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# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Struggle-La-Lucha.org  
Socialist Unity Party  
Partido de Socialismo Unido

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# NATO is the enemy

## Say no to war, free Palestine!

The People's Summit & Mobilization by the Resist NATO Coalition provides a strong response to the NATO 75th anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C., on July 10-11.

The summit in defense of world peace will draw people from every continent

around the globe demanding "No to NATO, No to War, Free Palestine!"

The only way to end the carnage and wars threatening to engulf the world is to say 'no more' to the domination of the U.S. military-industrial complex and Wall Street.

When it created NATO in 1949, the United States had two purposes. The first was to threaten the Soviet Union and its new Eastern European allies and, if necessary, put down revolutionary movements in Western Europe.

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## Baltimore's Pride Parade makes history



SLL photo: Sharon Black



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Baltimore's Key bridge: let's fix the name ~ Frederick Douglas or Harriet Tubman?  
Hurricane protection in the U.S. and Cuba } ILWU convention: 'Peace is union business'

# First pro-Palestine contingent in Baltimore's Pride Parade makes history

By Struggle-La Lucha  
Baltimore bureau

June 15 — Dozens of activists made history as the first pro-Palestine contingent in the Baltimore Pride Parade. A huge Palestine flag along with the banners: “No Pride in Genocide, \$\$ for Gender-Affirming Healthcare, not War” Peoples Power Assembly and “Stone-wall Means Fight Back” Socialist Unity Party led the contingent.

Thousands along the route cheered the group, many joining the chant, “Free, Free Palestine!” Drummers and horn instruments kept marchers' spirits high, along with colorful placards, banners, and flags. Parents brought young children, and seniors who had participated in the original pride marches also attended.

On-lookers eagerly grabbed hundreds of copies of the Struggle-La Lucha publication, including flyers advertis-

ing the National March for Trans Lives on Oct.19 in Columbus, Ohio. Flyers were also distributed demanding justice for Donnell Rochester, murdered by Baltimore City police.

The overall activity was organized by the Peoples Power Assembly and supported by many other local groups. After a mile of marching in the hot sun, the group finished exhausted but extremely elated, recognizing that this was a first declaring of “Baltimore supports Palestine.” #

# Unmasking Maersk to defend Gaza

By Struggle-La Lucha  
New York bureau

June 20 — Hundreds of people came to New York City's reference library on Fifth Avenue today to protest shipping giant Maersk making profits from the genocide in Gaza.

The notoriously anti-labor Danish corporation operates 786 ships with annual revenues of \$51 billion. It is a vital Pentagon maritime auxiliary in U.S. wars for oil profits.

Maersk has made millions in shipping U.S. weapons to the Zionist regime that has killed 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza. A worldwide campaign



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

to Unmask Maersk has been launched.

The Palestinian Youth Movement, part of the Shut It Down for Palestine coalition, called the New York City action. Other supporting organizations includ-

ed PAL-Awda: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; The People's Forum; ANSWER Coalition; Party for Socialism and Liberation; NYC City Workers for Palestine; and Code Pink.

Reyna from AFSCME District Council 37 and City Workers for Palestine denounced Maersk for shipping the bombs that have killed over 15,000 Palestinian children in Gaza.

Protesters marched to the Grand Central Terminal and Grand Central Tower, where Maersk has its New York City offices. There, they rallied and hung huge banners, including one that read, “Maersk profits from Gaza Genocide.” #

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# Trump attacks ‘horrible’ Milwaukee

## How deliberate deindustrialization made U.S. cities poor

By Stephen Millies

It shouldn't surprise anybody that Donald Trump called Milwaukee “horrible.” He hates cities with large Black and Latinx communities.

Trump described the Black-majority city of Baltimore — the hometown of Frederick Douglass and Billie Holiday — as a “very dangerous & filthy place.” The billionaire bigot tweeted that “no human being would want to live there,” implying that over 300,000 Black people in the city were less than human.

Like Baltimore, Milwaukee was an industrial powerhouse that saw tens of thousands of union jobs destroyed. Sometimes described as a big machine shop, specializing in making the means of production, the city was famous for its breweries.

Milwaukee was the last big U.S. manufacturing center where the Great Migration of Black people from the South arrived in large numbers. In 1940, only 9,000 Black people lived in Milwaukee.

During World War II and the post-war economic boom, capitalists needed Black workers in their Milwaukee factories. The city's Black population grew seven times from 21,000 in 1950 to 146,000 in 1980.

Milwaukee was one of the most segregated cities in the United States. Racist landlords wouldn't rent to Black people, while Black families couldn't buy homes in white neighborhoods.

It was the same story in New York City. Landlord Fred Trump (folk singer Woody Guthrie's “Old Man Trump” is about his racist housing and rental practices) and his son, Donald Trump, were sued in 1973 by the federal government for refusing to rent to Black people.

Year after year, Vel Phillips — the first Black member of Milwaukee's city council — introduced fair housing legislation. It would be voted down 18 to 1 despite nightly marches led by the NAACP Youth Council and its advisor, Father James Groppi.

It was only after Milwaukee's 1967 rebellion against racism — one of 200



**Milwaukee is the 2nd worst city in the U.S. for Black people, with incomes half of any others, according to 24/7 Wall St., a financial news source. That's not what Trump's snarling about.**

Black uprisings that year — that the city passed a law banning housing discrimination. As Frederick Douglass declared, without struggle, there is no progress.

Milwaukee police were vicious. Future police chief Harold Brier helped cover up the 1958 police murder of Black motorist Daniel Bell. Decades later, it was revealed that policeman Thomas Grady planted a knife at the scene.

Just during December 1974, Milwaukee cops killed three Black people, including 16-year-old Jerry Brookshire, on Christmas Eve. Eyewitness Ola Mae Davis testified that cop Raymond Marlow deliberately shot Brookshire as the unarmed teenager was climbing a fence. Davis had her house burned down for telling the truth.

### Filthy rich, racist capitalists

Despite Wisconsin's one-time liberal image, union-busting bosses and racist politicians dominated the state.

Wisconsin's legislature eliminated any welfare payment for winter coats in 1969, hoping to freeze or drive out Black and poor families.

Latin American Union for Civil Rights president Ernesto Chacon was arrested for protesting this vicious de-

industrialization. A march from Milwaukee to Madison was organized by Lucille Berrien and Father Groppi.

Joined by thousands of students in Madison, they occupied the state capitol. State workers and their supporters did the same in 2011.

Just as housing was segregated, so were Milwaukee's schools. Assemblyperson Lloyd Barbee led school boycotts in 1964 and 1965.

Many capitalists refused to hire Black workers. Less than 1% of the 6,000 workers at Allen-Bradley, a Milwaukee maker of electrical controls, were Black in 1968. Company boss Harry Bradley

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**MARCH ON THE RNC**



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**MONDAY, JULY 15TH**

<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
PRESS CONFERENCE	RALLY	MARCH

**RED ARROW PARK**  
**920 N WATER ST - MILWAUKEE**

# Baltimore's Key Bridge replacement: Let's fix the name Not for slavemaster Francis Scott Key but Maryland's Frederick Douglas or Harriet Tubman

By Sharon Black

Baltimore — Proposals for rebuilding the former Key Bridge are now in, and it is expected that a decision on who will grab the billions of dollars involved in the construction will be made by late summer.

It's not too early to discuss the issue of what to name the new bridge. Clearly, this is an opportunity to shut down any plans to continue with its old name and rename the bridge to either Frederick Douglas or Harriet Tubman Freedom Bridge. Both are from Maryland, and both have played outstanding roles in history.

In addition, with the coming hoopla around July 4th and obligatory summer renditions of the "Star Spangled Banner," what better time to echo these demands, bury Francis Scott Key forever, and put his song in the dustbin of history where it belongs?

How did the 'Star Spangled Banner' even become the national anthem, and who was the real Francis Key?

Since grade school, most of us have been fed not only a sanitized version of the anthem but also a myth about the national anthem and Francis Scott Key, who is portrayed in paintings and statues as heroically standing in a ship, arm stretched out, scribbling down the words to the "Star Spangled Banner" after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in 1814.

The fact is that the full anthem and its history run deep in slavery's soil. The original song penned by Key was eventually scrubbed of its racist lyrics that taunted enslaved African people. "No refuge could save, Hireling or slave, From terror of flight, Or gloom of grave" is a reference to Black men who escaped from slavery to join the British during the War of 1812.

Key's diddy never actually took off during his lifetime, partly due to the song's overt racism. Most people of his period preferred to sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

The singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" didn't pick up until after the post-Reconstruction period by pro-slavery advocates and military officers and generals.

The song's popularity was boosted as the U.S. emerged as a global military power. It was played after the Navy destroyed the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in 1898. By 1904, the Navy made "The Star-Spangled Banner" its de facto anthem. Simultaneously, the Army required its members to "stand at attention" during the song. It became the national song of the U.S. military.

Following the horrors of World War I, many workers were turned off by the anthem's obvious pro-war bent. However, the United Daughters of the Confederacy fought hard to elevate the song to an official national anthem.

In 1931, President Herbert Hoover rubber-stamped the military's choice and conceded to the old Confederacy. Francis Scott Key's song was finally made the official anthem almost a century after his death. If there is any question about whose victory this was, supporters in Baltimore threw a victory parade, hoisting the Confederate flag at the front of the march.

By the early 20th century, the objectionable verses had been revised or cut, not because of inherent racism but because of their anti-British bent. By that time, the British were considered a U.S. ally.

Truth is that the "Star Spangled Banner" was the product of a rotten compromise with proponents of the slavocracy, marking the betrayal of Reconstruction and the beginning of enlarged military power, then called the Department of War.

## Francis Scott Key, the person

Key was a descendant of Maryland's slave-holding aristocracy. He was no fervent opponent of British colonialism but rather a well-heeled opportunist attorney who used his connections with Andrew Jackson to become District Attorney for the District of Columbia — the top cop and chief law enforcement officer for the capital.

He grew up on a wealthy plantation and was waited on by people his family enslaved. Key's privilege and great wealth were built on slave labor and stolen Indigenous land; his actions and life's course never strayed from this course.

Later, he married Mary Tayloe Lloyd, whose family coincidentally owned Frederick Douglass, the great anti-slavery opponent and orator. Roger Taney, the Supreme Court chief justice, was his

best friend, law partner, and brother-in-law. It was Taney who wrote the white supremacist Dred Scott decision that declared Black people had no rights the white man was "bound to respect." Such were the connections in the antebellum South.

Key helped found the American Colonization Society, known earlier as the American Society for the Colonization of Free People of Color



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UAW 4811:  
'48,000 workers  
are ready for a  
long fight.'

# UC fails twice to break UAW strike; court issues restraining order

By Steven Almeida

After weeks of solidarity with student demonstrators, academic workers across the University of California system were ordered to halt their unfair labor practice strike until June 27.

UAW 4811, which represents 48,000 academic workers across the UC system, called the strike in response to UC's serious unfair labor practices, which began on May 1 when the university allowed an organized mob to beat students, faculty, and staff attending a Gaza solidarity protest at UCLA. More than a hundred were injured, and dozens were sent to the hospital. The next night, the university called in riot police to arrest those

protesters who remained.

The union has denounced the restraining order and points out that this temporary restraining order does not mean the strike has been ruled "illegal."

"UC academic workers are facing down an attack on our whole movement," said Rafael Jaime, president of UAW 4811.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Randall J. Sherman issued the order. The ruling arrives after the UC tried and failed on two separate occasions to break the strike through lawsuits filed with the California Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) claiming UAW 4811 violated its no-strike clause.

Rafael Jaime responded, "PERB, the

regulatory body with the expertise to rule on labor law, has twice found no grounds to halt our strike. I want to make clear that this struggle is far from over. In the courtroom, the law is on our side and we're prepared to keep defending our rights — and outside, 48,000 workers are ready for a long fight."

The court's restraining order has galvanized support for UAW across many other unions. United Teachers Los Angeles members recently joined forces with UAW 4811 and 872 academic workers for a "Drop The Charges" rally outside of Los Angeles City Hall. The rally also received the support of LA councilmembers Hugo Soto-Martinez and Eunisses Hernandez. #

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of the United States. In essence, it was a rather extreme group that advocated sending formerly enslaved people back to Africa not in the cause of freedom but fearing that freed Black people could organize rebellion on colonial soil. The project served more as a penal colony.

But Francis Scott Key's most intense period in this onerous history occurred when he served as the "law and order" District Attorney (from 1833 to 1841) under Andrew Jackson, also a wealthy Southern slaveholder. During this peri-

od, he fervently enforced enslavement laws meant to protect the white man's right to own human property.

His crusade included banning anti-slavery publications from circulating in Washington, D.C., and prosecuting anti-slavery abolitionists. Key personally sought to prosecute the case of Arthur Bowen, a 19-year-old accused of attempting to murder his enslaver. Bowen was wrongly convicted and eventually pardoned, but Key continued to push for the death penalty.

In August 1835, when racist mobs attacked freed and enslaved Black people

in the nation's capital (referred to as the "Snow Storm"), Key stood on the wrong side, using every avenue to buttress slavery and to indict the victims.

It's reported that Key died a bitter and somewhat broken person three years after hanging up his District Attorney position. The winds of the anti-slavery movement were blowing stronger. He was bitter about losing the push to hang the youthful Arthur Bowen. Nevertheless, he never changed. He died with eight enslaved people.

Besides the anthem, his political legacy in upholding slavery is damning. #

# The problem of elections in an undemocratic system

By Gary Wilson

This is a presidential election year in the U.S. If the U.S. were a true democracy, voters might have a clear choice: either support President Joe Biden's policy of financing and arming genocide in Gaza or back the Palestinian struggle for their homeland.

Instead, this year's presidential politics is restricted to a verbal battle between a far-right Republican candidate — former president Donald Trump — and right-wing Democrat Genocide Joe Biden. Their actual policies are often indistinguishable. Biden has carried on almost all the Trump policies he had promised to end when campaigning in the last presidential election.

As a candidate, Joe Biden pledged to reverse Trump's policies on Cuba. However, he has not even removed Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List, a designation that represents Trump's most criminal act against Cuba. This is a move that Biden supporters believed would be swiftly addressed.

With Biden as president, U.S. police killings have increased to record highs. Each of Biden's years has seen increases in police killings, each marked the deadliest year on record for police violence in the U.S. In 2023, Black people were killed by police at a rate 2.6 times higher than others.

In 2023, the country was gripped by a series of high-profile cases of police violence, including the fatal beating of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, the tasing of Keenan Anderson in Los Angeles, and the shooting of Niani Finlayson in Lancaster, California, who had called 911 for help with a domestic violence situation. These cases represent just a fraction of the hundreds of similar incidents throughout the year.

Through his budgets, Biden gave police a green light to behave violently. After entering office in 2021, Biden dra-

matically scaled up federal subsidies to police. Sixty-eight percent of Biden's discretionary budget for fiscal year 2024 (\$1.1 trillion) is for military and police-related programs.

Black Lives Matter responded: "Biden's [increasing police] budget is showing Black people that he couldn't care less about saving Black lives."

## The Vietnam War era

To fully understand the current presidential election, it is essential to look beyond the immediate political contest. The current political atmosphere resembles the era during the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. was engaged in the Cold War against the Soviet Union and People's China.

The United States was conducting bombing campaigns in Laos and Cambodia. In 1965, the U.S. sent 42,000 troops to the Dominican Republic to suppress a popular uprising against the military dictatorship that had taken power in a 1962 coup.

In the 1960s, the U.S. had a significant military operation in South Korea, with an occupation army of 60,000.

The U.S. military still occupies South Korea.

In 1965, the U.S. deployed aircraft carriers and destroyers to the

Taiwan Strait in a direct threat to the People's Republic of China.

At the same time, a mass Civil Rights Movement was sweeping the country, as well as an anti-war movement that was particularly strong among students. Socialist ideas were spreading with these movements.

The ruling class itself was in crisis and divided, fearing a deepening polarization and instability at home, intensified by the emergence of endless wars abroad.

These divisions were reflected in the presidential politics of the era, from the assassination of John F. Kennedy to the forced retirement of Lyndon Baines Johnson to the resignation of Richard

M. Nixon under threat of impeachment. Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., leaders of the Black Liberation and Civil Rights Movements, were assassinated.

The cost of U.S. imperialism's endless wars on many fronts was devastating to the economy. Military spending goes to produce planes, tanks, missiles, and high-tech weapons systems. The product of the military-industrial complex has no use value. Military spending redirects capitalist production into producing means of destruction. More capital is consumed than is created.

"Military spending crowds out other spending," said Jason Furman, an economist at Harvard University, who noted that Vietnam War spending in the 1960s contributed to the soaring inflation at that time, which led to stagflation.

Living conditions in the U.S. deteriorated during the Vietnam War. The average inflation rate in the late 1960s was 6%, reaching 11% in Nixon's last year, 1974. Stagflation, that is, a stagnant economy with high inflation and high unemployment, was devastating the country.

## Prices outflank wages

The inflation rate under Biden peaked at just 9.1% in June 2022. It is currently at 3.4%. Prices have not gone down even when the rate of increase has gone down. Also, the services inflation rate, calculated separately, rose 19.32% between January 2020 and April 2024. Most of your daily costs are for services like rent or mortgage, transportation, health care, and so on.

Wages have fallen in the Biden years and have not caught up with inflation.

Biden's military budgets have been among the highest in history. According to the National Priorities Project: "The United States broke records last year by continuing to ramp up its military spending. Consistently spending more than 50% of its discretionary budget on militarism, the United States funds war at a level much greater than that of any other nation."

As Nikkei Asia reports, Biden's mili-

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**Join Struggle-La Lucha in Chicago at the March on the DNC, August 19–22**





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tary budget is meant to support a multi-front war against China, Russia, Palestine, Iran, and Korea. Foreign Policy in Focus reports: “The United States is a heartbeat away from a world war.”

### **Decline of U.S. imperialist dominance**

U.S. imperialism, that is, U.S. monopoly capitalism, is facing a pivotal moment as its global dominance wanes. For 17 years, manufacturing productivity has stagnated. Simultaneously, China’s manufacturing sector has ascended, outproducing the next nine largest manufacturing countries combined.

Additionally, China is challenging the U.S. lead in digital technology. The ongoing trade war includes a significant focus on semiconductors. This “chip war” began in 2018 when President Trump banned U.S. agencies from using Huawei systems and further escalated with prohibitions on investments in Chinese companies. In 2022, the Biden administration imposed limits on semiconductor sales to China.

Microchips are essential to modern economic and geopolitical power. While the U.S. once led in chip design and production, its advantage has been eroded by competitors in Taiwan, Korea, Europe, and especially China. Now, China spends more on importing chips than oil and heavily invests in domestic chip production to catch up to the U.S.

The decline of U.S. imperialist dominance is evident. Its share of global GDP relative to the G7-plus nations has shrunk significantly compared to China’s.

The decline of U.S. dominance in manufacturing, trade, and technology echoes the fall of British imperialism in the 19th century. The G7-plus nations’ share of global GDP is now only twice that of China, compared to 300 times in 1970.

This situation also mirrors Britain’s shift from free trade to protectionism in the late 19th century.

Protectionism becomes the rallying

cry in times of economic distress, especially for a threatened imperialist power. The United States can be expected to impose more tariffs, protectionist restrictions, and sanctions.

### **Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!**

In Marx’s era, the fight against capitalism was primarily seen as the working class’s unified struggle against the bourgeoisie. This struggle aimed to secure democratic rights not just for workers but for all others deprived of democratic rights. However, it was apparent that only minor reforms were achievable under capitalism.

Socialist propaganda focused on abolishing capitalism altogether, highlighting its inherent contradictions, the exploitative nature of wage labor, the impoverishment of farmers, and the rise of monopolies at the expense of small businesses.

The rallying cry for the socialist movement was “Workers of the world unite!” as it says in the Communist Manifesto.

Lenin updated this to reflect capitalism’s changed character. Competitive capitalism had evolved into monopoly, which not only required vast expansion at the expense of oppressed peoples around the world but also exacerbated and intensified every type of national oppression at home. Lenin added the oppressed peoples to the slogan, which now reads, “Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!”

Marx said in *Capital* about the class struggle in the United States: “Labor in a white skin cannot emancipate itself where it is branded [enslaved] in a black skin.”

The liberation of oppressed peoples in the U.S. is essential for the working class struggle. As a settler state, its colonies are internal, starting with the brutal subjugation of the Indigenous population and the enslaved African American colony. These are oppressed nations.

In current day-to-day terms, this is the fight against racism. The African American population still does not have economic or political equality, nor do the Indigenous peoples. Reparations are owed and necessary.

Voting rights have been a battle that continues to this day. In 2013, the Supreme Court nullified the Voting Rights Act. In 2016, the Trump campaign used

the Court’s ruling in an effort to suppress the Black vote.

### **Not a democracy**

Which brings us back to the fact that the U.S. is not an actual democracy.

The U.S. was never a full democracy. As any college history professor could tell you, the 18th-century founders of the U.S. were quite familiar with the classical Western history of ancient Greece’s ideal of democracy and the Roman Republic. They chose the Roman imperial model.

The U.S. Constitution closely mirrors that of ancient Rome, a president (Roman Consul) selected by the Electoral College (Roman Assembly of the Centuries - military officers). The Senate (like the Roman Senate) was appointed (until 1913) and doesn’t represent populations but rather “states.” The U.S. Constitution does not have a popular democratic assembly (Roman Plebeian Council) but instead substitutes a House of Representatives based on elections (which are funded by the wealthy).

They added a Supreme Court so that ultimately, the law is not decided by Congress, the elected branch of government, but by an appointed-for-life elite coterie.

The right to vote was given to white men (no women allowed) who were property owners. The Constitution specifically bars all rights to the Indigenous Native peoples. And the Constitution says that enslaved people are property and have no rights.

The Supreme Court’s 1857 Dred Scott decision found that not only were enslaved people property, but the Constitution also forbids citizenship to anyone of African ancestry.

Not until the victory of the Civil War were the Reconstruction Amendments made to the Constitution. The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, granted citizenship to all persons “born or naturalized in the United States,” including formerly enslaved people. In 1870, Congress passed the 15th Amendment, stating that voting rights could not be “denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

In 1919, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.

Not until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were Indigenous peoples’ right to

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# Trump attacks ‘horrible’ Milwaukee

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was a founder of the racist John Birch Society.

The Bradley family sold the company to Rockwell Automation in 1985 and used the dough to expand its Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, a billion-dollar slush fund for right-wingers.

The tax-exempt outfit helped publish “The Bell Curve,” an anti-science tract that makes the Hitler-like claim that there are racial differences in intelligence.

Ben Marcus was still refusing in 1969 to hire any Black waitresses at his now-defunct “Big Boy” chain of coffee shops. Marcus led the local “Israel Bond” campaigns that helped finance the apartheid occupation of Palestine.

Then there are Elizabeth and Richard Uihlein, billionaire owners of the Uline supply outfit, who are pouring millions into Trump’s campaign. The Uihlein family grew rich by owning Schlitz beer for a century before running it into the ground.

Even though the old Schlitz brewery was located right next to the original heart of Milwaukee’s Black Community, none of the local breweries hired

any Black workers until 1951. (“Black Milwaukee: The Making of an Industrial Proletariat, 1915-45,” by Joe William Trotter Jr.)

## A lockout of Black workers

Even after plant shutdowns had begun, 36.9% of Black workers in the Milwaukee metropolitan area in 1980 were employed in manufacturing. Only Gary, Indiana, and Greensboro, North Carolina, had higher percentages of Black workers having factory jobs. (Metropolitan Area Fact Book)

Most factory workers in Milwaukee were union members with union wages and union benefits. That’s why a majority of the city’s Black families owned their homes.

The city is now known for evictions and foreclosures, as described in “Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City,” by Matthew Desmond.

Nearly 7 million manufacturing jobs were destroyed in the United States between 1979 and 2019. That’s the biggest reason for declining union membership.

The working class wasn’t defeated in battle as much as it had thousands of battlefields taken away. The wealthy

and powerful enjoyed a 50-year-long holiday, cutting wages as it minted hundreds of new billionaires.

This orgy of profit-taking was greatly aided by the overthrow of the socialist Soviet Union.

Thousands of Black workers in Milwaukee were made jobless when the A.O. Smith, American Motors, and Allis-Chalmers plants shut down. Thousands more were laid off at other factories.

What made this more obscene was that while Milwaukee County lost 55,000 factory jobs between 1977 and 1992, the rest of Wisconsin — overwhelmingly white — gained 66,000 manufacturing jobs. (Census of Manufacturers)

Capitalism was fleeing Black workers. While Milwaukee County has less than a sixth of Wisconsin’s population, it has almost 70% of its Black residents.

Manufacturing employment in Wisconsin reached 601,000 in 1996 before falling slightly to the current total of 574,000 workers. The state leapfrogged past the former industrial strongholds of Massachusetts, New Jersey, and North Carolina to become the ninth-largest manufacturing state.

Only Indiana has a higher percentage of its workforce employed in manufacturing.

Meanwhile, the number of factory workers in Milwaukee County fell to 46,678 in 2021. In less than two generations, 107,000 manufacturing jobs were wiped out in a county of 940,000 people, 26% of whom were Black.

This deliberate deindustrialization was a lockout of the Black working class. Bordering the closed A.O. Smith plant, where thousands of Black workers had jobs, is the impoverished zip code 53206, which has one of the country’s highest incarceration rates.

Instead of getting jobs in the big plants, Black youth are being railroaded to the big prisons. The number of prisoners in Wisconsin has leaped from less than 3,000 in the early 1960s to over 20,000. (Wisconsin Blue Book) Joe Biden helped push through mass incarceration legislation in the U.S. Senate during the 1990s.

The Black Lives Matter movement that swept Wisconsin in 2020 shows the way forward. Struggle will defeat all the Trumps. #

# Elections in an undemocratic system

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vote put into law.

While the political system appears more democratic with wider participation, a stronger social and economic process has been unfolding. This process involves the consolidation of power within undemocratic institutions, stemming from the concentration of the means of production in the hands of a ruling class that wields and allocates power in ways most beneficial to their interests. It is no surprise, then, that the Supreme Court holds the ultimate authority in exercising power. With its lack of direct accountability and conservative nature, the Court is the most dependable institution for the ruling class.

The Electoral College system for presidential elections means a candidate can win the presidency without winning the popular vote. This system has dominated all presidential elections this century. In 2000, Al Gore received

more votes than George W. Bush, but the Supreme Court intervened and gave the Electoral College selection to Bush. In 2016, Hillary Clinton received almost three million more votes than Donald Trump, but the Electoral College gave the presidency to Trump.

Donald Trump is counting on the undemocratic Electoral College system to bully his way back into the White House. In fact, because of the Electoral College system, the election, it is said, will be decided by only six “swing states” — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Nevada. So what about everywhere else?

Fight for what you want. But not for Biden. Nor for Trump.

That message might be sent with a vote. In some states, socialist candidates have overcome many obstacles and gotten on the ballot. Give them your vote and say you’re against genocide in Gaza and for Palestinian rights. #



# ‘Peace is union business’

## Support for Palestine and Cuba wins unanimous approval at the ILWU convention

By Lallan Schoenstein

“Solidarity at the ILWU Convention was not an empty slogan,” reports retired dockworker Clarence Thomas.

Thomas participated in the 39th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) held in Vancouver, B.C., from June 17 to June 21 as a fraternal delegate representing the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA).

Solidarity was substantial and real there. Unions shared their resources to help each other stay strong, and courageous union members stood up in support of their sisters and brothers in Palestine and Cuba.

Million-dollar checks were presented to ILWU President William Adams at the convention podium. Mike Vigneron, President of the Atlantic Coast District of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA), gave one check. Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers Union Federation (ITF), matched that donation.

Their historic actions were taken to help restore the ILWU’s assets, which had been depleted by the International Container Terminal Services (ICTS) litigation against the ILWU Longshore Division. A federal court awarded ICTS \$20.5 million of ILWU union funds over a dispute involving a job slowdown in Oregon.



Photos: Clarence Thomas

ILA Pres. Mike Vigneron (above) and ITF Gen. Sec. Stephen Cotton (right) present million-dollar checks to ILWU Pres. William Adams at ILWU 39th convention.

### International solidarity with Palestine and Cuba

Addressing the crisis of genocide in Gaza, Brother Cotton from the ITF spoke of his communications with Palestinian trade unionists. He explained that Palestinian taxi and truck drivers want U.S. workers to support their right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Two Australian union leaders appealed for international labor action to stop the massacre and displacement of Palestinians. They received overwhelming applause.

Cris Cain, National Secretary of the 30,000-member Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU), declared: “Peace is union business.”

He talked about how the ILWU port shutdowns helped to end apartheid in South Africa and how, recently, dockworkers in Australia have engaged in parallel actions by refusing to work

vessels carrying military supplies to enforce apartheid and carry out genocide against Palestine.

Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, called for an immediate ceasefire and a diplomatic resolution.

In a video message celebrating June-teenth, ILWU Honorary Member Angela Davis sent greetings and a plea for support of the Palestinians.

The resolution to remove Cuba from the List of State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) was first introduced at the Constitution Committee Meeting, where it was passed without opposition. Committee members, including Thomas, spoke about the devastating impact of the 62-year-long embargo, an act of war that deepened the hardship imposed on the entire Cuban population.

That resolution, calling for an end to the boycott of Cuba, was introduced to the convention delegates. They voted unanimously to approve the convention resolution.

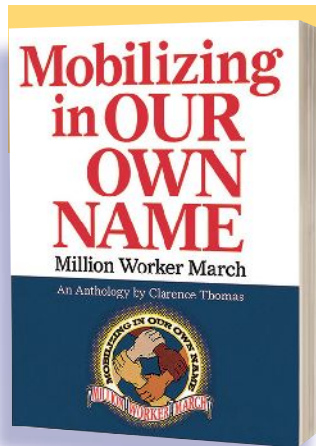
The resolution follows:

**Send Pacemakers to Cuba and end the U.S. embargo**

**WHEREAS:** ILWU policies and actions on foreign affairs have always been built on the belief that international labor solidarity and world peace are the cornerstones of social and economic justice for all workers, including the membership of the ILWU; and

**WHEREAS:** The union’s commitment to a peaceful world has been ex-

*Continued on page 10*



### Mobilizing in Our Own Name The Million Worker March

An anthology about radical African American trade unionists from the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 who defied the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO to organize the Million Worker March (MWM) on Oct. 17, 2004, at the Lincoln Memorial.

Book explains why there needs to be a militant rank-and-file movement to defend the rights of workers internationally to achieve economic security and a peaceful world.

[www.MILLIONWORKERMARCH.com](http://www.MILLIONWORKERMARCH.com)

# Bloody cost of the U.S. blockade of Cuba

By Cheryl LaBash

A recent announcement by Discovery Therapeutics Caribe in Cleveland eases a major fear coming with a diabetes diagnosis: the fear of amputation. The advocacy group Diabetes.org reveals the fear is justified. “Every 3 minutes and 30 seconds in the United States, a limb is amputated due to diabetes. Amputations are on the rise in the United States — **154,000 people with diabetes undergo amputation each year.**”

In a welcome breakthrough on April 10, the Federal Food and Drug Administration greenlighted the phase 3 study of Heberprot-P, a Cuban medicine developed by the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB) that has been shown to reduce diabetic amputation by more than 70 percent.

Although Heberprot-P is currently available to patients in 26 countries and received original Cuban regulatory approval in June 2006, this is the first time it will be studied with U.S. patients suffering from diabetic foot ulcers.

Why did it take so long? The failure of the U.S. to normalize relations with the Republic of Cuba has forced even urgent health initiatives like this one to thread its way through an insidious web of laws, regulations, and executive orders that only apply to Cuba. Together with the 2021 State Department’s cruel designation of Cuba as a ‘State Sponsor of Terrorism,’ these measures are literally intended to create unbearable hardships for the Cuban people using global dollar power.

In the words of Lester Mallory’s infamous April 6, 1960, State Dept. memo,

“Every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. ... a line of action which, while as adroit and inconspicuous as possible, makes the greatest inroads in denying money and supplies to Cuba, to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation, and overthrow of government.”

Cuba’s socialist focus on cooperative development of human potential has unleashed internationally recognized pharmaceutical advances like Heberprot-P as well as Cimavax, a late-stage lung cancer vaccine, and much more. Without normalized U.S.-Cuba relations, our communities and families here in the U.S. have been blocked, while the rest of the world is not.

Some steps in that direction pro-

*Continued on page 20*

## ‘Peace is union business’

*Continued from page 9*

pressed in many ways, each following a course of action or basic policy set by the membership through the International Convention; and

**WHEREAS:** Washington has placed Cuba on its list of alleged terrorist nations (SSOT), which severely impacts Cuba’s ability to secure loans and participate in world banking systems, thus disabling tourism, agriculture, and other productive markets; and

**WHEREAS:** 243 punitive executive orders/sanctions were issued by President Trump and reinforced by President Biden, intensifying hardship for the working people; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2023, a resolution to end the Cuban blockade [at the UN General Assembly] passed 182 to 2 (U.S. and Israel opposed); and

**WHEREAS:** Except for empty campaign promises, the Biden administration has done nothing to undo the hardships of the blockade forced on the Cuban people. These policies leave Cuba with a shortage of fuel, food, medicines, spare parts; and

**WHEREAS:** Cuba has sent 3,700 health workers in 52 international med-

ical brigades to 39 countries overwhelmed by the Covid pandemic.

Cuba’s international medical brigades have treated patients and saved lives for the past 18 years in 100 countries confronting natural disasters and serious epidemics, such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa; and

**WHEREAS:** Cuba has developed five internationally recognized COVID-19 vaccines to meet its commitment to sharing its low-cost vaccines with poor nations and continues to develop new medicines for treating Alzheimer’s, Diabetic foot ulcers, and lung cancer. Thus continuing its tradition as a world leader in medical research and development; and

**WHEREAS:** Recently, more than 30 labor bodies have passed strong resolutions calling for ending the sanctions and removing Cuba from the SSOT, including multiple entities in California (including the LA Federation of Labor representing 800,000 workers) and Washington State; and

**WHEREAS:** The majority of Cuban Americans in Miami oppose the blockade and have demonstrated with car caravans and other actions for years calling for an end to the blockade and instead build bridges of

love, Puentes de Amor; and

**WHEREAS:** the ILWU has historically enjoyed an international relationship with the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC), and in 1947, participated in organizing the International Sugar Workers Committee;

**Therefore be it resolved:** that the 2024 ILWU Convention calls on the Biden administration to vote FOR the U.N. Resolution to end the U.S. unilateral extraterritorial blockade of Cuba and remove Cuba from the spurious U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism (SSOT), reset Cuba regulations to January 1, 2017, initiate the discussion to fully normalize US-Cuba relations, and

**Be it further resolved:** that the ILWU will commit to donate \$10,000 to Global Health Partners to purchase Pacemakers4Cuba\* and

**Be it finally resolved:** that this Resolution will be distributed to Congressional delegations, the news media, and all labor organizations, urging them to do the same.

Submitted by  
Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific

\*GHPartners.org/Pacemakers4Cuba  
Global Health Partners is a 501c3 charity



# From apartheid to Palestine: Bill Proctor's ILWU journey

Trade union retiree in Seattle talks with Clarence Thomas

*William 'Bill' Proctor was on the front lines of ILWU Local 10 rank-and-filers during the anti-apartheid struggle before transferring to Local 19 in the 1980s. As a winch operator, he personally refused to discharge South African cargo. He was a member of the Southern African Liberation Support Committee, the first rank-and-file labor organization of its kind. In the 1970s, a photo of Bill with Local 10 activists loading a container to be sent to freedom fighters in Southern Africa appeared in the ILWU Dispatcher Newspaper. The photo shows Bill holding his young son Max, who is now a longshore worker in Local 19 in Seattle.*

**Clarence Thomas:** Were your parents International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) members?

**Bill Proctor:** I was born at Kaiser Hospital, Oakland, California, nine months after World War II ended, as were many of our generation. My mom and biological father separated and divorced before my fourth birthday. During the war, my mom was a Welder on the Oakland and Richmond dry docks, building Victory ships.

My grandparents were politically active and met in the IWW [Industrial Workers of the World] free speech campaign. Grandad was a member of the IWW free speech Flying Squad. Soapboxing was his thing; he had the gift of gab. I am only a continuation of IWW political doctrine in the flesh. My granddad's book is *Memoirs Of A Wobbly* by H.E. McGuckin. It is, of course, out of print.

Following the war, my mom, Virginia McGuckin, found work out of Local 6 ILWU Eastbay and wound up at the Colgate/Palmolive plant in Berkeley. It was at this worksite that my mother met Roscoe "RQ" Proctor, the man who became my father by proxy. At age 16, when I wanted to find a summer job, I needed a Social Security card, and when I applied, I entered my name as William Proctor; from then on, it is the only name I go by, as RQ was the only father I knew. I met RQ when I was almost

six years old, and over time, I guess you could say, RQ and I bonded soon after, and I learned lessons from him about many things, most importantly, the importance of the struggle to end racism.

We lived in West Oakland, and during that time, I attended Lafayette, Longfellow, and Durant elementary schools, went on to Hoover Jr. High, and in the middle of 7th grade, our family moved to South Berkeley.

During my formative preteen and teen years, I was part of a Red Diaper group of kids that circulated petitions to end the threat of nuclear war and to end school segregation at Housewives Market and Swan's.

We were the kids of dyed-in-the-wool Communists. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, both of my folks were seated on the Central Committee CPUSA. My Dad, RQ, was indicted as an agent of a foreign power in the case of *Albertson v. Subversive Activities Control Board* in 1962 and acquitted by the Supreme Court in 1965.

I cited Proctor vs. USA in my successful avoidance of the Selective Service draft to fight in Vietnam.

As my dad read Jet magazine, I would often try to sneak a peek at the centerfold Beauties. In 1955, I opened one of his Jet magazines, and while thumbing through, I came across a photo of Emmitt Till. I was traumatized when I saw my playmates in that picture. The image is burned into my brain to this day!

**CT:** When did you become a member of the ILWU? Which Local?

**BP:** In May 1967, I was one of 600 or so B-man hires at Local 10. I started and worked my first shift on June 6, 1967. [B men get the dirtiest and heaviest jobs.]

**CT:** My waterfront career lasted 42 plus years, and I retired on Oct. 1, 2009, from the Port of Seattle. My career was almost evenly split between San Francisco and Seattle.

**CT:** Are you active in the local?

**BP:** Since retirement, I have been active with the Seattle Pension Club, PCPA. I am on the verge of leaving this Club as it is not at all interested in engaging in



The photo of Bill Proctor with the Southern Africa Liberation Support Committee is from Thomas' book "Mobilizing in Our Own Name, Million Worker March." The book is available at [millionworkermarch.com](http://millionworkermarch.com)

struggle; they are a fat and sassy bunch.

**CT:** Did you submit a resolution regarding the Palestinians to your pensioner's club?

**BP:** Yes, I presented a Resolution that cited facts about civilian casualties, called for an end to the war on the Palestinian people by Zionist Israel, and an investigation of our pension funds for investments in Israeli stock, bonds, and securities, with an eye toward divestment.

It was rejected by the "Fat and Sassy" members!

**CT:** Did you attend the 39th ILWU Convention in Vancouver?

**BP:** I did not attend the 39th convention.

**CT:** How has the rank-and-file changed over the years, social justice issues?

**BP:** For the last 30 years or so, I see the union slowly moving to the right politically as the power base of the longshore division shifted from San Francisco south to Los Angeles and Long Beach, where the lion's share of West Coast cargo comes in at Southern Cal.

Los Angeles has never been as radical politically as the Bay Area. In fact, it is quite conservative.

**CT:** What direction do you see the ILWU going and why?

**BP:** I truly do not have any idea where the union is headed. I just know it is not the same union it was when I entered the industry. When I consider our union stance on various social issues, I see that the union is losing its perspective.

Peace Out!

*Clarence Thomas participated in the 39th Convention of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) held in Vancouver, B.C., as a fraternal delegate representing the ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA).*

# BRACE FOR HURRICANES:

# In the U.S., 'on your own' ☰ In Cuba, ready

By Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans — The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season officially began on June 1, and meteorologists expect a bad one. Record ocean temperatures associated with climate change, combined with La Niña conditions, have led the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to issue its most dire warnings on record.

They anticipate 17-25 named storms, with 8-13 of those growing into hurricanes with wind speeds of at least 74 mph. This comes on the heels of last year's record-shattering heat, drought, and fire conditions that affected even the normally damp Gulf Coast just as they did the western U.S.

When people meet here in Louisiana these days, they ask one another, "Have you started making hurricane plans?" The question itself evinces that there is no plan for the state or the country.

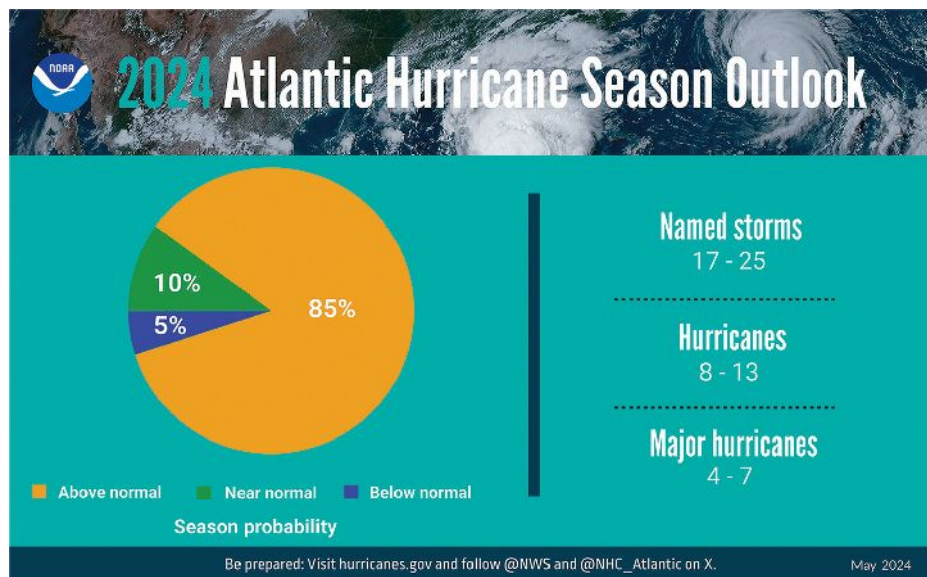
The state issues some statements telling residents to stock up on water, fill their gas tanks, and so on. The meaning is clear: We're on our own.

## The Cuban approach

Socialist Cuba may be only 90 miles from South Florida, but it's a world away, especially when it comes to dealing with storms. The whole of Cuban society is mobilized to deal with hurricanes, and the aftermath is about recovery, not greed. Regular preparedness drills are conducted everywhere. The focus is on risk reduction with an integrated response from local fire departments, health, transportation, and other public services.

Before the storms, Cuban government officials, police, and military personnel help people move their belongings to safer locations. The government also guarantees replacement of all lost property.

Most impressively, they have a 100-year plan to move towns further inland in response to climate change. Cuba is carrying out major reforestation efforts. They have increased forest cover to 30.6% of the island, up from the mere 14% that existed at the time of the 1959 revolution. The country is a lead-



A summary infographic showing hurricane season probability and numbers of named storms predicted from NOAA's 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. Image: NOAA

er in urban agriculture, with 35,000 hectares being used for farming in the capital city, Havana. These are only a couple examples of Cuba's proactive approach to dealing with the ecological crisis that is driving more frequent and intense storms.

## Cuba was prepared to help during Katrina

When discussing Cuba and hurricanes, we must never forget that Cuba prepared to send 1,600 medics, field hospitals, and 83 tons of medical supplies to help the devastated Gulf South after Hurricane Katrina. The George W. Bush administration refused while botching its own response. The racist indifference of the administration to the plight of Black and working-class victims of the storms marked the era and, for many, was as much a source of politicization as the Iraq war and then the 2007-08 financial crisis.

After being brushed off, the Cuban medics continued to prepare, just in case they got the go-ahead to help. A Sept. 12, 2005, NBC News article reported:

"They remain on stand-by, their bags packed. And while they wait at a Havana medical school that normally houses

international scholarship students, the brigade has been brushing up on English skills, the epidemiology common to natural disasters, and the local history of Louisiana and Mississippi."

## Testimony from a Cuban citizen

A Cuban friend of Struggle-La Lucha – who spent a great deal of time with us in May 2023 during the U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia delegation to Havana – kindly summarized Cuba's approach. We thank her for this contribution, and for all the solidarity we in the U.S. get from Cuba.

"As a consequence of its geographical position, Cuba has been repeatedly affected by several tropical storms and hurricanes, receiving the onslaught of a little more than 20 of these organisms during the last 50 years.

"For 2024, the seasonal forecast, issued since 1996 by the Cuban Institute of Meteorology, suggests the emergence of 20 tropical storms, 11 of them could reach the category of hurricane. Before 1959, there was no integral national system in our country to act preventively in the face of natural disasters, so their effects caused real catastrophes with very high numbers of material losses and



# dy & united

## KILLER HEAT WAVES: Workers need action now

By Sharon Black

human lives. The 1926, 1932, and 1944 hurricanes were among the most lethal phenomena of the time.

“Many people wonder how is it possible that a country with so many economic limitations can evacuate more than 700,000 people in a short time and reduce mortality to a minimum. In the first place, it is due to the political will of the Cuban Government and State, which, from the very beginning of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, outlined strategies to safeguard the lives of citizens without sparing resources.

“Among the main actions carried out was the creation of the Civil Defense System in July 1966, which to date has been in charge of controlling the protection measures for the population and its assets, economic resources, social infrastructure, and natural resources that must be adopted before, during and after the occurrence of disasters.

“Also key is the organization of our society, the strengthening of the meteorological service and its early warning systems (including the timely transmission of information), the active participation of the people in compliance with the protection measures oriented and the role of the media. Every year during the month of May, the Meteoro Popular Exercise is carried out in the national territory, where all national institutions are prepared not only to face the cyclonic season but also to mitigate vulnerabilities to other possible catastrophes.

“In Cuba, the damages caused by disasters are further aggravated by the U.S. blockade, which considerably limits a quick and effective recovery. However, in the face of natural hurricanes, the Antillean nation has received hurricanes of solidarity in response, with the U.S. people among the main protagonists.”

Sources: [www.granma.cu](http://www.granma.cu)

24-day march from Delano to Gov. Gavin Newsom's Sacramento, office aims to gain the governor's signature on a proposed California labor law.

Photo: David Bacon



While tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods grab headlines, extreme heat is the top weather-related killer, says FEMA.

FEMA reports do not capture the dangers that have escalated. Already, before the summer is in full swing, killer heat waves have hit not only the South and Midwest but also the Northeastern part of the country.

Beyond this, heat waves pose a significant threat to the Global South, where billions of people live and are forced to cope with fewer resources. Ironically, the capitalist West, which bears the brunt of the blame for the climate crisis, has robbed the most oppressed globally, making it harder for poorer countries to respond. The murderous U.S. war machine compounds all of this.

The World Health Organization estimates heat caused more than 166,000 deaths globally between 1998 and 2017.

In the U.S., the victims of this crisis are mainly workers toiling in the fields or construction sites or broiling in uncooled warehouses and other sweatshops. The poorest are at risk, including the unhoused, especially those cramped in urban areas. The most impacted are Black, Brown, Indigenous, and poor people.

Willy Blackmore, a Brooklyn freelance writer who covers environmental issues, describes how the burden of the climate crisis impacts the Black community in *How Much Worse Was the Last Heatwave Due to Climate Change*.

The Centers for Disease Control reported that “Indigenous peoples had the

highest rates of heat-related death, followed by Black populations.”

Not surprisingly, Florida’s Gov. Ron DeSantis signed Florida House Bill 433, which prohibits local governments from requiring shade or water breaks for outdoor workers.

### Response pitiful or, worse, criminal

Texas, not wanting to be outdone by DeSantis, approved a bill that stripped cities of their authority to enforce local regulations. Austin and Dallas, for example, required employers to give 10-minute rest breaks for construction workers every four hours.

The United Farm Workers have been pressing OSHA to implement a national heat stress standard. The union supports a bill called the “Asuncion Valdivia Heat Illness and Fatality Prevention Act,” named after a 53-year-old farm worker who collapsed from heat stroke after working a 10-hour day picking grapes in 100-degree sun.

Biden promised to add heat safety rules to OSHA in 2021, but nothing has happened.

The fact is that the Biden administration and the President have the power to enact emergency measures to protect every vulnerable human being — from babies and young children to older people and those with health challenges — all working and poor people, whether in rural or urban areas.

No worker needs to die because they aren’t given adequate breaks, shade, and water, whether they toil in the fields or work in Bezo’s warehouse sweatshops. No child or retired person cramped in a small apartment in the heart of so many concrete U.S. cities should boil to death, nor should those in neglected rural areas. The unhoused and those herded into jails and prisons, as well as those with health problems, both physical and mental, must be protected. Death disparity for Indigenous, Black, Brown, and people of color must end.

It is time to organize to fight for emergency action; the trillions spent on the U.S. imperialist war machine, including the horrific genocide in Gaza, must be spent to save lives here and abroad. #

# Obsession with Netanyahu

By Lev Koufax

On May 29, The Guardian released an opinion piece that criticized Israel for its actions towards the ICC. Titled “By attacking and undermining the ICC, Israel has proved again it is a state gone rogue,” the article highlights “Israel’s” genocidal aggression in Gaza and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s refusal to comply with International Court of Justice warrants against himself and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant.

The ruling class media seemingly wants to convince the public that the U.S. and Joe Biden are goodwill actors in all this. MSNBC, AP, CNN, and Fox News all insist that Joe Biden and the U.S. political establishment are at odds with the current Israeli government because it has “gone rogue.”

Both the Democrats and the Republicans have always supported arming Zionism. Regardless of U.S. political administration, the U.S. happily supplies the Zionist regime with arms.

There is no doubt that Benjamin Netanyahu is a despicable fascist genocidal demagogue hellbent on the expansion of U.S. imperialist interests in the Middle East. With that said, Zionism’s evil did not begin with Benjamin Netanyahu, and it certainly does not end with him. “Israel” was a bloody colonial project from the beginning.

## Bloody ‘Labor Zionism’

For the first 18 years of Israel’s existence, the Mapai party held most seats in the Knesset, “Israel’s” parliament. Mapai was formed in 1930 by fascist militia leader David Ben-Gurion and prominent labor Zionist A.D. Gordon. According to labor Zionist beliefs, “Israel” was envisioned as a socialist Jewish nation in occupied Palestine. In 1948, Ben-Gurion became the first prime minister of the Zionist regime, holding reign from 1948 to 1953 and 1955 to 1963.

During Ben-Gurion’s second reign as prime minister, he oversaw the Zionist regime’s invasion of Egypt in 1956, sparking the Suez War, with support from British and French troops. The UN forced Israel to withdraw from Sinai; nevertheless, Zionist forces held Gaza until March 1957. From 1956 to 1957,

Israel killed, wounded, tortured, or imprisoned approximately 1% of Gazan civilians. Labor Zionism, as an ideology, was packaging to legitimize the full-scale colonization of Palestine on the world stage.

## The Second Intifada and Kadima

The Second Intifada, or Second Uprising, began in 2000 after the Camp David Summit failed to establish an independent Palestinian state.

In the Second Intifada’s first month alone, the IDF murdered 141 Palestinians and wounded almost 6,000. Amnesty International reported that 80% of the Palestinians killed in the Intifada’s first month were unarmed demonstrators or bystanders who posed no threat to “Israeli” security forces.

Five months later, Ariel Sharon was elected as “Israeli” Prime Minister. Sharon immediately escalated the conflict with expanded IDF operations against civilians in Gaza and the West Bank.

As the violence escalated, the pressure on Israel escalated. For these reasons, Sharon proposed the 2003 unilateral Israeli disengagement from 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank. To be clear, Sharon’s motivation was not a sudden change of heart to anti-Zionism.

Benjamin Netanyahu, then the defense minister, resigned from Sharon’s government because of the disengagement. Consequently, Sharon founded his own separate party, Kadima. Kadima was explicitly anti-Netanyahu but openly Zionist and supported most “Israeli” settlements. Three years after Kadima’s founding, Kadima leader and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert began a war in Gaza that killed 1,181 Palestinian civilians.

The mainstream liberal narrative is that if Israel just deposed Netanyahu, the problems of Zionism would cease. Tell that to the 100,000 people made homeless in Kadima’s war against Gaza.

## Anti-Netanyahu movement

The last five years have seen the growth of a fairly large protest movement against Netanyahu. However, we have to be clear: these protests are in no way and have never been anti-Zionist.

The movement against Netanyahu is not pro-Palestine in any form.

The initial demonstrations against Netanyahu began in 2020 and continued into 2021. The organizers were a coalition of IDF generals, Shin Bet intelligence officers, and politically moderate Israeli reporters. These protests broke out after Netanyahu was charged with corruption. Never once was Palestine raised as an issue in these protests.

Fast-forward to 2023, when anti-Netanyahu protests erupted across the 1948 borders. Led by a coalition of moderate political forces similar to the 2020 protests, the movement targeted Netanyahu’s proposed judicial reform.

Under the proposed reform, the Supreme Court of Israel could no longer overturn government decisions deemed extremely unreasonable. If passed, the reform would also have allowed the Prime Minister’s office more discretion over appointing judges.

So again, the moderate forces streamed into the streets of “Tel-Aviv” and “Jerusalem” to protect their democracy! It is hard to take seriously a group of people demanding democracy when that same group of people is committed to the deprivation of democracy from the entirety of the indigenous population. The anti-judicial reform protests ended on Oct. 12, after Netanyahu formed a war cabinet.

This is not to say that there have not been anti-Netanyahu demonstrations since Oct. 7. There certainly have been; however, these protests did not originate with the organized political center as in 2020 and 2023. The protests against Netanyahu as the war has raged on seem more organic and based on a genuine rage against the Zionist tyrant’s failure to “bring home the hostages.”

And while somewhat different in their political origin, these two strains of the anti-Netanyahu movement do have one thing in common: their Zionism. Calling for Netanyahu to end the genocidal operations in Gaza is not the same as calling for the abolition of Zionism. Until the mass movements in “Israel” do so, they have to be viewed within their material political context, and that context is ultimately just liberal Zionism. #



# SoCal coalition demands 'No U.S. weapons for Gaza genocide!'

By Steven Almeida

On one of the hottest days of the year thus far, hundreds of demonstrators representing over 20 organizations gathered in the blistering heat at a complex in El Segundo, California, shared by Boeing and RTX, formerly known as Raytheon.

They were there to demand an end to the provision of U.S.-made arms to Israel and denounce the role of billionaire weapons makers in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. Some activists from the Black Alliance for Peace had traveled nine hours from Tucson to participate.

Banners and signs were attached to the gates of the Boeing/RTX campus in El Segundo, charging the weapons manufacturers with complicity in the ongoing genocide of Palestinians. The group then marched down to the Los Angeles Times building to demand honest and accurate reporting of the atrocities in Gaza.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, Boeing and RTX have seen record profits. In the weeks immediately following the outbreak of the conflict, weapons manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, among others, have experienced a nearly \$30 billion surge in market capitalization, according to Forbes. This has been mainly facilitated by Congress and the Biden administration's extensive military aid packages, which include numerous F-15 Joint Strike Fighters, Apache attack helicopters, and thousands of laser-guided missiles, bunker-busters, and other munitions that Israel has utilized in its indiscriminate bombing of Gaza.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, the death toll from the conflict reached at least 37,626 on June 24. Save the Children estimates that more than 21,000 children are dead or missing in Gaza.

At the first rally, Ayman Obeid of the Free Democratic Palestine Movement told the crowd, "All of these U.S. weapon manufacturing facilities that are participating in the transfer of these illegal, prohibited, and destructive weapons to the zionazi enemy make them complicit in human rights abuses, to violations of



SLL photos: Steven Almeida

**Melina Abdullah delivers a message of Black solidarity with Palestine.**



**Fatinah Judeh of Unmute Humanity speaking in front of LA Times building.**

international law, crimes against humanity and the genocide and devastation taking place against our people in Gaza now. These disgusting, dirty war profiteers and criminals should be punished and sent to jail where they belong. They must be held accountable for putting the tools of death in the hands of the zionazi murderers who are committing these savage crimes and for spilling innocent pure Palestinian blood on their monstrous hands."

Similar sentiments were also echoed by several other speakers at the demonstration, who drew the connection between the devastation and mayhem experienced in Gaza and the death merchants here at home, demanding that enough is enough.

Melina Abdullah of Black Lives Mat-

ter delivered a message of Black solidarity with Palestine when she said, "We demand a world free of genocidal terror. We demand a world free from the kind of capitalist structure that is hellbent on exploiting both its workers and all of the people of the world. ... We demand that and are willing to put our bodies on the line for that." Abdullah, a Black Lives Matter Movement co-founder, is Cornel West's running mate in the 2024 presidential campaign.

When the rally at the site of the weapons makers concluded, the crowd took over all four lanes of East Imperial Highway and marched a mile east to the Los Angeles Times building. Among the speakers was Fatinah Judeh from the Unmute Humanity organization. Judeh blasted the Times for its pro-Zionist reporting and history of completely ignoring the brilliant and widespread protest movement that has taken to the streets over and over again since the Zionist genocide against the people of Gaza began. Soon after the Zionist state launched its bloody assault, the Times banned 38 of its own reporters from covering Gaza after they signed an open letter criticizing the paper for its pro-Israel bias.

The crowd then took over all four westbound lanes of Imperial Highway for a slow march back to the original site, stopping for yet another impromptu rally along the way.

Endorsing organizations for the June 22 demonstration include Al-Awda, Association of Raza Educators, BAYAN, Black Lives Matter Grassroots, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Catholic Worker LA, CODEPINK LA, Free Democratic Palestine Movement, Healthcare 4 Us, Justice 4 Palestine Contingent, Jewish Voice for Peace LA, LA Lavender Guard, Struggle-La Lucha, Students for Justice in Palestine from both Santa Monica College and UCLA, Union del Barrio, Unmute Humanity, and Veterans for Peace LA, and others. #

# U.S. complicity in Gaza genocide and military profiteering

Following is an epilogue written for the book *“War & Lenin in the 21st Century”* by Gary Wilson.

The chapters in this book were written in the year before Operation Al-Aqsa Flood was launched on October 7, 2023. The following genocide in Gaza by the Zionist regime has sparked a worldwide movement that includes many Jewish people against Israeli apartheid, genocide, and for Palestinian self-determination, from the river to the sea.

According to a report by Bloomberg on Nov. 14, the U.S. has been secretly supplying weapons and ammunition to aid in the invasion of Gaza, separate from the official Congress-approved military aid to Israel. The Pentagon has covertly increased military support to Israeli forces, providing laser-guided missiles, cannon ammunition, bunker-buster munitions, night-vision devices, and new army vehicles. These deliveries include a variety of military armaments beyond the well-known Iron Dome interceptors and Boeing smart bombs.

There can be no question that the U.S. is fully behind the apartheid regime’s “ethnic cleansing” of the Gaza Strip, an operation that began after President Joe Biden’s theatrical public embrace of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. It was the hug that launched an invasion.

Zionist-occupied Palestine — “Israel” — is an apartheid settler state, more like a U.S. colony. Joe Biden recently repeated a line he famously said in 1986: “If there were not an Israel, we’d have to invent one.” Actually, they did invent one.

Although the British declared the creation of the settler colony in the 1917 Balfour Declaration, it was after World War II, with British power fading, that

the Zionist state of Israel was founded (invented) with the backing of the United States. It couldn’t and wouldn’t have been done without U.S. backing. From that beginning, Israel could not have existed for even one day without U.S. financial and military support.

The United States has officially given Israel more than \$260 billion in combined military and economic aid since World War II, plus about \$10 billion more in contributions for missile defense systems like the Iron Dome, according to a U.S. News report. No other country in the world has received such military and economic support from the U.S. Some have even called it the 51st state of the U.S.

In a speech in December 1981, Gen. Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan’s Secretary of State, said Israel is “the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be sunk, does not carry even one American soldier, and is located in a critical region for American national security” (source: NYT article, Dec. 15, 1981).

The profits of this “American aircraft carrier” go to Big Oil and the military-industrial weapons manufacturers.

## Taking over Europe’s gas market

Since the 1990s, Washington and Wall Street have been trying to take over the natural gas market in Europe from Russia. The Nord Stream pipeline was the primary route for Russian natural gas, and Nord Stream 2 was built to expand capacity. Before the NATO proxy war against Russia began, Victoria Nuland, then undersecretary of state for political affairs, declared that “one way or another Nord Stream 2 will not move forward.” On Sept. 27, 2022, the pipeline was blown up by the U.S. military, as reported by Seymour Hersh.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called the disruption of the Nord Stream pipelines a “major strategic opportunity for years to come” and highlighted that the “U.S. has become the leading supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe,” which is at a significantly higher price than the Russian natural gas.

LNG, delivered by ships, is the only alternative available right now to Russian natural gas delivered through pipelines. The top two suppliers worldwide of LNG are the U.S. and Qatar. The North Field East Project of Qatar Energy is an ExxonMobil, ENI, Total Energies, ConocoPhillips, and Shell partnership. They are talking of a pipeline across occupied Palestine to the Mediterranean to expedite deliveries to Europe.

The U.S. oil giant Chevron already plunders natural gas from the stolen waters off Palestine. Chevron operates a major natural gas facility, named Tamar, located 12 miles off the coast in the territorial waters of the Palestinian Territory of Gaza. As the New York Times reported, this has been projected to become a hub for exporting natural gas to Europe through the proposed EastMed pipeline.

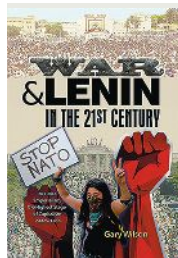
Never to be underestimated, “Wall Street eyes big profits from war,” was a Guardian headline on Oct. 30.

“Wall Street is hoping for an explosion in profits,” the Guardian reports.

“During third-quarter earnings calls this month, analysts from Morgan Stanley and TD Bank took note of this potential profit-making escalation in conflict and asked unusually blunt questions about the financial benefit of the war ...

“Joe Biden has asked Congress for \$106bn in military and humanitarian aid for Israel and Ukraine and humanitarian assistance for Gaza. The money could be a boon to the aerospace and weapons sector, which enjoyed a 7-percentage point jump in value ...

“Greg Hayes, Raytheon’s chairman and executive director, responded: ‘I think really across the entire Raytheon portfolio, you’re going to see a benefit of this restocking ... on top of what we think is going to be an increase in the [Department of Defense] top line [budget].’” #



## WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Lenin’s pamphlet on Imperialism is included in Gary Wilson’s book.

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote *“Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism”* in 1916. It remains an influential critique of imperialism.

As in Lenin’s time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

Paperback or kindle at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)





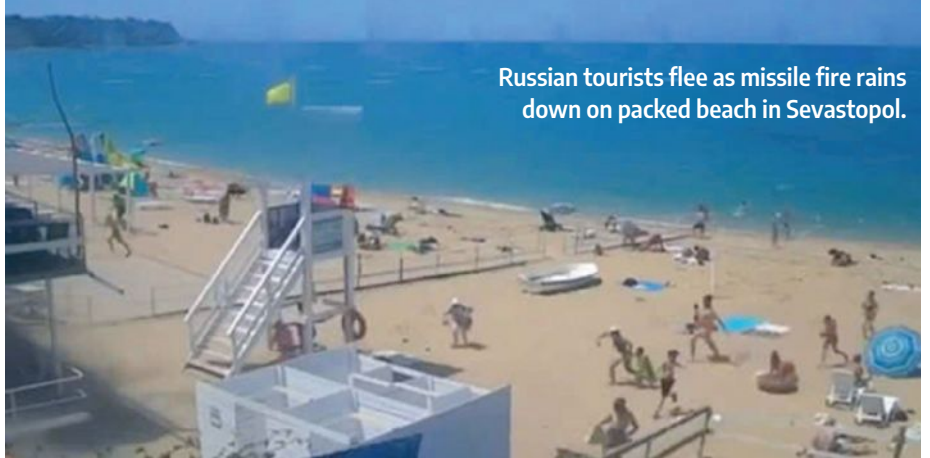
# U.S.-supplied missiles used in Ukrainian terror attack on Sevastopol

By Lev Koufax

It was a clear and sunny Sunday afternoon on the beaches of Sevastopol on June 23. Dogs ran along the shore. People swam. Children played. Suddenly, the scene turned from picturesque to grotesque.

Turns out, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a series of missiles armed with cluster munition warheads at the Sevastopol shore, with no apparent military target. While Russian drones intercepted most of the missiles, one detonated within striking distance of the beachgoers. One woman who was swimming died instantly. Four others were eventually pronounced dead at the scene, including three children.

Over 120 people were wounded in this brazen Ukrainian fascist act of terror against the Russian people. However, it was the U.S. imperialists who were ultimately responsible for this horror. The U.S. produced and supplied the advanced rocket missile technology and the cluster munition warhead. The



Russian tourists flee as missile fire rains down on packed beach in Sevastopol.

blood of those three children and all those killed or wounded in the attack is firmly on the hands of the U.S.

This is not the first time that the U.S. has enabled Ukraine to strike at Russian civilian populations. For almost a decade, the Ukrainian Armed Forces waged a bloody terror campaign against the Donbas, resulting in the deaths of over 10,000 civilians.

As the NATO war against Russia

flounders and the Ukraine forces retreat across the lines, the fascist forces have resorted to the escalation of terrorist attacks on the Russian civilian population.

NATO is simply the international military arm of the U.S. ruling class. Every bomb dropped on Russia is dropped by the U.S. as much as it is by Ukraine.

No NATO war on Russia! Disband Nato! Solidarity against fascism! #

## NATO is the enemy. Say no to war, free Palestine!



*Continued from page 1*

The communist parties in France, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Portugal were widely popular for fighting against the capitalist governments responsible for the Second World War.

NATO is a military arm of the U.S. world empire. The domestic economies of all its member countries, including the U.S., bear the heavy cost of funding NATO. Being a NATO partner means funding U.S. military expansion. The U.S. is in the business of war.

Dwight Eisenhower, the first supreme commander of NATO, said in 1954, “We do not keep security establishments merely to defend property or territory or rights abroad or at sea. We keep the security forces to defend a way of life.” That way of life is the increasing market concentration and the accumulation of wealth and economic power in the hands of a relatively small number

of transnational corporations and ultra-rich individuals; monopoly capitalism, also called imperialism.

From its start, NATO adopted a strategic doctrine of “Massive Retaliation” — the threat of a total nuclear war against the Soviet Union. NATO’s actions have drawn massive opposition to nuclear weapons and peace demonstrations throughout northern Europe.

An international peace seminar held on May 4 in Guantánamo, Cuba — near the illegal U.S. occupation of the Guantánamo Naval Base — brought together delegates from 30 countries demanding a world free of U.S. imperialist intervention and military bases.

The anti-imperialist meeting echoed the international repudiation of NATO’s war operations under the direction and auspices of the U.S.

Iraklis Tsavdaridis, executive secretary of the World Council for Peace

(CMP), noted that the U.S. imperialist military presence and NATO are not only the source of the Russia-Ukraine war but also support Israel’s genocide against Palestinians.

Venezuelan researcher Gabriel Aguirre, representing World Beyond War, pointed out that according to public information, “there are 6 or more military bases with nuclear weapons in Italy, Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey and it is very likely that there are others whose information is not in the public domain.”

He added that “there are more than 900 U.S. military bases in 90 countries which of course turn this imperialist force into the main promoter of wars all over the world.” More than 1.3 million military personnel are at these bases, the largest number of soldiers and bases stationed outside the country’s national territory since the Vietnam War. #

# Pentagon waged an anti-vax propaganda war against China

By Gary Wilson

During the Trump administration, China's COVID-19 vaccine, Sinovac, was freely distributed to the Philippines and over 40 other nations across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, marking a significant global health initiative.

A June 14 Reuters exposé reports that in response, the Pentagon unleashed an anti-vax campaign against China. The campaign, centered in the Philippines, aimed to discredit Chinese vaccines and aid through fake social media accounts impersonating Filipinos, leading the anti-vax propaganda effort.

According to Reuters, the Pentagon's anti-vax campaign involved the use of fake social media accounts posing as Filipinos. These accounts disseminated anti-vaccine propaganda and cast

doubt on the safety of Chinese medical supplies, including masks, test kits, and the Sinovac vaccine.

At least 300 of these fake accounts were identified on X, formerly Twitter, spreading the slogan #Chinaangvirus, which translates to 'China is the virus' in Tagalog. The accounts posted messages such as 'COVID came from China and the VACCINE also came from China, don't trust China!'

## Discouraging vaccination

The operation expanded beyond Southeast Asia, targeting Central Asia and the Middle East. The Pentagon used fake social media accounts aimed at Muslims to suggest that Chinese vaccines contained pork gelatin and were thus forbidden under Islamic law. This effort was part of a broader U.S. military strategy to undermine China's in-

fluence by exploiting local sensitivities and spreading fear about the vaccines. The anti-vaccine campaign was continued by the Biden administration until mid-2021.

The Pentagon's anti-China propaganda campaign was driven by concerns that China's COVID-19 diplomacy, including offers of vaccines and medical supplies, was increasing Beijing's influence in countries like the Philippines. China's diplomatic efforts, including providing vaccines as a "global public good," were seen as a threat to U.S. geopolitical interests.

The Pentagon was also defending the profit-making of Moderna and Pfizer.

Reuters reports that the campaign's fallout included heightened vaccine hesitancy in the Philippines, where vaccination rates were among the lowest in Southeast Asia. #

# Is NATO taking over the Pacific?

By Colonel (Ret) Ann Wright

As the United States increases its military confrontation with China through new military bases on Guam and the Philippines and more land, sea and air exercises with countries in the Asia-Pacific, the world's largest naval war exercises are going to be held in the mid-Pacific from June 26 to August 2, 2024-and NATO is in the middle of it.

29 countries are participating in the 2024 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) naval war practice that will bring 40 ships, 3 submarines, over 150 aircraft, 14 national land forces and 25,000 personnel to the island of Oahu and the waters off Hawaii.

## One-third of RIMPAC not from the Pacific

Incredibly, one-third of the countries bringing ships, submarines and aircraft to the middle of the Pacific are not from Asia and the Pacific, but are from Europe — all members of the North ATLANTIC Treaty Organization (NATO).



**30% of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Naval Forces are from NATO Europe / Ships from many nations in RIMPAC naval war practice.**

European NATO members Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and the United Kingdom are joining the United States and Canada as the full NATO members in RIMPAC.

Along with the full members of NATO, five countries in the Pacific are NATO "partners"- Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Colombia. Each will be participating with ships, aircraft and personnel in RIMPAC.

## Israel is in RIMPAC

Because it tested U.S. and NATO countries' weapons on Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, Israel has been given special status by NATO and keeps an office in NATO headquarters. The U.S. has continued its invitation to Israel to have a ship and personnel in Hawaii in RIMPAC.

Israeli impunity in its war on Palestinians is a harmful influence on militaries participating in RIMPAC and U.S. complicity in the genocide sends a signal to other countries that violation of international laws and norms is perfectly acceptable in the U.S. "rules-based dis-order."

Other countries sending ships, aircraft and military personnel to RIMPAC are Brazil, Brunei, Chile, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Tonga.

Over the past two years, NATO countries have sent ships to the Western Pa-

*Continued on page 19*



# How imperialism erased Indigenous LGBTQ+ communities

By Bayani

Since the resurgence of the Palestine solidarity movement following the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood on October 7, 2023, queer, trans, and gender non-conforming people of all ages have taken up the struggle for a free Palestine.

Face it: imperialism is the world's greatest threat to LGBTQ+ people.

Capitalism and imperialism, stretching back to its days of old-style colonialism, have done more than any other force on earth to annihilate and suppress societies that see gender and sexuality outside a narrow binary.

## Erasure of nonbinary people in pre-colonial Philippines

Take Spanish colonialism for example. For those unfamiliar, one need only refer to the Spanish-American

*Continued from page 18*

cific in tandem with the U.S. Freedom of the Seas navigation operations in the South China Sea. In 2021, the British HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier strike group and an American surface action group had exercises in the South China Sea. Britain's Ministry of Defense described the strike group as the largest concentration of maritime and air power to leave Britain in a generation.

Webinars, social media, conferences/town hall meetings and protests are held from San Diego, California in the eastern Pacific, through Hawaii and Guam to the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

In Hawaii, thousands of residents of Oahu are still dealing with the 2021 effects of fuel pollution from the giant underground Red Hill fuel tanks that leaked 19,000 gallons of toxic fuel into the drinking water and the 2014 leak of 27,000 gallons of fuel.

Additionally, residents of Hawaii are demanding the return of 29,000 acres of state land that was leased to the U.S. military 65 years ago for.....\$1 !!! The lease of these areas on Oahu and

*Continued on page 20*



Image: XiaoChua.net

## Detail of Mural "History of Philippine Medicine" by Carlos 'Botong' Francisco.

War in 1898, through which the United States made off with Spain's old colonies: Cuba, Guam, the Philippines, and Puerto Rico. The United States at this point in history emerged as the leading imperialist power in the world, pushing aside the European powers.

Previous to this, Spain held these countries as colonies. In particular, Spain controlled the Philippines for over three centuries.

Before the Spanish arrived, societies across the Philippine archipelago, though not a monolith, viewed gender and sexuality in its many shades. In fact, people who we would now consider to be nonbinary, trans, or queer were considered spiritual and tribal leaders. One popular term for them, among many, is babaylan.

What happened to the babaylans? Between the Spanish military, governors, and missionaries, they were vilified and executed. The Spanish colonists, by both sword and cross, enforced the nuclear family and the narrow gender roles that came with it.

The Catholic Church's "mission to civilize" was the ideological justification for the complete annihilation of an Indigenous social system, the babaylans being only one of many.

But the true motivator behind such a historical atrocity is not something subjective like "good" or "evil" — these are just assessments that different people and class forces make for different reasons.

The true motivator was primarily political and economic: it served the interests of European colonialism. There's an old saying about European colonialism: First came the Bible, then came the sword.

Like most Indigenous systems, the babaylans' significance and function stood in stark contradiction to the Spanish colonists' system of rule. Spain could not allow the precolonial Filipino peoples this degree of self-determination and autonomy, so it needed to be crushed.

Even hundreds of years later, the annihilation of the babaylans haunts the Philippines. Despite the Filipino people's struggle having expelled U.S. military bases from the archipelago, the Visiting Forces Agreement has allowed the U.S. military rent-free use of Philippine military infrastructure. And where the U.S. military goes, sexual violence follows.

One needs only refer to the brutal murder of Jennifer Laude and the non-indictment of U.S. soldier Scott Pemberton to bear this out.

Imperialism has wrought this kind of havoc throughout the world. It stands in the way of, and violently suppresses, any system that allows for the genuine self-determination and social development of a people, nation, or movement.

This is not to say that every Indigenous or cultural practice is positive or progressive, nor that they are all negative or reactionary. Social and cultural practices must be understood on their own terms and in their own contexts. They do not form in a vacuum, but rather according to objective historical conditions.

But a society's practices simply cannot change and develop while the boot of imperialism weighs on its neck. #

# Bloody cost of the U.S. blockade of Cuba

*Continued from page 10*

duced a 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Cuba's Ministry of Public Health that may have helped open this opportunity. However, administrations have backed away since then.

On May 17, Discovery Therapeutics Caribe President Dr. Lee Weingart explained to Prensa Latina how these hurdles were overcome: "We could operate under the protection of an exception to the embargo [blockade] that allows joint medical research projects involving us and Cuban organizations, so we have taken advantage of this provision to move forward with this project."

The diabetes care industry is growing, too, explains Medtech.citeline.com's "Alarming Rise Of Diabetes In Several State" article "with some estimates it will reach \$30bn by 2030 from \$18bn in 2022 — it's crucial that manufacturers continue to create innovative devices and products to treat and manage the disease." Cuba's Heberprot-P fits that need.

Weingart announced this unique therapy is expected to be available in the U.S. in 2028. Quoted in Prensa Latina on May 17, he said that "38.4 million U.S. citizens have diabetes, 1.6 million of which will develop a diabetic foot ulcer each year, ...160,000 will result in amputation, and 80,000 of those will die in the next five years, so if you follow the cycle, 80,000 people die every year from

the complications of a diabetic foot ulcer, making it the eighth leading cause of death in the United States and more deadly than certain kinds of cancer."

## Diabetes risk highest among African Americans

President of the Professional Education & Research Institute (PERI), an international clinical research organization, Dr. Charles Zelen, noted the disproportionate impact on African American communities where "Medicare beneficiaries are nearly twice as likely to undergo lower limb amputation within a year of DFU diagnosis compared to their non-Hispanic white counterparts." The National Medical Association, the collective voice of African American physicians, notes on its website: "African American patients are more likely than white patients to have diabetes. The risk of diabetes is 77% higher among African Americans than among non-Hispanic white Americans."

"Alarming, nearly half of patients who undergo DFU-related lower extremity amputation do not survive beyond five years. Among U.S. veterans, the prognosis is even more grim, where survival past two years is uncommon

for patients presenting with gangrene." (April 30, DTC Press Release)

The projected U.S. marketing date in 2028 will be twenty-two years after Heberprot-P was approved to save limbs and lives in 2006. At the rate of 160,000 amputations per year cited by Weingart, denying the potential healing rate of 70 percent has meant an estimated 2.5 million unnecessary amputations in the U.S. over these decades.

Finding this sweet spot to penetrate the U.S. economic, financial, and commercial blockade for the benefit of Cuba and diabetics in the U.S. is something to celebrate, but it is not a solution. Normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations begins today with removing Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List, requiring only that the President send a notice to Congress. For more information, see the ACERE.org toolkit and one-page SSOT explainer.

Cuba is hosting the VII International Congress on Comprehensive Management of Complex Ulcers and Wounds in Varadero, Cuba, from September 1 to 5, 2024. Spread the word to medical professionals and researchers.

*Cheryl LaBash is a co-chair of the National Network of Cuba (NNOC)*

## Is NATO taking over the Pacific?

*Continued from page 19*

Big Island ends in 2029.

Communities around U.S. military bases all over the Pacific are finding that their water sources have been contaminated by the U.S. military use of fire-fighting foam that contains PFAS, the "forever chemical." Bases on Okinawa, Japan and South Korea where the U.S. has had military bases since World War II and the Korean War have found high levels of contamination from PFAS.

### Why not diplomacy instead of military confrontation?

Instead of using diplomacy to resolve security and economic issues, RIMPAC is one of hundreds of U.S.-sponsored military war exercises that fuel dangerous confrontations in Asia and the Pacific.

It's time for U.S. citizens to demand that elected officials/politicians use nonviolent methods to resolve conflicts--but we know we face great opposition to nonviolence from the manufacturers of violence, the weapons manufacturers who fuel the campaign coffers of politicians. Until we elect those who stand for peaceful resolution of issues instead of using war, we will continue to face an ever increasingly dangerous world.

*Ann Wright served 29 years in the U.S. Army/Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel. She was also a U.S. diplomat for 16 years but resigned in March 2003 in opposition to the U.S. war on Iraq. She lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is a member of Hawaii Peace and Justice and Veterans For Peace. She is the co-author of "Dissent: Voices of Conscience." Ann can be reached at annw1946@gmail.com*

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# El sangriento coste del bloqueo estadounidense a Cuba

Continúa de página 24

dólar mundial. En palabras del infame memorándum del Departamento de Estado del 6 de abril de 1960 de Lester Mallory, “deben emprenderse con prontitud todos los medios posibles para debilitar la vida económica de Cuba. ... una línea de acción que, mientras sea lo más hábil y discreta posible, haga las mayores incursiones para negar dinero y suministros a Cuba, para disminuir los salarios monetarios y reales, para provocar hambre, desesperación y derrocamiento del gobierno”.

El enfoque socialista de Cuba en el desarrollo cooperativo del potencial humano ha desencadenado avances farmacéuticos reconocidos internacionalmente como el Heberprot-P, la vacuna Cimavax contra el cáncer de pulmón en fase tardía, y mucho más. Sin la normalización de las relaciones entre EE.UU. y Cuba, nuestras comunidades y familias aquí en EE. Algunos pasos en esa dirección produjeron un Memorando de Entendimiento de 2016 entre el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. y el Ministerio de Salud Pública de Cuba que puede haber ayudado a abrir esta oportunidad, pero las administraciones desde entonces han retrocedido.

El 17 de mayo, el presidente de Discovery Therapeutics Caribe, el doctor Lee Weingart, explicó a Prensa Latina cómo se superaron estos obstáculos. “Podríamos operar bajo la protección de una excepción al embargo (bloqueo) que permite proyectos conjuntos de investigación médica en los que participamos nosotros y organizaciones cubanas, así que hemos aprovechado esta disposición para avanzar con este proyecto.”

La industria del cuidado de la diabetes también está creciendo, explica el artículo de Medtech.citeline.com “Alarming Rise Of Diabetes In Several State” “con algunas estimaciones alcanzará los 30.000 millones de dólares en 2030 desde los 18.000 millones de 2022 – es crucial que los fabricantes continúen creando dispositivos y productos innovadores para tratar y controlar la enfermedad.” El Heberprot-P de Cuba responde a esa necesidad.

Weingart anunció que se espera que esta terapia única esté disponible en EE.UU. en 2028. Citado en Prensa Latina el 17 de mayo, dijo que “38,4 millones de ciudadanos estadounidenses tienen diabetes, 1,6 millones de los cuales desarrollarán una úlcera de pie diabético cada año, ...160.000 resultarán en amputación, y 80.000 de ellos morirán en los próximos cinco años, así que si se sigue el ciclo, 80.000 personas mueren cada año por las complicaciones de una úlcera de pie diabético, lo que la convierte en la octava causa de muerte en Estados Unidos y más mortal que ciertos tipos de cáncer.”

El Presidente del Professional Education & Research Institute (PERI), organización internacional de investigación clínica, Dr. Charles Zelen, señaló el impacto desproporcionado en las comunidades afroamericanas, donde “los beneficiarios de Medicare tienen casi el doble de probabilidades de sufrir una amputación de miembro inferior en el plazo de un año tras el diagnóstico de DFU en comparación con sus homólogos blancos no hispanos.” La Asociación Médica Nacional, la voz colectiva de los médicos afroamericanos, señala en su sitio web: “Los pacientes afroamericanos tienen más probabilidades que los blancos de padecer diabetes. El riesgo de diabetes es un 77% mayor entre los afroamericanos que entre los estadounidenses blancos no hispanos.”

“Resulta alarmante que casi la mitad de los pacientes que se someten a una amputación de extremidades inferiores relacionada con DFU no sobrevivan más de cinco años. Entre los veteranos

de EE.UU., el pronóstico es aún más sombrío, donde la supervivencia más allá de dos años es poco común para los pacientes que presentan gangrena.” (30 de abril, comunicado de prensa DTC)

La fecha de comercialización prevista en EE.UU. en 2028 será veintidós años después de que Heberprot-P fuera aprobado para salvar miembros y vidas en 2006. A la tasa de 160.000 amputaciones al año citada por Weingart, negar la tasa de curación potencial del 70% ha supuesto unos 2,5 millones de amputaciones innecesarias en EE.UU. durante estas décadas.

Encontrar este punto dulce para penetrar el bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial de EE.UU. en beneficio de Cuba y de los diabéticos en EE.UU. es algo que celebrar, pero no es una solución. La normalización de las relaciones entre Estados Unidos y Cuba comienza hoy con la eliminación de Cuba de la Lista de Estados Patrocinadores del Terrorismo, que sólo requiere que el presidente envíe una notificación al Congreso. Para más información, consulte el kit de herramientas de ACERE.org y el folleto explicativo de una página sobre SSOT.

Cuba acogerá el VII Congreso Internacional sobre Manejo Integral de Úlceras y Heridas Complejas, del 1 al 5 de septiembre de 2024 Varadero, Cuba. Corra la voz entre los profesionales médicos e investigadores

*Cheryl LaBash es copresidenta de la Red Nacional sobre Cuba en Estados Unidos.*

*Fuente: Struggle- La Lucha, traducción Resumen Latinoamericano*

**Symposia and topics**

- Symposium 1: Cellular and molecular bases of physiological and pathological healing
- Topics:
  - Chronic wounds
  - Poor healing and exuberant healing
  - Growth factors and chemokines
  - Stem cells and regenerative therapy
  - Pathological inflammation and its consequences
  - Wound contraction and microenvironment
  - Grimation: fibroblasts, angiogenesis and remodeling
  - Keratinocytes and epithelialization
- Symposium 2: Comprehensive management and therapeutic approaches to complex wounds and ulcers
- Topics:
  - Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment of infections
  - Current surgical techniques and therapeutic approaches
  - New therapeutic research and developments
  - Experiences with infiltration of recombinant human epidermal growth factor
  - Advances in clinical trials, clinical practice and patient rehabilitation
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We are pleased to invite you to register at the VII International Congress on Comprehensive Management of Complex Ulcers and Wounds, September 1st - 5th, at Meliá Internacional Varadero Hotel, in Varadero, Matanzas, Cuba.

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**Meliá Internacional Varadero**

# Puerto Rican people are tired of energy privatizers

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

This past week, the Puerto Rican people have begun to strongly express their opposition to the privatization of energy. Both Luma Energy, which is responsible for transmission and distribution, and Genera PR, which as its name indicates, is responsible for generation, have been put on notice.

Starting with the governor's defeat in his party's primaries, he received the message of rejection for having been an incompetent colony administrator but above all for having defended and justified the private energy companies that are causing so much suffering to our people.

But the breaking point came in the middle of the week. After nearly two weeks of several towns in the south enduring a complete lack of electricity, which in many cases also means a lack of water that is pumped by electric

pumps, under a streak of intense heat, a large-scale blackout occurred in the northern part of the island.

More than a million people remained in the dark for over ten hours. The University of Puerto Rico had to cancel classes, and the Medical Center and health offices had to cancel appointments for their patients. In short, the daily lives of the majority of the country were affected.

But since this does not matter to these privatizers, they did not even face the people to explain the causes. It was after several days that they came up with the excuse that the trees were to blame. And they are waiting for emergency federal funds to carry out tree-clearing that will last for 3 years and will begin on July 1. In other words, instead of systematically pruning as the public company used to do, they are trying to deforest wherever there are power lines to make their work easier, at the

expense of devastating consequences for the climate and our people.

The incompetence of Luma, which has been here for three years already and had a year before starting the contract to get to know the system, is inconceivable. And that's how the people have been responding. From the first night of the almost total blackout, they began protesting in front of La Fortaleza, the governor's residence, and several demonstrations have already been called, including nightly protests with pots and pans banging at 8 p.m.

It is predicted that Luma and Genera have little time left because the people are demanding that their contracts be CANCELED and that energy return to the hands of the people. #

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



## Venezuela pide apoyo contra ataques de EEUU a elecciones

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Venezuela ha celebrado más de 30 elecciones en los últimos 25 años a pesar de enfrentarse a las agresivas hostilidades del imperialismo estadounidense. Gil Pinto señaló: "Nuestra resistencia demuestra la fortaleza de nuestro proceso democrático revolucionario".

Este año, las elecciones tendrán lugar durante el décimo año de sanciones destinadas a perturbar la economía de Venezuela. "Hemos sido víctimas de una amplia gama de ataques cuyo objetivo es romper nuestra unidad revolucionaria", dijo Gil Pinto. "El imperialismo no ha podido triunfar porque el propio pueblo creó las bases de la democracia venezolana".

Y continuó: "Para entender cómo resistimos estas agresiones, hay que remontarse a 1998, cuando el comandante Hugo Chávez nos convocó a una revolución popular para reconstruir la nación". La gran promesa de Chávez en 1998 fue la formación de una Asamblea Constituyente.

"Desde entonces, hemos coordinado un proceso de discusión a todos los niveles y en todos los ámbitos de nuestra sociedad, preguntándonos qué queremos obtener de una nueva Constitución venezolana. El proceso construyó la unidad democrática. Como resultado, tenemos una Constitución que es una herramienta a prueba de balas que nos permite proceder sin saber cómo o cuándo podemos ser atacados.

"En abril de 2002, fuerzas hostiles destituyeron al presidente Chávez durante 72 horas. La Constitución hizo posible la unidad civil y militar. Ha sido la columna vertebral capaz de resistir todos los ataques graves.

"En 2019, se les ocurrió el falso gobierno de Juan Guaidó, junto con medidas dirigidas a atacar la estabilidad de la economía. La cohesión popular del pueblo venezolano le permitió resistir ataques que han continuado sin parar, incluyendo varios intentos de asesinato contra la vida del presidente Nicolás Maduro.

"Hoy, bajo la constricción de las sanciones estadounidenses, hemos descubierto que la única manera de movilizarnos es decir la verdad y depender de la sabiduría del pueblo. Los imperialistas nos atacan con una fuerte guerra mediática. Estados Unidos promueve a sus aliados: la pequeña oposición de derechas que espera recuperar una parte del petróleo de Venezuela. No tienen vergüenza en apoyar las sanciones y ser títeres de los imperialistas. No tienen apoyo popular.

"Para contrarrestar este ambiente coercitivo, el presidente Nicolás Maduro ha salido a la calle, casa por casa, a todo el país socialista, compartiendo el enorme sufrimiento causado por las sanciones y asegurándose de que se identifica al enemigo.

"Confiamos en que el resultado electoral será sólido. Nuestra preocupación es que Estados Unidos no lo respete. Esta noche les pedimos que nos den su apoyo y defiendan nuestro camino de desarrollo". #



# Venezuela calls for support against U.S. attacks on elections

By Lallan Schoenstein

On June 13, Yván Gil Pinto, Venezuela's foreign minister, spoke to a packed reception at the People's Forum in New York. Manolo de los Santos, the People's Forum executive director, welcomed Pinto and helped frame the conversation with leading questions.

Young people of color filled the room, many coming from a protest at Citibank's World Headquarters as part of a global week of action against Citibank, which has financed the genocide in Gaza. Representatives of political organizations and journalists were also invited to the event called "Venezuela vs Hybrid War."

Gil Pinto talked about the coercive attempts of U.S. imperialism to undermine Venezuela's process of building a revolutionary democracy at a time when Venezuela is preparing for elections at the end of July.

Venezuela has held over 30 elections in the past 25 years despite facing aggressive hostilities from U.S. imperialism. Gil Pinto noted, "Our resilience demonstrates the strength of our revolutionary democratic process."

This year, the elections will take place during the tenth year of sanctions aimed at disrupting Venezuela's economy. "We have been the victim of a wide range of attacks whose objective is to break our revolutionary unity," Gil Pinto said. "Imperialism has not been able to succeed because the people themselves created the basis of Venezuelan democracy."

He continued, "To understand how we resist these aggressions, go back to 1998, when Comandante Hugo Chavez called on us for a popular revolution

to rebuild the nation. Chavez's great promise in 1998 was the formation of a Constituent Assembly.

"Since then, we've coordinated a discussion process at all levels and all areas of our society, asking what we want

to get out of a new Venezuelan Constitution. The process built democratic unity. As a result, we have a Constitution that is a bulletproof tool that allows us to proceed without knowing how or when we may be attacked.

"In April 2002, hostile forces removed President Chavez for 72 hours. The constitution made civil and military unity possible. It has been the backbone able to resist all serious attacks.

"In 2019, they came up with the fake government of Juan Guaidó, together with measures aimed at attacking the stability of the economy. The grassroots cohesion of the Venezuelan people enabled them to withstand attacks that have continued nonstop, including various assassination attempts on the life of President Nicolas Maduro.

"Today, under the constriction of U.S. sanctions, we have found that the only way to mobilize is to tell the truth and depend on the wisdom of the people. The imperialists are targeting us with a strong media war. The U.S. promotes their allies — the small right-wing opposition who hope to regain a share of Venezuela's oil. They have no shame in supporting sanctions and being puppets of the imperialists. They have no popular support.

"To counter this coercive environment, President Nicolas Maduro has gone to the streets, house to house, to the whole socialist country, sharing the enormous suffering caused by sanctions and making sure the enemy is identified.

"We are confident that the election outcome will be solid. Our concern is that the U.S. will not respect it. Tonight We are asking you to give us your support and to defend our path of development." #



## El pueblo boricua se cansó de privatizadoras de energía

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sando a nuestra gente.

Pero el acabose fue a mediados de semana. Después de que por casi dos semanas varios pueblos en el sur soporaran la falta absoluta de luz, lo que en muchos casos significa además la falta de agua que llega por bombas eléctricas, bajo una racha de calores intensos, ocurrió un apagón de gran escala en el norte de la isla.

Fuimos más de un millón de personas que permanecemos a oscuras por más de diez horas. La Universidad de Puerto Rico tuvo que cancelar clases, el Centro Médico y oficinas de salud tuvieron que cancelar citas a sus pacientes. Total, que la vida se le afectó a la mayoría del país.

Pero como esto no le importa a estas privatizadoras, ni siquiera le dieron la cara al pueblo para explicar las causas. Fue luego de varios días que vinieron con la excusa de que la culpa la tenían los árboles. Y que para eso está esperan-

do por fondos federales de emergencia para hacer un talado que durará por 3 años y comenzará el 1 de julio. O sea, que en vez de podar sistemáticamente como lo hacía la compañía pública, intentan deforestar dondequiera que haya líneas eléctricas y así hacer su trabajo más fácil, a costa de las consecuencias devastadoras para el clima y nuestro pueblo.

La incompetencia de Luma, que ya ha estado aquí por tres años, y que tuvo un año antes de comenzar el contrato para conocer el sistema, es inconcebible. Y así el pueblo ha estado respondiendo. Desde la primera noche del apagón casi general, comenzaron a manifestarse frente a la Fortaleza, la sede del gobernador y ya han sido convocadas varias manifestaciones que incluyen hasta caerolazos cada noche a las 8 de la noche.

Lo que se augura es que es poco el tiempo que le queda a Luma y a Genera porque el pueblo pide que se les ANULLEN los contratos y que la energía vuelva a las manos del pueblo. #

# El sangriento coste del bloqueo estadounidense a Cuba

Un reciente anuncio de Discovery Therapeutics Caribe, LLC en Cleveland alivia un temor importante que viene con un diagnóstico de diabetes, el miedo a la amputación. El grupo de defensa Diabetes.org revela que el temor está justificado. “Cada 3 minutos y 30 segundos en los Estados Unidos, una extremidad es amputada debido a la diabetes. Las amputaciones van en aumento en Estados Unidos: 154.000 personas con diabetes sufren amputaciones cada año”.

El 10 de abril, la Administración Federal de Alimentos y Medicamentos dio luz verde al estudio de fase 3 de Heberprot-P, un medicamento cubano desarrollado por el Centro de Ingeniería

Genética y Biotecnología (CIGB) que ha demostrado reducir la amputación diabética en más de un 70%. Aunque Heberprot-P® está actualmente a disposición de los pacientes en veintiséis países y recibió la aprobación regulatoria original cubana en junio de 2006, ésta es la primera vez que se estudiará con pacientes estadounidenses que sufren úlceras del pie diabético.

¿Por qué se ha tardado tanto? El hecho de que Estados Unidos no haya normalizado sus relaciones con la República de Cuba obliga incluso a iniciativas sanitarias urgentes como ésta a abrirse paso a través de una insidiosa red de leyes, reglamentos y órdenes ejecutivas que



Cuba's Heberprot P.

Foto: Yaimi Ravelo

sólo se aplican a Cuba. Junto con la cruel designación de Cuba como “Estado patrocinador del terrorismo” por parte del Departamento de Estado en 2021, estas medidas pretenden literalmente crear dificultades insostenibles para el pueblo cubano utilizando el poder del

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## El pueblo boricua se cansó de privatizadoras de energía

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta pasada semana el pueblo boricua ha comenzado a expresarse contundentemente en contra de la privatización de la energía. Tanto Luma Energy que tiene a cargo la transmisión y distribución, como Genera PR, que como su nombre indica, tiene la función de generar, han sido puestas bajo aviso. Comenzando con la derrota del gobernador en las primarias por haber defendido y justificado a las compañías energéticas privadas que tanto sufrimiento están cau-

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## Venezuela pide apoyo contra ataques de EEUU a elecciones

Por Lallan Schoenstein

El 13 de junio, Yván Gil Pinto, ministro de Asuntos Exteriores de Venezuela, habló ante una multitudinaria recepción en el Foro del Pueblo de Nueva York. Manolo de los Santos, director ejecutivo del Foro del Pueblo, dio la bienvenida a Pinto y ayudó a enmarcar la conversación con preguntas capciosas.

Jóvenes de color llenaban la sala, muchos de ellos procedentes de una protesta ante la sede mundial de Citibank como parte de una semana de acción mundial contra Citibank, que

ha financiado el genocidio en Gaza. También se invitó a representantes de organizaciones políticas y periodistas al acto titulado “Venezuela contra la guerra híbrida”.

Gil Pinto habló sobre los intentos coercitivos del imperialismo estadounidense para socavar el proceso de construcción de una democracia revolucionaria en Venezuela, en un momento en que Venezuela se prepara para las elecciones de finales de julio.

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El Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores de Venezuela, Yván Gil Pinto, con Carlos Ron y Manolo De Los Santos.

Foto: Wyatt Souers

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