Qureshi is a former member of the London Assembly and a former chair of the Stop the War Coalition.

Friendshipment Caravan tours 21 cities, set to travel to Cuba

By Sharon Black

July 14 — The 32nd Friendshipment Caravan of IFCO/Pastors for Peace will leave in several days for Cuba, bringing solidarity, love and medical support to underscore the urgent need to end the criminal U.S. blockade of Cuba. The caravan celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Pastors for Peace Friendshipment solidarity movement to demonstrate that the people of the U.S. do not support their government's campaign against the people of Cuba.

Ninety-one participants, the majority of them young people of color and first-time visitors to Cuba, will take part in this rich educational experience. This brigade will break the blockade of lies and propaganda against Cuba.

The Friendshipment Caravan this year was launched with a national tour that included East Coast, Midwest, South, and all Florida to speak with a variety of communities. The tour visited a total of 21 cities and towns.

At the Columbia, Maryland, stop, both Gail Walker — Execu-

tive Director of Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, and Reverend Dorlimar Lebrón Malavé, liberation theologian and IFCO Board member — stressed the need to end the U.S. blockade that is meant to strangle the Cuban people and create human suffering. They urged those who have not visited Cuba to participate and those who have to help a new generation experience Cuba for themselves.

Although IFCO stresses that the tons of much needed medicines carried with the brigade is only symbolic, it highlights the unimaginable crime committed by the U.S. government when the blockade was intensified in the midst of the pandemic when Cuba's essential tourist income became unavailable. Financial contributions to buy medicines are accepted at Ifconews.org.

IFCO/Pastors for Peace enables young people, especially Black, Brown and poor students, to take advantage of Cuba's generous full-ride scholarships to attend its Latin America School of Medicine (ELAM). The main



requirement is that those who receive training as debt-free doctors return to serve in their communities.

ELAM was conceived by Cuba's leader, Fidel Castro, to give an opportunity to students around the globe from Africa and the Americas to train to become doctors and contribute to solving global healthcare needs. The school now includes students from 124 countries. For more information go to Elam Medical School: <http://medicc.org/ns/elam/>

July 31, Urgent support needed for 'Bridges of Love'

On Sunday, July 31, the day following their return, Pastors for Peace organizers will make it a priority to show support for the "Bridges of Love" bike and car caravans in Miami inspired by Cuban-American

teacher Carlos Lazo. On the last Sunday of every month for two years, Cuban Americans supported by others have publicly displayed support for ending the U.S. economic warfare against their relatives living in Cuba — breaking the narrative monopoly. Across the U.S., Canada and in many countries, "last Sunday of the month" caravans show solidarity with their counterparts in Miami.

In June, for the first time the Miami caravan was physically attacked. Actions of solidarity across all states are being urged for Sunday, July 31. Whether you hold a solidarity caravan, picket line or simply gather on a street corner with signs and snap a photo, every effort will demonstrate that violence will not be tolerated and will not silence our voices. Send a photo of your July 31 activity to SundayCaravan@nnoc.org

If you are interested in traveling with IFCO/Pastors for Peace caravans, go to their website at IFCONews.org. Sign up to receive the weekly e-newsletter CubaBuzz. [📧](#)

Cuba's solidarity with Africa and the Soviet Union

By Stephen Millies

"When Africa called, Cuba answered" is a well-known and true description of how Cuba aided the African liberation struggle. The slogan was popularized by Elombe Brath, the late Pan African educator and organizer who was a founder of the December 12th Movement.

Over 2,000 Cuban soldiers died fighting alongside their African comrades in defeating the fascist army of apartheid South Africa.

At the decisive battle of Cuito Cuanavale in southern Angola, soldiers from the People's Armed Forces of Liberation of Angola threw back the apartheid invaders in 1988. Joining Angolans were soldiers from the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the armed wing of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO); uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the armed section of the African National Congress (ANC), and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

Also present were military advisers from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. It was Soviet-built MiG-25 jet fighters that gave the African forces air superiority.

Less than two years later Nelson Mandela walked out of prison on Feb. 11, 1990. Mandela declared that "the Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the peoples of Africa.

"The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom and justice, unparalleled for its principled and selfless character," said Mandela. "Cubans came to our region as doctors, teachers, soldiers, agricultural experts, but never as colonizers. They have shared the same trenches with us in the struggle against co-



Fidel Castro with Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos. Dos Santos, who died July 8, 2022, was a leader of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). He studied engineering in the Soviet Union and fought for the MPLA during the Angolan War of Independence.

lonialism, underdevelopment, and apartheid."

Che and Fidel in Africa

Che Guevara and other Cuban internationalists fought alongside the followers of the murdered Patrice Lumumba in Congo in 1965.

Fidel Castro helped freedom fighters in Zimbabwe unite and form the Patriotic Front that overthrew the white minority regime. Just as the U.S. economically blockades Cuba, Wall Street sanctions the people of Zimbabwe for taking back their land from white settlers.

Amílcar Cabral, the leader of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), met with Fidel Castro in Cuba. Cabral was assassinated in a plot masterminded by the Portuguese secret police, which was a close ally of the CIA.

Cuban military instructors assisted PAIGC liberation fighters while Cuban doctors treated their wounds.

When the Cuban Revolution triumphed on Jan. 1, 1959, the Bolshevik Revolution was 41 years old. Lenin and the other Bolshevik leaders

hoped their revolution would inspire people around the world to break their chains.

The Bolshevik Revolution itself was an international event since more than 150 nationalities and peoples took part. Oppressed peoples who had been humiliated by the Russian czar and Russian capitalists now stood up.

Lenin described a strike as a small revolution. In a long strike of a few months, some strikers weaken. Capitalists do everything to demoralize workers.

All of the socialist countries have been on strike against world capitalism for decades.

Welcome Fidel!

With the January 1, 1959, victory of the Cuban Revolution, the workers and peasants began to take back their country.

This included \$2 billion of U.S.-owned plantations, railroads, mines and other properties. That was one-sixth of Wall Street's loot in Latin America.

As Fidel Castro said after the at-

tempted U.S.-mercenary invasion at Playa Girón (Bay of Pigs), "This is what they cannot forgive: the fact that we are here right under their very noses. And that we have carried out a socialist revolution right under the nose of the United States!"

In October 1962, the U.S. threatened nuclear war over the defensive missiles placed in Cuba by the Soviet Union. A few months later, Fidel Castro was invited to visit the USSR.

The historical leader of the Cuban Revolution spent 40 days in the Soviet Union, from April 26 to June 3, 1963. Everywhere the Soviet people of every national background welcomed him, particularly the youth.

That the Cuban people made a socialist revolution right under Wall Street's nose lifted the spirits of Soviet communists — while it set back the cynics and the pro-capitalist elements.

The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries gave much aid to Cuba. After 80% of Cuban doctors were enticed to leave their country, Czechoslovakia helped train a new generation of medical workers.

This aid wasn't all one way. Cuban exports also helped the socialist bloc. Even more important was Cuba's revolutionary policies, like its aid to Africa.

The overthrow of Soviet power and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe was an immense tragedy. But what if these counter revolutions had occurred not in 1989-1991 but ten years earlier?

It would have been even worse. Besides all the other accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution, it helped set back capitalist restorationist elements in the Soviet Union during the early 1960s.

Read the full report at tinyurl.com/2d8lttga

Fuera Luma y Pierluisi!

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Buenos días audiencia,
Esta semana la privatizadora Luma Energy ha lucido su incompetencia como nunca. En menos de 48 horas estallaron dos subestaciones eléctricas dejando a miles de usuarios sin luz.

El contrato de Luma es tan leonino que puede hacer las barbaridades que quiera sin tener ninguna consecuencia, porque ni el gobernador – que la defiende a capa y espada – ni ninguna agencia del gobierno, la supervisa. Todo lo contrario. Así que siguen sin dar mantenimiento a la infraestructura eléctrica, sin reparar, sin tener el personal requerido, y encima, enviando a los usuarios unos recibos de luz estimados, completamente inflados, que a veces son de miles de dólares.

Pero poco le queda de paz a esta compañía mafiosa y al gobierno corrupto.

Unos días atrás, el alcalde de Juana Díaz, en el sur de la isla convocó al pueblo en asamblea para enfrentar la mala operación de Luma en ese pueblo donde la luz se va diariamente. Los representantes de Luma rehusaron ir aduciendo que temían por su seguridad.

Pero de ahora en adelante Luma está emplazada, no solo por un alcalde, sino por el pueblo entero porque en la mañana del 20 de julio habrá una gran manifestación en su contra.

Numerosas organizaciones comunitarias, ambientalistas, religiosas, partidos de izquierda, sindicatos, y hasta artistas, han estado movilizándose a sus bases para que demuestren su fuerza de pueblo en contra de este atropello de Luma y el gobierno. El miércoles 20 de julio a las 9 de la mañana, ni Luma, ni Pierluisi podrán esconderse.

¡Fuera LuMafia, fuera gobierno corrupto! 📢



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

Mujeres en Lucha de la FDIIM presenta en Encuentro Antiimperialista en Cuba

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Participación de Mujeres en Lucha – Women in Struggle, en representación de la Región de las Américas de la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (FDIM), en el ‘Encuentro antiimperialista y anticolonialista, Principales desafíos para nuestros pueblos’ que tuvo lugar el 4 de julio previo a la IX Asamblea de los Pueblos del Caribe en la provincia Santiago de Cuba. La Asamblea estaba presidida por el tema central “Cultura, Resistencia, Revolución y Soberanía”.

Buenas tardes compañeras y compañeros,

Mujeres en Lucha envía un saludo y felicitaciones al CTC, al ICAP, y a todas las organizaciones que participan de este Encuentro tan necesario en estos momentos.

En Borinken estamos viviendo momentos muy difíciles, pero que por necesidad, nos tendrá que llevar pronto a la suprema definición: o yanquis, o puertorriqueños. Al fin de la colonización.

La intensificación del dominio yanqui en la colonia se está haciendo a través de la imposición por el Congreso estadounidense de una Junta de Control Fiscal dictatorial de Wall Street, que intenta robarle hasta el más mínimo recurso que tiene el pueblo, para pagar una deuda ilegal a unos bonistas buitres. Y de paso implantar medidas neoliberales de

privatización que están empobreciendo al pueblo.

Y haciéndole juego, el gobierno de Puerto Rico legisla para beneficiar los intereses de millonarios extranjeros que se van mudando aquí desplazando a la población y adquiriendo las propiedades en los terrenos más preciados.

Pero como sólo el pueblo salva al pueblo, hay muchas organizaciones que se han levantado en contra de todos estos crímenes. Hoy mismo, en la costa oeste, hay un junte de pueblo defendiendo nuestras playas. En Rincón, donde los gringos se han querido apropiarse y la clase rica del

país los secunda.

Pero el imperio yanqui no está seguro, su necesidad de dominar a nivel mundial, como lo quiere hacer ahora contra Rusia y China, forzando a los países europeos y enviando armamentos y militares, se está convirtiendo en su propia decadencia. Incluso dentro de sus entrañas, se está abriendo más y más la brecha entre su propia ciudadanía, lo vemos con los movimientos neofascistas que intentaron un golpe el 6 de enero, con las enormes protestas a raíz de la decisión Roe vs Wade de una Corte Suprema derechista, con la sindicalización de corporaciones que hasta ahora eran impenetrables al sindicalismo como Amazon y Starbucks.

Por eso, ahora hay que arriesgar la lucha contra el bloqueo de Cuba, esa Cuba Revolucionaria, esa Cuba digna, que es nuestro faro, nuestra guía moral. Que nunca dice no a un pedido de ayuda.

Y esa lucha se refuerza con todas nuestras luchas unidas, por eso es importante que sepamos más de cada una e intercambiemos, que nuestras luchas se conviertan en una gigante nivel caribeño. Porque cada victoria de nuestros pueblos es un clavo más en el ataúd del imperialismo yanqui, en contra de su abuso.

Debemos convertirnos en ese obstáculo insalvable que impida la continua agresión yanqui. Tornémonos en esa fuerza arrolladora, en esa fuerza Caribeña, Antillana.

Quisiera terminar con unas estrofas del poema

Mi patria es dulce por fuera

De Nicolás Guillén:

Hoy yanqui, ayer española,
sí, señor,
la tierra que nos tocó
siempre el pobre la encontró
si hoy yanqui, ayer española,
¡cómo no!
¡Qué sola la tierra sola,
la tierra que nos tocó!
Un marino americano,
bien,
en el restaurant del puerto,
bien,
un marino americano
me quiso dar con la mano,
me quiso dar con la mano,
pero allí se quedó muerto,
bien,
pero allí se quedó muerto
el marino americano
que en el restaurant del puerto
me quiso dar con la mano,
¡bien!
¡Abajo el bloqueo! ¡Fuera yanquis del Caribe! 📢

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