

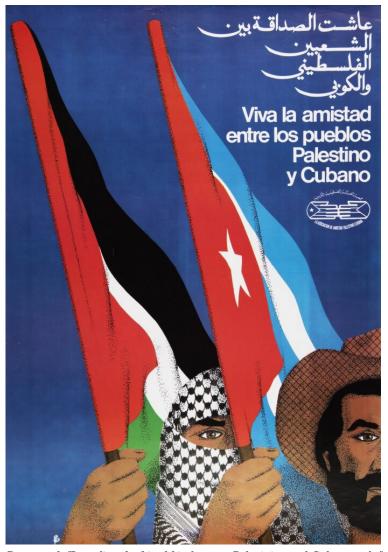
FIRE THIS TIME

Revolutionary Voices

August-September 2024

IT IS TIME TO MOVE BEYOND DIAGNOSES & INTO ACTION

Exerpts from the speech delivered by Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel at the closing of the 3rd Ordinary Period of Sessions of the National Assembly of People's Power in its 10th Legislature, at the Convention Palace, on July 19, 2024, "Year 66 of the Revolution".



Poster reads "Long live the friendship between Palestinian and Cuban peoples" issued by the Palestinian-Cuban Friendship Society (PCFS) in 1990.

During these days we have discussed and agreed on various issues, all very sensitive for the Cuban nation. I insist that it is now up to us to change what must be changed and to move forward on the path we embarked on 65 years ago to emancipate ourselves by ourselves and with our own efforts, according to the concept of Revolution bequeathed to us by Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz.

We will never accept as valid the masquerade of democracy that is exhibited in the showcases of the empire, where candidates are evaluated by the amount of money they manage to raise and, instead of proposing real changes to the great problems of their country, each one tries to defeat his adversary with disqualifications and insults.

Every day we face enormous

obstacles to the dreams and projects of social justice, aware that it is our responsibility as a socialist State to "challenge powerful dominant forces within and outside the social and national sphere," according to another fundamental idea of the concept of Revolution.

The moment is undoubtedly very difficult. The people say so and those of us who work to alleviate the impact of these difficulties in the daily life of all of us ratify it. But the Revolution lives and its enemies know it. That is why they harass and attack it.

The Revolution is being strongly challenged to revolutionize itself and it is doing so. We are doing it together, as a team, because no other formula is possible (Applause).

Fidel is no longer physically here, it is painfully true, but his ideas and his legacy remain. And there is Raúl and part of the Historic Generation, with their foot in the stirrup, educating and stimulating those of us who today fulfill the honorable task of giving continuity to the Revolution, to remind us that in the midst of the greatest challenges, Cuba managed to achieve some of the best indicators of human development.

It is not unity in slogans or unanimity. Uncritical coincidences on the

Continued on page 3



CUBA CONDEMNS ISRAELI **GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE**



Jose Marti Memorial in Havana, Cuba illuminated with the flags of Cuba and Palestine

The International Relations Commission of the National Assembly of Popular Power (ANPP, Parliament) of Cuba condemned the brutal Israeli aggression and genocide against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip.

This parliamentary structure, which met at the Palacio de Convenciones in the capital, prior to the third session of the ANPP in its x legislature, ratified "in the strongest terms" the condemnation of the occupying power, Israel, for the murder of tens of thousands of innocent civilians.

Likewise, the Commission joins the international condemnation of the destruction of hospitals, schools, mosques, among other Palestinian infrastructures, in clear violation of international humanitarian law, the statement assured.

The parliamentary body also rejected the historic complicity of the United States of America in repeatedly using its veto power to prevent the implementation of a ceasefire to stop the deaths of innocent civilians.

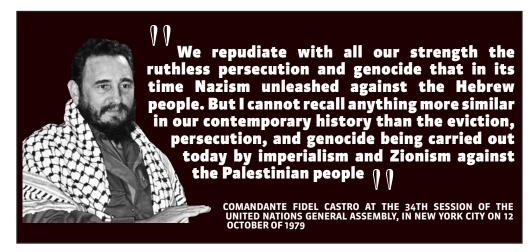
The appeal supports the decision of the Government of Cuba to participate as a third state in the case brought by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice, and also calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

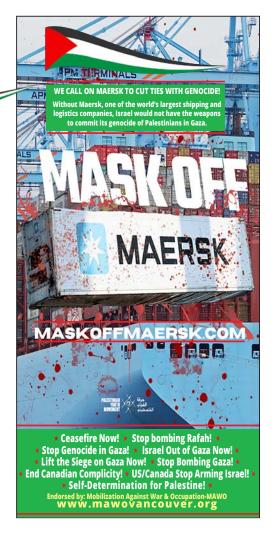
The cessation of hostilities would put an end to the genocide being perpetrated against the Palestinian people and would allow the urgent entry of aid to address the serious humanitarian crisis being suffered by the inhabitants of Gaza, the Cuban legislators

The ANPP CRI reaffirms Cuba's historic position in favor of a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, support for the just cause of the Palestinian people and their right to an independent and sovereign state with the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the return of refugees to their lands.

The appeal also demands that the state of Palestine be guaranteed full membership in the United Nations without further delay.

Source: Prensa Latina





PALESTINE POSTCARDS TO **BIDEN!**



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

Email info@mawovancouver.org for more info and to arrange pickup/delivery

most pressing issues do not help.

It is unity from optimistic participation. It is the commitment acting in function of a purpose and an ideal: to save the homeland, to maintain and develop the Revolution and socialism, the only guarantee of preservation and deepening of social justice that this people conquered in more than 150 years of struggle and to which it will never renounce.

The debate is legitimate and the confrontation of ideas that we will always be provoking is healthy and useful. No one doubts that the best decisions and the best contributions will be born from them, dictated by the desire to overcome mistakes, overcome difficulties and move forward.

Cuba lives, works, resists and creates under the silent bombs of a war whose main objective is economic activity. The objective is to surrender the people through hunger and need, under the weight of the criminal policy that was outlined in broad strokes in the famous Mallory Memorandum in 1960 and which in these six decades has only escalated in aggressiveness.

Looking for historical antecedents will be more difficult than answering these questions, because there is no other government subjected to a war of the same nature, so prolonged and propped up by laws of another country that gravitate over the entire economy, such as the Torricelli and Helms-Burton, elaborated with the declared purpose of changing Cuba's political regime.

The Government of the United States and extremist sectors of the counterrevolution, in their media offensive, stimulate criminal and vandalistic acts, in an attempt to create a scenario of insecurity in favor of their destabilizing purposes.

The primacy of a single power dictating its will to the rest of the planet is already a dream of the past and attempts to revive

lead to dangerous dead ends. This is what happens when we try to divide the world into two options: sovereignty or submission. This philosophy rewards and encourages those who submit to the pattern set by imperialism, while those nations that defend their rights to development in a balanced world are harassed, punished and blocked.

Diplomacy is constantly disregarded as a means of resolving serious conflicts in a timely manner. It is more than paradoxical, it is outrageous, to see one important international event and high-level meetings, of different kinds and in different parts of the world taking place, at the same time as the heinous crime of genocide against the Palestinian people, in full view of the world.

From the space that corresponds to us as



citizens, we must act with care, discipline and a rigor that makes sustainable all that we lack on the road to well-being, to guarantee life projects and prosperity for the wonderful youth that we have. Photo: José Manuel

It is an affront to human dignity that while millions of people in all parts of the world are mobilizing against this new holocaust, the so-called international community, which represents these millions of citizens of the world in global bodies, is incapable of putting a stop to this massacre, only because the genocidaires have the support and complicity of the government of the United States and of other powerful governments allied to Zionism.

Here I pause to share with you ideas that I consider valuable. To do this, I am taking extracts from a recent reflection on cultural colonization and education by the young Vice-President of the Casa de las Américas, Jaime Gómez Triana: "Cultural colonization is a phenomenon that requires constant reflection and that affects the whole of humanity, but which particularly affects



the peoples of the Global South, who are subjected to an incessant avalanche of pseudo-cultural products that seek to impose and normalize a model of society that is based on individualism, trivialization, the cult of the trivial, carpe diem, to use Horatio's famous phrase, 'live for the moment' and 'give minimal credit to the future'... The relation between school and cultural decolonization is truly crucial and needs to be analyzed in depth, systematically, in order to generate the necessary antidotes to counteract the poison of individualism, which we see today associated with retrograde, intolerant, totalitarian and, let us say it shamelessly, neo-fascist expressions."

Why did I choose this reflection, which seems so far removed from the harsh economic reality we are currently facing? Because the day we forget that the conscience of the citizenry is the fundamental support of a socialist society, which seeks above all the spiritual wealth of the individual, we will be betraying José Martí, Fidel, Raúl, Che Guevara and all those who, 71 years ago, gave up every penny of their savings and went to fight or die against the walls of the military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista to build a humanly superior destiny for Cuba (applause).

As part of this effort, we are holding a new edition of the Colloquium "Patria" in Havana, a space for dialogue and reflection between activists, communicators, intellectuals and, in general, people concerned about the dangerous advance of cultural colonization, the power of the communication and information monopolies and the re-emergence of fascist and neo-fascist currents that are spreading strongly and in full view of everyone.

The cruel and mendacious plan of the United States to discredit Cuban medical services is open, notorious and contrary to the solidarity and cooperative nature of these services, even threatening sovereign governments that benefit from them. Lies and campaigns to promote them are methods that are

inseparable from imperialism. The most scandalous example is that Cuba remains on the State Department's list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism, where we should never have been. We are indeed victims of terrorism, but those who support its perpetrators and reward them with impunity dare not make such a list.

The U.S. government knows, its intelligence services can confirm, and the whole world recognizes that Cuba does not sponsor terrorism, that this slander is a totally dishonest fabrication, designed to reinforce the economic blockade and to hit the living standards of the Cuban people even harder.

Cuba has denounced the constant attempts to generate violence in Venezuela and the acts of interference in its internal affairs, which have not succeeded in defeating the Bolivarian Revolution. As proof of this strength, we predict a victory for Nicolás Maduro in the forthcoming presidential elections (applause).

We have maintained our firm position in defense of peace in Colombia, in our capacity as guarantor of the peace processes with the National Liberation Army and the Segunda Marquetalia armed rebel group, and in monitoring compliance with the agreement with the FARC-EP.

From Cuba, we continue to promote solidarity and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. We defend strict compliance with the principle of non-intervention, direct or

indirect, in the internal affairs of other states, but we unconditionally support progressive governments that can reverse centuries of injustice in the region.

The Fidelist philosophy of faith in the people, which is faith in the multiplied genius of all of us, has not lost its validity: as we have said before, none of us alone knows or learns more than all of us together.

The day we close our faces to the urgencies and pains of others, the day we forget that it will always be the other who saves us, that day will be the day that the humanism of a Revolution born to dignify the human being, a Revolution made by putting the "we" above the natural selfishness of the "I", will be in danger.

As Commander-in-Chief Fidel Castro Ruz once said, in difficult times there are those who get confused, those who get discouraged, those who get intimidated, those who get soft, those who betray, those who desert. Fidel said that this happens in all times and in all revolutions, but he also said that it is in difficult times that men and women are really tested (applause). With the unbeatable power of his words, he told us that difficult times are the best measure of each one of us.

Our spirit is so trained that this resistance ignores immobility, endures advancing: the Cuban way is intelligent resistance, it creates against the tide. We speak of not conforming, of continuing to draw horizons, of continuing to do without listening to the voices of despair. The Cuban way is to reinvent ourselves every day in the art of the possible and to prove that, as Fidel taught us, it is worth living and fighting! (Applause)

This generation, committed to the continuity of the Revolution of the humble, by the humble and for the humble, will fight so that we can all achieve, sooner rather than later, a dignified and inclusive prosperity where no citizen is left unprotected. This is what we are working for!

Homeland or Death! Socialism or Death! We will win!

We strongly encourage you to read the full speech Scan to read



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Hey President Biden, **CUBA IS NOT A** 'SPONSOR OF TERRORISM'! REMOVE CUBA FROM YOUR LIST!

President Joe Biden

The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC

Parliamentary Petition to the Government of Canada Against the U.S. Blockade on Cubal



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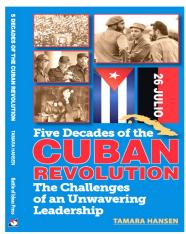
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Battle of Ideas Press

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.

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WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM Venezuela Re-elects President Maduro:

A Huge Victory for the Working Class!



On July 28, 2024, Venezuela held Presidential elections. In an atmosphere of peace, tranquillity and celebration, President Nicolas Maduro was re-elected, as the people of Venezuela once again voted to continue the Bolivarian revolutionary process that began with Hugo Chavez's election in 1998.

In total, 12.3 million people voted in an electoral contest with 10 candidates, including the current President of Venezuela, Nicolas Maduro, and a 60% voter turnout. Just after midnight, in the early hours of July 29, the National Electoral Council of Venezuela (CNE) announced that President Maduro has been re-elected as the President of Venezuela, with 80% of the votes counted. By August 3, 96.87% of the votes had been counted, and the CNE reaffirmed that President Maduro was re-elected with 51.95% of the vote (6.4 million votes). The leading right-wing opposition candidate Edmundo González came in second and received 43.18% of the vote (5.3 million

A Perspective from an International Observer

As an international election observer, I had the opportunity to get a glimpse into Venezuela's participatory democracy in action - including in the days leading up to, and following, the election. I was one of more than 930 international observers from over 100 countries, alongside 1,300 accredited media representatives who had been invited to Venezuela to observe the Presidential elections. In the days leading up to the election, we learned in detail about how the electoral system is recognized worldwide for its transparency, reliability, accessibility, and robust security guarantees.

Since the moment that the victory of President Maduro was announced by the CNE, major Western media and the U.S. State Department have unleashed an onslaught of misinformation, disinformation, and brutal attacks on the Bolivarian Revolution process and democratically elected President Maduro. As the right-wing opposition in Venezuela appears on prime-time news media in Venezuela and worldwide with their cries of "fraud" while fomenting a violent attempted coup, the voices of the majority of people in Venezuela, who re-elected President Maduro, are silenced on the international stage.



The Right-Wing, U.S. Sanctions and The Attempted Coup

The U.S. government and their imperialist allies do not care about democracy or the legitimacy of elections in Venezuela one bit. Their primary interest is overthrowing the government of Venezuela and reversing the gains of the Bolivarian revolutionary process. This is evidenced by the brutal and deadly sanctions and blockade that these countries have imposed on the people of Venezuela. Through over 930 measures, the U.S. government is attempting







Photos top to bottom: (1) Alison at the official press conference by the CNE to review the results of the Venezuelan Election, (2) Voters checking their names on list outside of voting stations in Venezuela, (3) voter peacefully exercising her right to vote. Caracas, Venezuela

to strangle the economy of Venezuela and starve the people of Venezuela until they rise up and overthrow the democratically elected government of Venezuela or, in this case, until they vote in favour of the U.S.-backed candidate.

In response to the attempted supporters President Maduro and the Bolivarian revolutionary process in Venezuela took to the streets to defend Venezuela's sovereignty, selfdetermination and democratic vote. By the millions, over many days and across country, Venezuelans mobilized - taking back their country from right-wing thugs and peacefully crushing counter-revolutionary opposition's call for more violence in the streets. These rallies were not shown on the nightly news in North America, which instead chose to distort reality and play clips of opposition-led rallies that were many times smaller.

Since the July 28 Presidential election, the people of Venezuela, led by democratically elected President Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), have shown they are enormously capable of dealing with all kinds of external intervention in their internal affairs, as well as internal counter-revolutionary sabotage and attacks.

The United States has no jurisdiction over the election in Venezuela. The U.S. and their imperialist allies are not the arbiters of voting and democracy – these murderous war-mongering governments do not have the legal, let alone the moral, authority. The people of Venezuela who re-elected President Maduro know this very well. As people in the U.S. and Canada, we have the responsibility to redouble our efforts to make this known and understood by poor, working and oppressed people here in North America.

U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!

The U.S.-led campaign to delegitimize Venezuela's July 28 election and foment a coup in Venezuela is just the latest in a series of brutal attacks. For over 25 years since the Bolivarian revolutionary process

began, the U.S., Canada, EU and their right-wing allies in Latin America have battered Venezuela with attempted coups, economic sabotage, criminal sanctions, violence and outright violations of laws, constitution and sovereignty of Venezuela.

In the face of these intensifying attacks, a more united and stronger movement in solidarity with Venezuela is needed across the U.S. and Canada. We must redouble our efforts to organize and mobilize poor, working and oppressed people in the U.S. and Canada in a united front for Venezuela and take action under to demand:

U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!

End the sanctions and blockade against Venezuela!

Respect the results of Venezuela's Democratic 2024 Presidential election!

Scan to read the full article

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Battle of Ideas Press

Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela



By Alison Bodine

Writer and researcher on Venezuela. She is a member of the Fire This Time Newspaper Editorial Board and is the coordinator of the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign. Alison Bodine is an electrical designer based in Vancouver, Canada.

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Venezuelan youth, comunes, and social movement activists mobilized for several days between Aug 5 & Aug 8 in support of President Nicolás Maduro and against the right-wing opposition's violence aimed at destabilizing the country.





Worldwide United Front to Build an Effective Mass Movement in Solidarity with Palestine

By Janine Solanki

For over 100 years, Palestinians have been struggling for freedom and the liberation of their homeland, and today, the struggle has intensified to fight Zionist Israel's brutal genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. For over 20 years, Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) has organized in solidarity with Palestine and demanded self-determination for Palestine as a fundamental right of an oppressed nation, as well as the right of return and the freedom of all Palestinian prisoners.

In the critical time for the Palestinian struggle, since the October 7, 2023 Palestinian military operation against Israel, MAWO has been consistently mobilizing, educating and organizing to demand ceasefire in Gaza, to end Israel's siege of Gaza and for U.S. imperialists to stop participating, arming, funding and politically supporting Israel. During this critical period, MAWO has organized over 100 events in solidarity with Palestine, including MAWO's weekly banner drops for Palestine, weekly picket actions for Palestine in front of the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, weekly info booths for Palestine, and public forums. MAWO has also increased public education for Palestine with regular statements, newsletters and other literature against the genocide in Gaza and Palestine, and has collected over 1000 signed postcards demanding 'Ceasefire Now' to send to U.S. President Biden, as well as distributing thousands of Palestine buttons and MAWO Newsletters.

Zionist Israel, backed by U.S. imperialists, has continuously committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and a holocaust against the Palestinians. Zionist forces have targeted Gaza's healthcare system and have killed over 885 health and aid workers, and destroyed 34 hospitals and 80 healthcare centers. Israel





continues to target and bomb schools, where many of Gaza's over 2 million displaced people are sheltering. Zionist Israel has now damaged or destroyed 454 educational facilities, including all of Gaza's universities.

Those who are reporting the reality of this genocide to the world are also targets, and over 168 journalists in Gaza have been killed by Zionist forces. The death toll has risen in Gaza, with over 40,000 killed by official numbers, although the Lancet Medical Journal estimates the death toll will exceed 186,000 Palestinians in the ongoing genocide. Children are also in the crosshairs of Israeli genocidal forces – over 16,456 children have been killed, at least 36 due to Israel's imposed famine.

While Zionist Israel is carrying out these atrocities, on August 9, the U.S. Department of State announced sending an additional \$3.5 billion of military aid to Israel, and a day later announced another \$20 billion. Israel is not acting alone. This genocide is the result of the U.S. war on Gaza and Palestine, executed by Israel and supported by the entire NATO. The Liberal government of Canada is also

complicit in the genocide in Gaza. Canada is selling arms directly and indirectly to Israel.

Worldwide, working oppressed people and all humanloving people must join in the streets to demand an immediate ceasefire, end the genocide, and the immediate withdrawal of Israel from Gaza. We need a united front to build a robust and effective mass movement worldwide for the selfdetermination of Palestine and to end the war.

www.mawovancouver.org

UPCOMING MAWO ACTIONS IN VANCOUVER



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ISRAEL OUT OF GAZA NOW! END THE SIEGE ON GAZA! STOP ARMING ISRAEL NOW! **SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINE!**





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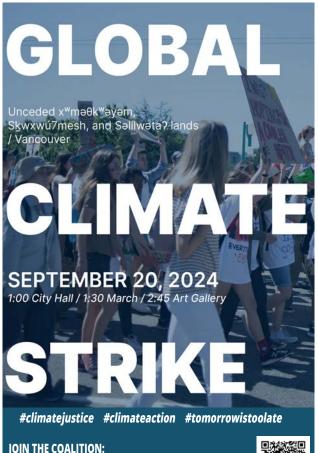
* Ceasefire Now! * Israel Out of Gaza Now! * * End the Genocide Now! * US/Canada Stop Arming Israel! * * Hands Off Rafah! * Self-Determination for Palestine! *



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIONS





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Join the Climate Strike!

Moving the needle on climate action is now more important than ever. And it's what the people want!

We need to stop polluting our air and water with oil and gas. We need to reduce our energy demand and power our lives with clean, cheap energy. We need to stabilize our economy with good, green jobs. We need to be safe, secure, and healthy from weather extremes and scarcity. Only then, can we leave a legacy that makes future generations proud.

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- 1:00pm: We gather at Vancouver City Hall
- 1:30pm: We march (with musical performances)
- 2:45pm: We make community at Vancouver Art Gallery (with music and entertainment)

In joining us, you will join millions of people around the world who will take to the streets as world leaders gather at the UN in New York.

Organized by the Vancouver Climate Strike Coalition

Get in touch: vanclimatestrike@gmail.com bit.ly/vanclimatestrike



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Veterans for Peace Golden Rule Project, Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War - Canada (IPPNW), Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast, Protect the Planet, Conscience Canada, Greenpeace Canada



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JANINE SOLANKI Chair of Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), editorial board men of Fire This Time Newspaper.

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