

"We are realists...we dream the impossible" - Che

"The truth must not only be the truth...it must also be told" - Fidel



# FIRE THIS TIME

Revolutionary Voices

April-May 2024

## YOUNG CUBANS HAVE FOUND THEIR MONCADA AND ATTACK IT EVERY DAY

*Excerpt from speech by Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Republic, at the closing ceremony of the 12th Congress of the Young Communist League of Cuba*

How right Fidel was to believe in young people! Let me begin by thanking you for the depth and joy of this Congress. I believe that the quality of the debates and the documents that motivated them make a long speech unnecessary, but at the same time they inspire us to add some very specific evaluations, with the deep feeling of being part of you, something that happens to all of us who militated and fulfilled leadership tasks in the Young Communist League in other times.

You create happiness, as you have set out to do. Even in these difficult and challenging times, when the population segment that grows the least in our society is that of those under 30 years of age; when Cuban children and youth live and develop under the harsh conditions of a country surrounded, persecuted, punished, mainly in the economy, but also in their dreams and hopes.

Against the imperial logic that tries to absorb you, to empty you, to surrender you and make you deny your fate and your history, you advance in the revolutionary logic: you analyze, discuss, criticize and recognize, propose and transform the most

complex reality, but you do not stop singing, dancing, laughing. You, those who won the right to be in this 12th Congress, are the vanguard of a joyful and profound youth defined by Che Guevara in a memorable phrase.

That vanguard, still imperfect, like the society we are building, but also like it, passionate and fighting, is the one that has the responsibility to unite and motivate the

new generations.

And they have done so. Today we can say with healthy and legitimate pride that young Cubans have found their Moncada and attack it every day (Applause).

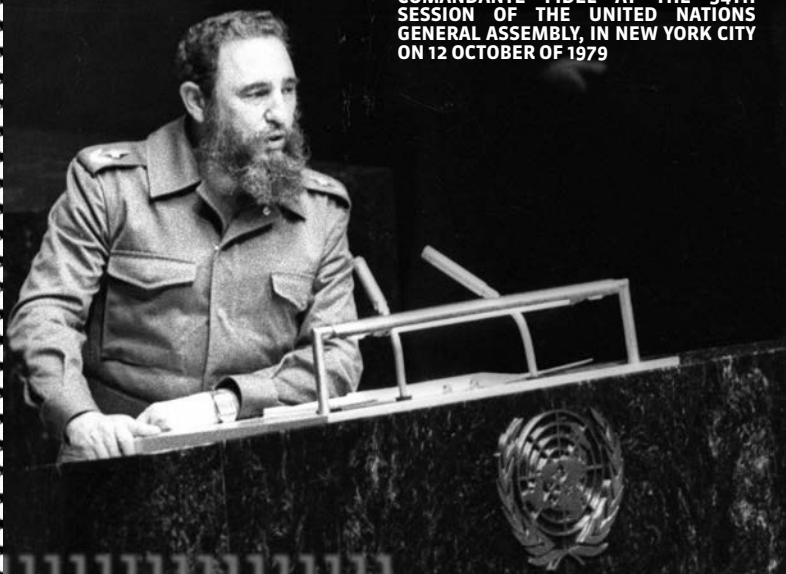
This is confirmed by the summary of the Central Report to the Congress, read by Ayllín. I am not going to list all the tasks, I will just name some of the feats of these



**We repudiate with all our strength the ruthless persecution and genocide that in its time Nazism unleashed against the Hebrew people. But I cannot recall anything more similar in our contemporary history than the eviction, persecution, and genocide being carried out today by imperialism and Zionism against the Palestinian people**



COMANDANTE FIDEL AT THE 34TH  
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN NEW YORK CITY  
ON 12 OCTOBER OF 1979



recent years, full of challenges, but also of exploits, almost all of them carried out by young people, even though they were led by Cubans of other generations.

You have told it and it is already a memory of this Congress: that young people are in the majority, as women are in the majority, in the universe of researchers and creators of Cuban vaccines and treatment protocols to COVID-19.

There are very young students and other volunteers who chose the red zone to support the fight against the pandemic; those who risked or lost their lives as rescuers and firefighters in the terrible accidents at Saratoga and the Supertanker Depot in Matanzas; those who went to heal the wounds of the cyclones in the most remote areas; those who courageously confronted in the streets the violence induced by the adversaries of the Revolution.

There are hundreds of thousands of young people who daily participate in the defense of the homeland; they are the protagonists of productive processes in factories, industries and service activities; those who contribute with their work to the production of food, exports of tobacco, honey and coffee, among others; those demobilized from the Active Military Service who are incorporated to till the land; those who build; those who exalt the pedagogical work in the classrooms; those who attend to the population in the Health institutions; the young jurists who assume responsibilities in the prosecutor's offices and courts at different levels; those who participate in the design of economic strategies; those who lead the battle of ideas in social networks; those who fight diplomatic battles; those who serve as delegates in the districts of the People's Power; those who with their artistic talent enrich the culture of the nation; those who add medals to the national sport; those who as doctors of the soul devote themselves to social work in the neighborhoods; those who develop important projects of digital transformation, local development and productive enterprises. That is the Cuban youth!

Here we have discussed, without euphemisms, the painful reality of a mostly young emigration that, amid economic difficulties, material shortages and the mirage of a "good capitalism" -non-existent, as we already know-, believes or feels that the high level of education acquired in Cuban socialism will not be able to be carried out with personal success in their homeland.

We are not going to discuss the relativity of those aspirations or to deny those sons and daughters of Cuba who chose another destiny for the rest of their lives,



*President Miguel Díaz-Canel at the closing ceremony of the 12th Congress of the Young Communist League of Cuba*

because today is the time to talk about those who are here and now, those who sustain the country, the Revolution and the dream of what we do and will do in the future, facing, like all the Cuban people, the economic needs imposed on us, in the first place, by the genocidal blockade that a U.S. president decreed 62 years ago and a dozen successors have steadily tightened, with the sole purpose of overthrowing the Revolution that tore off the chains of the infamous neocolony.

The U.S. blockade is directed against all the people, but especially against the youth who are at the age of dreaming and projecting the future, with its terrible consequences for the country, including the encouragement of emigration, which has taken with it so many friends and relatives and, with them, dear pieces of the nation that we are.

The great merit of the Cuban youth who live, study and work here, in the midst of transportation problems, blackouts, inflation and other ills associated with problems of our own inadequacies, is that they rise above all that and go out every day to fight to make Cuba a better country.

And you will do it! We know that it will be better because you will not allow it to be otherwise, and because, from the times of Céspedes until today, young Cubans have proven themselves to be the best revolutionaries. Not only because they defend the Cuban State or defend the legacy of Martí, Fidel, Raúl and all those who have shed their blood for Cuba, they are also revolutionaries because they are good citizens, good people, good friends, good children.

They are revolutionaries because they recognize the daily difficulties and they face them and try to change them, and they achieve this many times by working, fighting and participating.

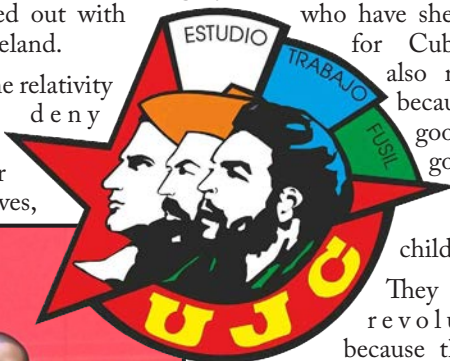
They are revolutionaries because they strive to do their duty.

They are revolutionaries because in spite of everything they continue dancing, smiling and loving, because they accept each other as they are, without discrimination and without the old prejudices already defeated by the Revolution; because they defended the Family Code as their own and are committed to all just causes, the struggles of the peoples for their sovereignty, as are the feminist, anti-racist or anti-homophobic struggles, as well as the confrontation with corruption and addictions.

They are revolutionaries because they enjoy to the fullest the games and victories of Cuban baseball teams and other sports without denying themselves the pleasure of following international soccer with fanatical passion. They continue to enjoy Cuban music in the midst of the wave of consumption of products imposed by cultural globalization.

They are revolutionaries because they welcome with open arms those who respect and love Cuba, but they clench their fists and wield their rifles against those who try to harm us.

They are revolutionaries because they are good human beings and they want what is best for their own, for Cuba, for the homeland and for the socialist Revolution; they want what is best for everyone in Cuba! (Applause).





And they are revolutionaries, in the broadest sense of the word, because they are neither broad nor alien to today's world, plagued by uncertainty and in need of changes in favor of peace, cooperation and solidarity; because they share José Martí's ideal that homeland is humanity.

They are revolutionaries, in short, because they know that capitalism has no answer to the pressing problems of humanity and they are capable of understanding and facing with intelligence and knowledge the cultural battle that this era imposes on us.

They do not ignore or underestimate the programs of imperial colonization that, with their powerful mechanisms of symbolic production and reproduction, worship lies, banality and vulgarity, hiding our truths, kidnapping consciences, imposing tastes, denying identities, annihilating, little by little, the rich diversity of peoples and annulling authentic leaderships through the assassination of reputations.

When, from these platforms, discourses of hatred, discrimination and exclusion overflow; when neomacartism is reborn with force in some countries and neofascist manifestations agglutinate growing social segments; when war is once again the pretext of the imperialist elites to favor the Military Industrial Complex, it is necessary to be alert and mobilize.

That moment is now, when the Palestinian people, victims of a war of extermination that has lasted 75 years, summons us, with their heroic resistance, to stop the barbarism that the Israeli government is carrying out in the Gaza Strip with the complicity of other powerful states. I therefore welcome and share the declaration of this Congress against the criminal Zionist escalation, cynically supported by the U.S. Government every time it vetoes the majority will of the peoples to put an end to genocide.

For Cuba it is unavoidable to reiterate, in every possible forum, the most energetic condemnation of the extermination perpetrated against the Palestinian people.

As we have said before, to remain silent in the face of the massacre of more than 30,000 civilians in the Gaza Strip in the last six months, mostly women and children, is not only unacceptable, it is incompatible with human dignity!



Scan for full speech

## LOS JÓVENES CUBANOS ENCONTRARON SU MONCADA Y LO ASALTAN TODOS LOS DÍAS

*Extracto del discurso de Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba y Presidente de la República, en el acto de clausura del XII Congreso de la Unión de Jóvenes Comunistas de Cuba*



¡Cuánta razón tenía Fidel en creer en los jóvenes! Permítanme comenzar agradeciéndoles la profundidad y la alegría de este Congreso. Creo que la calidad de los debates y de los documentos que los motivaron hacen innecesario un largo discurso, pero al mismo tiempo nos inspiran a sumar algunas valoraciones muy específicas, con el profundo sentimiento de sentirnos parte de ustedes, algo que nos pasa a todos los que militamos y cumplimos tareas de dirección en la Unión de Jóvenes Comunistas en otras épocas.

Ustedes crean felicidad, como se lo han propuesto. Incluso en estos tiempos difíciles y desafiantes, cuando el segmento poblacional que menos crece en nuestra sociedad es el de los menores de 30 años; cuando la niñez y la juventud cubana viven y se desarrollan bajo las duras condiciones de un país cercado, perseguido, castigado, principalmente en la economía, pero también en sus sueños y esperanzas.

Contra la lógica imperial que pretende absorberlos, vaciarlos, rendirlos y hacerlos renegar de su suerte y de su historia, avanzan ustedes en la lógica revolucionaria: analizan, discuten, critican y reconocen, proponen y transforman la realidad más compleja, pero no

dejan de cantar, bailar, reír. Ustedes, los que ganaron el derecho a estar en este XII Congreso, son la vanguardia de una juventud alegre y profunda que definió el Che en frase memorable.

Esa vanguardia, imperfecta aún, como la sociedad que construimos, pero también como ella, apasionada y batalladora, es la que tiene la responsabilidad de unir y motivar a las nuevas generaciones.

Y lo han hecho. Hoy podemos decir con sano y legítimo orgullo que los jóvenes cubanos encontraron su Moncada y lo asaltan todos los días

Escanee para el discurso completo



# THE PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION & SELF-DETERMINATION:



## ZIONISM, IMPERIALISM & BUILDING A SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT FOR PALESTINE

By Janine Solanki

Today we're coming together to discuss Palestine in the larger context of the new era of war and occupation, or as the U.S. government claims, the so-called War on Terror. This era has gripped West Asia and North Africa for over 23 years, since the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 2001. Our goal is to better understand how the struggle for Palestinian self-determination is an anti-imperialist struggle, and how Israel represents a foothold of U.S. imperialism within West Asia, and how we can build a strong, united and effective solidarity movement for Palestine and against imperialist wars and occupations.

Events today (April 13) over the last few hours make this discussion even more important, and tonight we have the chance to better understand what is happening now and the history leading up to this point.

We have seen in the last 7 months how quickly politics can move, and it's important to take the time to not only respond with action but also review, analyze and understand the motion of politics that are rapidly changing. We have seen that Israel is now carrying out multiple atrocities on multiple fronts at the same time – yet still receiving support, funding and military aid from the U.S. government. On April 1, Israel attacked and killed 7 humanitarian aid workers, including foreign nations, from World Central Kitchen in Gaza. On the same day Israel withdrew from Al-Shifa hospital after a 2-week siege, revealing the total destruction of Gaza's largest hospital, over 450 Palestinian civilians, patients, and medical staff killed and over 900 arrested, detained and disappeared. Also on April 1, Israel launched an air strike against the sovereignty of two states at one time, Syria and Iran, as Israeli strikes hit Iran's embassy in Damascus, Syria, killing at least

16 people including several high-ranking Iranian military commanders. According to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and the UN Conference on Consular Relations, embassies are inviolable and are treated as sovereign territories of the embassy's country – therefore Israel's attack on the Iranian Embassy is considered an attack on Iranian territory.

Why did Israel make this attack? This move by Israel is wildly reckless and desperate – even more so since U.S. officials have since said that it "had no involvement" or advance knowledge of Israel's plan to strike Iran's embassy. It appears Israel is attempting to provoke Iran into a regional war, and also to maneuver for more support from the U.S., as well as to try to paint a retaliation from Iran as a way to self-victimize themselves again on the world stage. In the last 7 months Israel has totally lost the battle of public opinion. Even those who falsely claimed Israel had the right to defend itself after the Palestinian resistance operation on October 7 – an operation which was also legal under international law as an act of resistance against occupation – are now saying Israel has gone too far in their genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, and Israel is losing support from former supporters. Israel perhaps gambled that a retaliatory strike from Iran on Israel might drum up support for Israel once again.

After 12 days, Iran today did take a defensive military operation, launching drone and missile strikes on Israel. I want to

read a post from the social media platform X a few hours ago, from the Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN: "Conducted on the strength of Article 51 of the UN Charter pertaining to legitimate defense, Iran's military action was in response to the Zionist regime's aggression against our diplomatic premises in Damascus. The matter can be deemed concluded. However, should the Israeli regime make another mistake, Iran's response will be considerably more severe. It is a conflict between Iran and the rogue Israeli regime, from which the U.S. MUST STAY AWAY!"

This message is absolutely clear. Iran is exercising the right to defense as protected by international law, and is warning that Israel should accept this counterstrike and NOT escalate further, should conclude the matter and also that the U.S. should also not get involved and escalate.

It's important to understand the Israel's attacks against Iran have been escalating, with the attack on the Iranian embassy being the last straw. To share some recent headlines:

- "An Israeli airstrike outside the Syrian capital Damascus on Monday killed a senior adviser in Iran's Revolutionary Guards" This headline is from December 25, 2023.

- "Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) says five of its "military advisers" have been killed in an Israeli air raid on a residential building in Syria's capital, Damascus" This headline is from January 20, 2024.

With Israel's escalating and repeated attacks against Iran, a response was necessary.

However, already imperialist forces and media are trying to paint this as an unprovoked attack by Iran against Israel, and we need to call out this double standard, hypocrisy and misinformation. A few hours ago, Justin Trudeau posted on X and in an official statement: "Canada unequivocally condemns Iran's airborne attacks against Israel. We stand with Israel. After supporting Hamas' brutal October 7 attack, the Iranian regime's latest actions will further destabilize the region and make lasting peace more difficult. These attacks demonstrate yet again the Iranian regime's disregard for peace and stability in the



Janine Solanki at picket for Palestine outside of the U.S. consulate in Vancouver



region. We support Israel's right to defend itself and its people from these attacks."

Where was Trudeau's response to Israel's provocative and illegal strike on the Iranian embassy in Damascus? Where is Trudeau's condemnation against Israel's genocide of Palestinians for over 6 months? Where is Canada's response to a Canadian citizen, a humanitarian aid worker with World Central Kitchen, who 13 days ago was killed in a deliberate strike by Israeli Zionist forces?

We also must bring to attention that Canada continues to support Israel even after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case charging Israel of genocide, put forward by South Africa and

supported and endorsed by more than 70 countries, as well as the January 26 initial ruling that established substantial evidence of genocide.

Shamefully, after the initial decision from the ICJ, the response by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, Mélanie Joly, was to release a statement in support of Israel. In Foreign Minister Joly statement she said, "Our support for the ICJ does not mean that we accept the premise of the case brought by South Africa." That is to say, the Liberal government of Canada welcomes and endorses the result of ICJ only if it is in favour of Israel, of Canada and other imperialist countries. This is a sheer hypocrisy, not democracy.

Furthermore, a few weeks ago the judges at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) unanimously ordered Israel to take all the necessary and effective action to ensure basic food supplies arrive without delay to the Palestinian population in Gaza – in response to new measures requested by South Africa as part of its continuing case that accuses Israel of carrying out genocide in Gaza. Israel has flatly ignored the ICJ, despite this being a legally binding order. With Canada's continued support for Israel we have to ask, where is Canada's respect for International Law?

It is not only Canada, but the United Nations, the U.S. government, the European Union and other imperialist countries and institutions who refuse to apply international law to Israel, beyond soft

and vague footnotes or lip service. Without any semblance of fairness in diplomacy or negotiations, we come to the military retaliation by Iran. As is well understood, war is the continuation of diplomacy by other means, and is the result of the breakdown of diplomacy in discussion. This is also true in the case of Palestine too – over decades, 78 resolutions in the United Nations demanding that Israel respect various aspects of Palestinian human rights have been repeatedly violated by Israel, and

any negotiations have been a farce to continue supporting Israel with no improvement to Palestinian rights whatsoever. This failure of diplomacy also brought the Palestinian resistance to their defensive military operation on October 7, 2023.

Iran has been clear

war crimes and crimes against humanity, Canada continues to sell arms to Israel, and Canadian bank Scotiabank continues to be the largest foreign investor in the major Israeli weapons manufacturer Elbit systems.

We must address the misleading recent motion in Canadian Parliament, which some have misinterpreted as Canada stopping arms shipments to Israel. This is absolutely not true, and Canada is continuing arms shipments to Israel.

Canada is a major manufacturer and dealer of arms to Israel as well as to the U.S., Saudi Arabia and other countries, with over \$28.5 million in military goods sent from Canada to Israel just between October and November 2023, and \$70 million in export permits approved between October 7, 2023 and January 8, 2024.

Among other problematic language in the motion which reaffirms Canada's support for Israel and condemnation of Hamas, regarding arms shipments the motion was to "cease the further authorization and transfer of arms exports to Israel to ensure compliance with Canada's arms export regime and increase efforts to stop the illegal trade of arms, including to Hamas;". This does not stop the export of arms that already have export permits, many of which were signed between October 7, 2023 and January 8, 2024, which is potentially years worth of further arms exports, and does not restrict so-called non-lethal exports which include component parts that go into deadly drones, fighter jets and other weapons Israel uses against our Palestinian sisters and brothers in Gaza.

This motion brought by the NDP also does not present anything new that Canada is not doing, but only gives the semblance that Canada is responding to the genocide against Palestinians and attempts to cool down the response of the Palestine solidarity movement on the streets. Canada already voted in favor of the ceasefire motion in United Nations General Assembly on December 13, 2023. Canada has not approved new arms export permits to Israel since January 8 and said the freeze will continue until Ottawa can ensure the weapons are used in accordance with Canadian law. So-called non-lethal and component export permits continue and as per a statement from Foreign Affairs Minister Joly, export permits that were approved before January 8 remain in effect, meaning weapons continue to flow from Canada to Israel. The devil is in the

*Continued on page 9*



that their response today to Israel was due to the lack of response by the UN Security council to Israel's attack on Iran. – on April 3 The United States, Britain and France opposed a Russian-drafted UN Security Council statement that would have condemned Israel's attack on Iran's embassy in Syria. Iran also offered to consider the matter closed and to not respond to Israel militarily, if an immediate ceasefire in Gaza was implemented, which was refused. Diplomacy was called upon, was given almost 2 weeks to condemn Israel's attack on Iran and failed, so Iran had no choice but to respond to the repeated and escalating attacks by Israel on Iran.

I want to turn back to Canada's role in the genocide and really the holocaust of Palestinians in Gaza. Besides what I have said above, with Canada's unequivocal support for Israel despite its genocide,

# End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!

**Biden, Take Cuba off your so-called  
'State Sponsors of Terrorism' List!**

By Alison Bodine

*Based on a talk given by Alison Bodine at the United National Antiwar Coalition Conference – April 6, 2024, Saint Paul, Minnesota*

In the context of today's workshop on sanctions, it is critical that we discuss the U.S. blockade against Cuba, a criminal policy that has been imposed on the over 11 million people of Cuba since the triumph of the Cuban revolution in 1959. The U.S. blockade on Cuba has put enormous strain on Cuba's economy causing Cuba to lose approximately \$4.867 billion from March 2022 – March 2023, and over \$1.3 trillion dollars during nearly 60 years of blockade. This geocidal U.S. policy prevents the island from accessing vital medicines; industrial machinery; school supplies; construction supplies; medical equipment; computer technology; and financial transactions with many international institutions.

## **U.S. Policy Against Cuba Unmasked – The Mallory Memo**

In fact, today, April 6 is the anniversary of the “Mallory memo”, which was issued in 1960, 64 years ago. The “Mallory memo” is a Memorandum that was issued from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (Mallory) to the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (Rubottom) regarding their assessment of Cuba after the revolution. In this memo, Mallory states, “The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support [in Cuba] is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship,” and further explains, “every possible means should be undertaken promptly to weaken the economic life of Cuba. If such a policy is adopted, it should be the result of a positive decision which would call forth 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



*Cuban youth carry the Cuban flag on International Workers' Day in Santiago de Cuba, May 1, 2015.*

and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

This Mallory memo clearly states the objectives of the U.S. government in implementing the cruel and inhuman blockade – essentially to starve the Cuban people into submission and bring about the overthrow of the Cuban revolution.

The U.S. blockade is undermining and violating the self-determination of Cuban people. For over 65 years the people of Cuba have been steadfast in their resistance against the blockade, and the Cuban socialist revolution has brought tremendous gains for people in Cuba, while Cuba's revolutionary internationalism has supported liberation struggles around the world and brought healthcare and literacy those that need it most. Over 80% of Cuba's current population has never experienced life in Cuba without the blockade.

## **The Tightening of the Criminal U.S. Blockade**

Under the U.S. Trump Administration, the U.S. government began to tighten the screws of the blockade against Cuba. The small steps forward taken by U.S. President Obama in 2014 were rolled back, and new restrictions were imposed on travel to Cuba

by U.S. citizens, remittances, and trade with Cuba.

In 2019, the U.S. government re-imposed Title III of the Helms-Burton Act. The Helms Burton Act is a law passed in the U.S. Congress in 1996 that codified and congressionally sanctioned measures of the blockade. Title III of the Helms Burton Act allows the U.S. government to impose penalties on companies in third-countries which trade with Cuba – and re-imposing Title III strengthened the extra-territorial nature of this criminal policy.

U.S. President Biden has not taken any steps to loosen the blockade and the suffering that it imposes on the people of Cuba through collective punishment. Actually, the Biden Administration sickeningly took advantage of the economic hardships brought upon Cuba by the Covid-19 pandemic and the following world economic crisis and increased its attack.

Since January 2021 the U.S. government escalated its genocidal policy by designating Cuba a “state sponsor of terrorism,” and placing Cuba back on the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism” – the SSOT list. The savage brutality of the U.S. blockade was already causing tremendous harm to



Cuba, however, putting Cuba on the SSOT has exacerbated the problems for Cubans caused by the blockade. This is especially true because this policy makes it increasingly difficult for Cuba to be able to trade or have access to the globally dominant U.S. dollar, forcing Cuba to pay far more for items than if it were not on the U.S.'s list of state sponsors of terrorism.

### **We Must Strengthen Our Solidarity with Cuba**

A more united and stronger movement against the U.S. blockade on Cuba and demanding that Cuba is removed from the SSOT list is more needed than ever before.

This must be a political priority for the solidarity movement, for all friends of Cuba around the world, alongside the great heroic Cuban people.

For example, in Vancouver, Canada each month Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver calls on people to join a Car Caravan against the U.S. blockade. This is an international caravan movement that everyone here can organize and join in your own city. Carlos Lazo and Puentes de Amor have truly inspired us in Vancouver and across Canada to continue these actions, and we hope that this movement can continue growing and bringing together the Cuba solidarity movement and Cubans living abroad especially.

In Vancouver, we have also been working on webinars, forums, film showings, conferences, info tabling, poetry and art events, protests, caravans, pickets, and many other actions to bring in new people to the Cuba solidarity movement.

One important way that we have of approaching people about the blockade is through the Cuba is not a "Sponsor of Terrorism, Remove Cuba from Your List!" postcard to U.S. president Biden. This postcard campaign was launched by Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. blockade on Cuba together with New York/New Jersey Cuba Si! This campaign is now also endorsed by IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), Seattle/Cuba Friendship Committee and the European Campaign Unblock Cuba. Thousands of postcards have been shipped to friends of Cuba across the United States and Canada - and have been sent on to the White House. We



*Organizers with Just Peace Advocates, Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO & Fire This Time at the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) Conference in Saint Paul, Minnesota April 7, 2024*

constitutional order...

That is the nature of and those are the purposes pursued by the economic coercion and maximum pressure policy, that is being applied by the current US administration against Cuba."

Following his words, for the 32 consecutive time, the United Nations General Assembly voted with an overwhelming majority to condemn the US blockade on Cuba. 187 countries voted in favor of the resolution against the U.S. blockade, with only the United States and Israel voting against it and Ukraine abstaining.

As the world stands with Cuba, we, especially those of us living in the U.S. and Canada, have the responsibility to build a strong international movement to bring



*Fire This Time delegation in HAVANA, Cuba in front of the Fidel Castro Ruz Centre, February 2024*

working and oppressed people to join us in campaigning against the US blockade of Cuba. We must build our joint work and coordinate all of our efforts to become more effective and robust. This way, we can invite more people, organizations and institutions into our campaign to

encourage everyone here to get involved in this campaign!

### **Building a More United and Stronger Movement Against the Blockade and SSOT**

We must all understand and feel that there is an urgent necessity to end the genocidal U.S. blockade on Cuba and to remove Cuba from the SSOT. On November 2, 2023 Cuba's foreign minister Bruno Rodriguez spoke at the United Nations General Assembly, in New York City. As he said,

"In a vicious way and with a surgical precision, the US is attacking the most sensitive sectors of the economy. It deliberately intends to cause the highest possible damage to Cuban families.

The blockade is an act of economic warfare in times of peace, aimed at annulling the government's capability to attend to the needs of the people, create a situation of ungovernability and destroy the

remove Cuba off the SSOT and end the U.S. blockade on Cuba once and for all.

All political work must be consistent and organized into campaigns to be effective. No political campaign can be effective without consistency. We know that U.S. imperialism is very organized and consistent in its attacks on Cuba, from the blockade to all kinds of destructive and counter revolutionary interference and sabotage in Cuba. This means our response to U.S. aggression must also be serious, consistent, and united to build an effective international movement.

Let us work together to end the U.S. blockade on Cuba Now! Remove Cuba off the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism Now! United, we will win!

# The U.S. Blockade, Shortages, and Protests on March 17 in Cuba



March 19, 2024

A Statement by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)

On Sunday March 17, 2024, in Santiago de Cuba some Cubans protested in the streets demanding electricity and food. Members of local government and the Communist Party of Cuba went to the rally to speak with protestors and address their concerns. This included high ranking officials including, Beatriz Jhonson Urrutia, First Secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba, as well as a member of Cuba's national assembly and the council of State.

While protests in Cuba are uncommon, they are not unheard of. Unfortunately protests in Cuba are often taken out of context by the international media, which try to turn protests on any issue into so-called "anti-government" protests. Unsurprisingly, March 17 was no different. For example, Bloomberg news headline proclaimed, "Communist Cuba Is on the Brink of Collapse." In Europe, Le Monde headlines read, "Cubans' anger at the regime grows as they suffer from shortages." While in Canada, the Toronto Star reported, "In Cuba, hundreds take to the streets in rare protests as economic crisis deepens."

Meanwhile, Brian A. Nichols, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, tweeted, "The United States stands with the Cuban people as they exercise their rights to assemble peacefully. The Cuban government will not be able to meet the needs of its people until it embraces democracy and the rule of law and respects the rights of Cuban citizens."

Mr. Nichols never explains how democracy turns on electricity or provides food to the hungry. He also completely ignores the fact that his government, the United States of America, has had a cruel and inhuman blockade against Cuba for over 60 years now. It is the blockade that is responsible for Cuba facing challenges

to import the resources needed to power the electrical grid and provide staple food items to each Cuban family for free through the Libreta system. Anytime the blockade or other U.S. restrictions have been lessened over the past 60 years life for the average Cuban has improved, as the revolutionary Cuban government works to provide a dignified life for all.

A famous declassified 1960 document from the U.S. government known as the Mallory memorandum, explains the popularity of the Cuban government and expresses that the goal of this blockade is that "in denying money and supplies to Cuba" the U.S. government will be able "to decrease monetary and real wages, to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government." The blockade has never been about democracy or human rights, it is a form of collective punishment against the Cuban people for supporting the revolutionary Cuban government that has stood up for the interests of working and oppressed people. This is unacceptable for the colonial and imperial interests of the United States' government.

Any protests in Cuba should not be used by malicious forces to call for 'regime change' or other interventionist rhetoric against Cuba. We must respect Cuba's right to self-determination and sovereignty. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba knows that the best way to provide for the Cuban people is for the Biden administration to end the criminal blockade against Cuba and remove Cuba from its so-called 'State Sponsors of Terrorism' list.

**LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!**

**Biden, Remove Cuba from your so-called 'State Sponsors of Terrorism' list NOW!**

**VCSC**  
VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES  
IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA  
[www.vancubasolidarity.com](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com)

## POSTCARD CAMPAIGN CUBA IS NOT A SPONSOR OF TERROR!

For more details email  
[NoBloqueoVancouver@gmail.com](mailto:NoBloqueoVancouver@gmail.com)



From (Name):

To: U.S. President Joe Biden,

→ On January 11, 2021, the Trump administration accused Cuba of "repeatedly providing support for acts of international terrorism in granting safe harbor to terrorists". This false accusation was weaponized against Cuba because of Cuba's role in facilitating the internationally recognized Colombian peace accords.

→ Leaving Cuba on the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list is harming the Cuban people.

→ Being on this U.S. government list means a punishing series of sanctions and international financial restrictions on Cuba, which are limiting Cuba's ability to engage in critical financial transactions, not only with the U.S. but also internationally.

→ Leaving Cuba on this list is indefensible, as Cuba works to recover and rebuild its economy after the Covid-19 pandemic, and other challenges – such as the devastating Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Luis.

→ The world community recognizes that Cuba has a long history of providing healthcare and saving lives around the world. Cuba has nothing to do with "sponsoring terrorism".

In signing this postcard, we call on you to remove Cuba from your list immediately. This injustice cannot stand.

Signed,

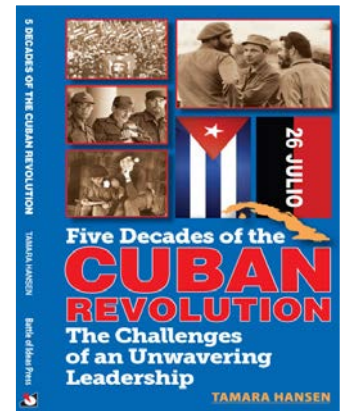
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Add  
correct  
postage  
here

**President Joe Biden  
The White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC  
20500**

## Battle of Ideas Press

**5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution  
The Challenges of an  
Unwavering Leadership**



By Tamara Hansen

Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). She is also an editorial board member of The Fire This Time newspaper. She has travelled to Cuba over a dozen times and has written extensively on Cuban politics since 2003.

April 2010, paperback, \$10.00

314 pages, illustrated,

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details and although the headlines have confused many, last month Palestinian Canadians and human rights lawyers took an important step to launch a lawsuit suing Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly over exports of military equipment to Israel, due to violating Canada's obligations under domestic and international law.

So, as you see, in Canada we still have a big fight ahead of us against the government of Canada participating in the genocide against Palestinians, alongside joining the struggle against U.S. imperialism, which is funding, arming and giving political support to the Zionist apartheid regime of Israel.

Turning towards our united struggle for Palestine and the Palestine solidarity movement, it is no exaggeration to say that today, we are engaged in the most critical struggle for the liberation and self-determination of Palestine in the last 75 years. For 6 months we have witnessed the unstoppable brutality, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinian people in Gaza, and for 6 months we have been part of a consistent and militant worldwide movement that has brought tens of millions of people on to the street, some who have been in solidarity with Palestine for decades, and some who have learnt about Palestine in just the last few months but have been compelled to stand on the side of humanity, and the side of Palestine.

Mass consciousness in favour of humanity has been growing and growing. Observing the fascist acts of genocide of Palestinians by Israel has shocked people worldwide and has moved the hearts and minds of hundreds of millions of people in favour of humanity and Palestinian rights. Slogans and demands have rung through the streets and through our consciousness: demanding ceasefire now; end the genocide; Israel out of Gaza; US/Canada stop arming and financing Israel; reinstate UNRWA funding; free all Palestinian political prisoners; US, Canada, EU – we charge you with genocide; stop bombing Gaza and Rafah; and, Free Free Palestine! These slogans that been repeated every day and every week on the streets around the world, establishes that we are in the midst of an unfolding antiwar and pro-Palestine movement that has a potential to go beyond the Vietnam antiwar movement.

Palestinians are not fighting for their self-determination only - their struggle for freedom and liberation has been radicalizing millions upon millions of

people worldwide, thousands of miles away from Palestine and Gaza. The class struggle in Palestine and Israel has pushed hundreds of millions of working people and oppressed people to the centre of politics. We are clearly witnessing that the worldwide mass movement to support the Palestinian struggle and Palestinian rights is moving to a higher stage of a powerful anti-imperialist movement. Hundreds of millions of people have not only questioned and scrutinized the fascist and genocidal act of Israel but also of the US, Canada, and Europe too. Due to



this, I'd like to borrow a methodology from the Communist Manifesto and apply to today; A spectre is haunting the capitalist and imperialist world – the spectre of an anti-imperialist movement.

It is important that as we are at the stage of needing to reinforce and strengthen our movement, to ensure it keeps gaining momentum and has the leadership and vision to continue as a long-term struggle through a ceasefire and onto the self-determination of Palestine, that we understand the position Palestine holds in the struggle against imperialism in the entire region of West Asia and North Africa, and how we can strengthen our movement through unity and consistency.

We are at the opening of an epoch that

we must take the concept of United Front seriously, and I mean very seriously. We must develop two concepts, Unity in action for Palestine and building a robust anti-imperialist movement, for two objective and subjective reasons:

1- Despite excellent and tireless efforts by antiwar organizations and various Palestinian groups, the mass movement of millions worldwide has remained merely mass spontaneous movement. This is where imperialists try to intervene to confuse the movement with their political maneuvering.

2. The scale of the mass movement worldwide is much bigger than any organization, either antiwar, Palestinians, or the left in general - to sustain the consistency in Palestinian solidarity movement building, on the street, in political direction, and in unified action in the US, Canada, and worldwide. We need coordination, a basic structure and consultation together. We cannot win with only small-scale organization, or move to building an anti-imperialist movement worldwide, without building momentum and connecting with the powerful mass solidarity movement for Palestine. In the final analysis in politics or class struggle, to win is who has the highest number. We have humanity on our side, on the side of Palestine, and our role is to really organize these forces into a mass movement on the streets.

For over 75 years, Palestinians have tried every avenue to assert their right to self-determination, including legal and diplomatic measures. All so-called solutions imposed by imperialists and Israel on Palestinians since 1948, especially the Oslo Accord in 1993, have not brought peace, and really were never intended to provide justice to Palestinians. Instead, as planned they have prolonged and expanded the racist Zionist Israeli occupation and war against Palestine. From October 7, 2023, the defensive military operation of Palestinian resistance fighters from Gaza into Israel effectively ended all deceitful plans in the past, present and future. The time of false promises and distractions is over, there is no going back to the status quo, the tide has turned towards the necessity of Palestinian self-determination and the right to exist as a nation and to form a nation-state, and to dismantle the colonial state of Israel the way it is today – in this struggle today the world is fighting on the side of the Palestinian people!

This struggle for Palestine reaches even beyond the liberation of Palestine against Israeli occupation and extends to a fight

against the new era of war and occupation which has gripped West Asia and North Africa for over 23 years, since the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in 2001. This is why imperialists in the White House, in Ottawa and London are risking so much to continue their support for Israel. The struggle for Palestine is also a fight against imperialism, whose warmongering led by the U.S. with the support of their allies, including Canada, has been causing death and destruction in West Asia, North Africa and beyond. U.S. imperialism and its allies have killed 3 million people with wars and occupations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia. Any words of restraint that the Biden administration says to Israel in their genocide is not out of concern for Palestinian lives, it is just that they are concerned with the killing being too direct, too outright, waking too many people up to the injustices committed by the U.S. government in their support for Israel and risking their ability to continue launching military interventions and imperialist aggression around the world.

Today as we're calling for ceasefire, as we're calling for an end to the brutal Zionist Israeli bombardment against the Palestinian people, we are not only directing this demand to the Israeli regime but also to the United States government and all imperialists. This war is conducted not just by Israel, the United States Government also bears responsibility for their funding, arming and political support for Israel, from its creation in 1948, to the current genocide in Gaza.

Right now Biden, Trudeau, Sunak, all these imperialist heads are maneuvering and desperately trying to justify the genocidal actions of the Israeli Zionist regime, pouring military aid and spinning media lies while the world increasingly sees the truth of Israel's brutality – not even because these

imperialists care about Israel, and most definitely not because they care about Jewish people, many who are also in the streets in the movement for Palestine, but because their interest is keeping their colonial project secure, keeping markets and resources throughout West Asia and North Africa within their hands, while attempting

to keep their populations from also rising up against them at home as the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy of imperialist governments is being laid bare. So, as we struggle for the freedom of Palestine, we are fighting for an end to imperialist hegemony and destruction in all of West Asia and North Africa! The US and all imperialists cannot afford to lose another war after their big defeat in Ukraine and losing ground within the unfolding new cold war.

Despite the claims that Israel needed to be created as a "safe" homeland for Jewish people, there can be no safety when that state is imposed by a genocidal occupation, as has been done on Palestinian land. This



was just a convenient solution for racism in Europe and North America, where historically and today Jewish people face antisemitism, where Jewish people should have the right to live without discrimination. In fact, the safest place historically and today for Jewish people has been in West Asian countries, side by side with their Muslim neighbours! The solution that we are told is complicated is in fact simple. Palestinian's legitimate demand for the right to self-determination must be met, preferably a single democratic state with the fundamental right of one person, one vote, where Palestinian people of any religion can live in together in peace and harmony. It is only the Zionist regime and their imperialist backers that are blocking this only viable solution from becoming a reality. If it this could happen in South Africa, it can happen in the entire land of Palestine today from the river to the sea. No liberation and freedom is possible for Palestinians as long as Zionism stands, which at it's core is colonial and expansionist at the expense of Palestine.

Now more than ever we need unity, we must come together in a united front for Palestine to build this growing movement for a ceasefire in Gaza, and for the self-determination of Palestine. Together in this room and around the world, this is a movement that has the potential and capacity to truly change the world for the better. Together for Palestine, for justice, for an end to wars, occupations, and imperialist aggression, we can and will win!

## NEW PALESTINE POSTCARDS TO BIDEN!



**Send a postcard to U.S. President Biden to demand the U.S. government end their funding, aiding, arming and political clearance to Israel's apartheid regime for war crimes, occupation and genocide against Palestinians.**

**Email [info@mawovancouver.org](mailto:info@mawovancouver.org) for more info and to arrange pickup/delivery**



## May 4-5 Conference in Guantánamo, Cuba for the VIII International Seminar for peace and the abolition of foreign military bases

The Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples and the World Peace Council call for participation in the VIII International Seminar on Peace and for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases.

Once again, this edition will take place in the province of Guantanamo, where there is a US military base against the will of the Cuban people and government, which has illegally occupied 117 square kilometers for 121 years.

In that occupied territory, the United States runs a prison where the human rights of those detained are constantly violated, which constitute an outrage to the sovereignty and independence of Cuba.

Cuba rejects the existence of more than 800 military bases and facilities that the United States owns with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) around the world. Of these, 70 are located in the Latin American and Caribbean region, contradicting the postulates of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, approved during the II CELAC Summit in January 2014.

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# CEASE FIRE NOW!

## HANDS OFF GAZA!

▶ **SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINE!**

▶ **FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!**

▶ **SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!**

▶ **END THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA!**

# MAWO

[WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG](http://WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG)

### Webinar

## THURSDAY MAY 2

12pm Eastern  
9am Pacific

## May 2: Remember the Odessa Massacre



**Featuring:**

**Bruce Gagnon** - Coordinator, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (Maine)

**Joe Lombardo** - Coordinator, United National Antiwar Coalition (New York)

**John Parker** - Leading Member, Socialist Unity Party; Coordinator, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice (California)

**Phil Wilayto** - Coordinator, Odessa Solidarity Campaign; Editor, The Virginia Defender (Virginia)

**Special Presentation by:** a member of the Uhuru 3, leaders and supporters of the African People's Socialist Party

**Moderated By:** Alison Bodine - Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (Vancouver)



REGISTER FOR ZOOM

[odessasolidaritycampaign.wordpress.com](http://odessasolidaritycampaign.wordpress.com)

Sponsored by the Odessa Solidarity Campaign

Endorsed by: Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (Vancouver), Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice (Los Angeles), Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) - Vancouver, Socialist Unity Party, United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality

# HANDS OFF MOHAMMED KHATIB! STAND WITH PALESTINE!

**samidoun**  
PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK



Sign on to support the campaign!  
[samidoun.net](http://samidoun.net)

On April 15, 2024, Nicole De Moor, Belgium's Secretary for Asylum and Migration, announced in a public statement that she was calling on the Belgian immigration agencies to withdraw the refugee status of Mohammed Khatib, the Europe Coordinator for Samidoun. This attack is an attempt to suppress the right for free speech in the struggle for Palestinian liberation. We must unite and stand up against this attack!



# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIONS



**CEASEFIRE NOW! ISRAEL OUT OF GAZA NOW! END THE GENOCIDE NOW!**  
**WEEKLY RALLY FOR PALESTINE!**  
**& Vigil for Aaron Bushnell**



**EVERY Monday 5:00pm**  
**U.S. Consulate**  
 1075 W. Pender St  
 Downtown Vancouver



★ US/Canada Stop Arming Israel! ★  
 ★ Hands Off Rafah! ★ Stop Bombing Gaza! ★  
 ★ Self-Determination for Palestine! ★

**Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO)**  
 Instagram & X: @MAWOVan **WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG**

## Online Picket for Venezuela!

U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!  
 End Sanctions on Venezuela!

**Tuesday, May 28**

@ 4pm Pacific / @7pm Eastern & Caracas

Register now: <http://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla>



## CHANGING TIDES IN WEST ASIA:

Imperialism, Zionism, Palestine,  
 Iran & the Axis of Resistance



**Speaker:**  
 Ali Yerevani, Political  
 Editor of Fire This  
 Time Newspaper &  
 Participant in the 1979  
 Iranian Revolution



**Host:**  
 Janine Solanki,  
 Chair of Mobilization  
 Against War &  
 Occupation - MAWO

### Public Forum:

Multimedia, Speaker & Discussion

**Thursday April 25**

**@ 6:30pm**

**SFU Harbour Centre**  
 515 West Hastings St,  
 Vancouver

Instagram, Twitter / X & TikTok:  
 @MAWOvan

Facebook:  
 @MAWOvancouver

**Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO**  
 Member of Canada-Wide Peace & Justice Network  
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## WEEKLY INFO BOOTH FOR PALESTINE!

★ Ceasefire Now! ★ Israel Out of Gaza Now! ★  
 ★ End the Genocide Now! ★ US/Canada Stop Arming Israel! ★  
 ★ Hands Off Rafah! ★ Self-Determination for Palestine! ★



**EVERY SUNDAY! 12-3pm**

Call for location - 778-881-6156

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## WEEKLY BANNER DROPS FOR PALESTINE!

★ Ceasefire Now! ★ Israel Out of Gaza Now! ★  
 ★ End the Genocide Now! ★ US/Canada Stop Arming Israel! ★  
 ★ Hands Off Rafah! ★ Self-Determination for Palestine! ★



**EVERY FRIDAY!**

**4:30pm**

Call for location - 778-881-6156

Join every Friday!

Call for location: 778-881-6156

**Mobilization Against War and Occupation - MAWO**  
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## Vancouver Car Caravan for Cuba!

**LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!**  
 President Biden take Cuba off the "State  
 Sponsors of Terrorism" List!

**Sundays, April 28 & May 26**  
**12pm Pacific**

For location call: 604.780.4029

Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver

**WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG**

