

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



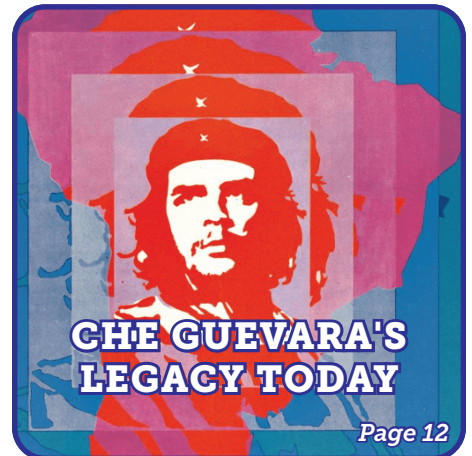
# Fire This Time!



Page 24

**CANADA MUST STOP  
DISCRIMINATING  
AGAINST INDIGENOUS  
CHILDREN**

Page 4



Page 12

**"SONIC ATTACKS" IN CUBA: FACT OR FICTION?**

Page 10

**LA LUCHA CONTRA  
EL NEOLIBERALISMO EN CHILE**



Page 8

**U.S. HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!**



Page 18 & 22

**STOP THE WAR ON YEMEN**

Page 2



Page 6





# STOP GENOCIDE IN YEMEN! U.S. & SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!



*By Azza Rojbi*

“The war destroyed our dreams and [our] future” this was how Yemeni mother Adeeyah described the war in her country in the recently released report by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) on the humanitarian situation in Yemen. According to the report, “at the current rate of decline, it will take 20 years to return Yemen to pre-crisis levels of child hunger.”

Millions of Yemenis share Adeeyah’s experience. The war on Yemen has shredded the country into pieces and turned Yemen into the world’s worst humanitarian crisis. A report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assessed the impact of the war on Yemen and gave a picture of the dire humanitarian crisis in the country. The report warned that by the end of 2019, the total number of dead will reach 233,000 “with 102,000 combat deaths and 131,000 indirect deaths due to lack of food, health services and infrastructure.” Devastatingly, 60% of these deaths are children under the age of five.

Those who are fortunate to survive the Saudi-led war on their country, must then face disease, famine, violence, displacement and deteriorating life conditions. According to the UN, 40% of the Yemeni population lives in extreme poverty.

## **The U.S./Saudi War on Yemen Continues**

These grim statistics show the hardships lived by the Yemeni people as the war is in its 5th year. The Saudi-led coalition, with the full support of the United States, started its bombing campaign

against Yemen in March 2015. Throughout these years the Saudi-led coalition justified its war by renaming its campaign; giving several pretexts for continuing it; and arrogantly claiming to have the interest of the Yemeni people and the region in mind. Despite being one of the most militarized nations in the world, Saudi Arabia, supported by the U.S. and other imperialist countries – such as France, the UK, and Canada – has failed to achieve any of their so-called goals in Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition is far from declaring any victory in Yemen. All they have achieved is death, destruction, and more destabilization in Yemen and the region.

Faced with a steadfast Yemeni resistance and a growing international opposition to the war – as well as the devastating damage by Yemen’s armed forces’ drone attack at Saudi’s Aramco oil refinery in Saudi Arabia on September 2019 – Saudi Arabia’s ruling elites are having to rethink their losing and cruel war on Yemen.



**Yemeni school girls in a demonstration against the Saudi war on Yemen marking the World Children’s Day outside the United Nations offices in Sanaa, Yemen, Nov. 20, 2019**

On November 22, 2019, the UN Yemen envoy Martin Griffiths told the UN Security Council that “In the last two weeks, the rate of that war has dramatically reduced: there were reportedly almost 80% fewer airstrikes nation-wide than in the two weeks prior.” While the bombing and military intervention in Yemen might seem lower, the war on the people of Yemen is still very much in full force.

According to the UN, 80% of the population in Yemen needs humanitarian assistance. The bombing destroyed schools, homes, hospitals,

water and sanitation systems, roads and countless other vital parts of infrastructure in the country. Added to that, the U.S. and Saudi-led coalition have been imposing a sea, land, and air blockade on Yemen, creating extreme shortages of food, fuel, and medicine. This is severely impacting the country’s access to commercial imports and humanitarian aid. As long as the Saudi-led coalition continues its brutal sanctions and blockade on Yemen, the suffering of the Yemeni people will continue.

Is there fundamentally any difference between death from bombing or starvation? There can’t be real peace in Yemen without a full lifting of the blockade; a full opening of ports and the Sana’a airport; and an end to all sanctions and restrictions on Yemen’s access to humanitarian and commercial goods.

## **Canada’s hypocrisy on Yemen**

Since the start of the war on Yemen in 2015, the Canadian government has been selling weapons and military goods to Saudi Arabia. Canada exported over \$2 billion of military goods to the kingdom between 2015-2018 according to Canada’s annual “Report on the Export of Military Goods.” According to the same reports, Canada’s military exports to Saudi Arabia have increased yearly since 2015, and Saudi Arabia was “the largest non-U.S. export destination” of Canadian military goods in 2016, 2017, and 2018. These exports include rifles & carbines, armoured combat vehicles, artillery systems and heavy machine guns. In addition, in 2016 the Trudeau government has also approved a \$15 billion deal to supply Saudi Arabia with Light-Armoured Vehicles (LAVs)



equipped with heavy guns and cannon.

Several reports, articles, and video footage have been released over the years showing Canadian-made LAVs, being used by Saudi forces and their mercenaries. The most recent videos and photos from September 2019, showed damaged and destroyed Canadian-made LAVs after Saudi forces lost a battle to Yemen's Houthi forces along the Saudi-Yemen border.

The Canadian government continues to turn a blind eye to the clear evidence. In fact, a September 17, 2019, memo by Global Affairs Canada on the department's review of military exports to Saudi Arabia has concluded that: "While the overall Saudi human rights record is [REDACTED] problematic, Canadian officials have no information or evidence

linking Canadian exports of military equipment or other controlled items to any human rights violations committed by the Saudi government."

The memo continues, "any Canadian-made vehicles on the KSA-Yemen border are not the LAVs currently being exported by GDLS-C, but older vehicles that were shipped under contracts dating back to the early 1990s." On the same day that Global Affairs published this memo – September

17, 2019 – Canada officially joined the global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The hypocrisy of the Canadian government is incredible!

### United to Defend Yemen

#KefayaWar ("enough war" in Arabic), has been the demand of the Yemeni people since the start of the atrocious war. They are continuing to resist against the vicious and criminal Saudi-led war and aggression on their country. They are continuing to

share their stories and their struggles with the world, they dream of peace and a better future for themselves and their country.

The war has only brought divisions, poverty, death and destruction to the country. Yemenis deserve to live in peace without any foreign intervention in their country. The U.S./Saudi-led war on Yemen needs to completely end and the blockade on the country must be fully lifted to allow for humanitarian and commercial goods to reach people in need.

As antiwar and peace-loving people in Canada, the United States, the U.K and other imperialist countries it is important to continue to oppose by demonstrating, mobilizing and protesting against our respective governments' complicity and continued participation in the criminal war in Yemen.

US/Canada/France/UK Out of Yemen, the Middle East & North Africa!

Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza\_R14

**Battle of Ideas Press**

**Upcoming Book Release**

**U.S. & SAUDI WAR ON THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN**

By Azza Rojbi

Azza Rojbi is a Tunisian anti-war and social justice organizer based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. She is an executive member of Vancouver's anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) and a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper.

WWW.BATTLEOFIDEAPRESS.COM  
INFO@BATTLEOFIDEAPRESS.COM

## Open Letter to CLC President Hassan Yussuff on labour opposition to Canada-Saudi arms deal

Dear Brother Yussuff:

Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners are waging war in Yemen. The war has plunged the country into what the United Nations (UN) calls "the world's worst humanitarian crisis."

Canada is complicit in the war in Yemen. The export of Canadian-made light armoured vehicles (LAVs) to Saudi Arabia, an approximately \$15-billion contract originally signed by the Conservative government of Stephen Harper, is now proceeding under export permits approved by the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau.

In April 2016, the Canadian Labour Congress endorsed an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which expressed profound concerns about the issuance of export permits for Canada's arms deal with Saudi Arabia, "despite flagrant incompatibilities of this contract with the human rights safeguards of our export controls." The letter urged Prime Minister Trudeau to rescind this "immoral and unethical" decision.

Since then, the silence of the CLC has been deafening.

On this issue, Canada's labour movement is uniquely situated to bring pressure to bear on the Liberal government. While Amnesty International, Oxfam Canada, and other civil society organizations have called for the cancellation of the arms deal, it is unionized Canadian workers—in manufacturing plants, on railways, and in

ports—who have the power to stop the production and shipment of weapons of war to the Saudi regime.

In December 2018 members of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 273 courageously refused to cross a picket line at the Port of Saint John, where peace activists had assembled to protest the arrival of the Bahri Yanbu, a Saudi cargo ship scheduled to transport Canadian-made LAVs to their destination in Saudi Arabia. And in the past few weeks, union dockworkers in the Italian Port of Genoa and the French Port of Marseilles Fos made international headlines when they refused to move, load, or help ship military cargo destined for Saudi Arabia.

Brother Yussuff, we call on the CLC to demand Prime Minister Trudeau immediately cancel the Government of Canada's arms deal with Saudi Arabia, and further, we call on the CLC to declare military goods destined for Saudi Arabia as "hot cargo" and use its considerable resources to coordinate labour movement opposition to this arms deal. Yemen can't wait.

**Above is an excerpt from the letter. Scan the QR code to read the full letter and add your name to the list of signers**



**SCAN TO SIGN**



# GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CONTINUES DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT OF INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

By *Tamara Hansen*

For 12 years now the government of Canada – first under Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and now under Liberal Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – has been fighting to defend its policy of systemically underfunding on-reserve First Nations children living in government care. How do we even know about this systemic underfunding? It is due to the courageous work of Cindy Blackstock, a Gitksan activist for child welfare and the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. She is the one who has been leading the fight against the government of Canada and working to hold its hypocritical feet to the fire.

In 2016, the Canadian Human Rights tribunal found that the federal government has been discriminating against First Nations children on reserves who are in government care. This amounts to discrimination against 165,000 children based solely on their race and should have been easily corrected in the following annual budget, but instead the government is spending taxpayer dollars fighting to defend this injustice.

An article from Canada Press explains some of the recent work of Cindy Blackstock and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. Journalist Kelly Geraldine Malone writes, “[Blackstock] was involved in a multi-year challenge that led to a Canadian Human Rights tribunal ruling that the federal government ‘wilfully and recklessly’ discriminated against Indigenous children on reserves. The tribunal ordered the government to financially compensate First Nations families torn apart by children being inappropriately placed in foster care.” In the article Cindy Blackstock is quoted

as saying, “it was like pulling tooth and nail to get them to the point that we have them now and they are continuing to fight against the tribunal’s compensation order.”

In September 2019, the Canadian Human Rights tribunal issued its 8th non-compliance order regarding compensation for First Nations children and their families who were negatively impacted by Canada’s discriminatory practices. The tribunal ordered Canada’s Federal government to pay \$40,000 to each First Nations child affected by the on-reserve child welfare system since 2006. According to CBC News, the tribunal also ordered the government, the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society, and the Assembly of First Nations, “to negotiate a method for dealing with the mechanics of the compensation and present it by Dec. 10.” Rather than acting swiftly to rectify this injustice, the government complained that the tribunal order could cost up to \$8 billion. They then filed with the Federal Court of Canada asking for a judicial review of the decision and for a pause so they would not have to meet the December 10 deadline.

This led to a hearing with the Federal Court of Canada at the end of November.

On November 29, 2019, the Federal Court of Canada handed down a decision which approved the judicial review of the case but denied the motion to pause the December 10 deadline.

We must ask why would a government who claims it is committed to “truth and reconciliation” with Indigenous people want to pause an order which would force them to reconcile an injustice against First Nations children in care, some of the most



**Sign at the Toronto Idle No More protest, December 2017**

vulnerable children in Canada today?

According to CBC News, the government of Canada argued in its filings to the Federal Court that the Canadian Human Rights tribunal order, “was an overreach and that the original case was about systemic discrimination, which required a systemic fix, not individual compensation, which is the purview of class action law.” But really if you believe in equality for all children, the government is responsible to do both! Fix the systemic problem and provide compensation to those who have been discriminated against. However, this claim that they even want a systemic fix is not backed up by their track record. Their record instead demonstrates that in every annual Liberal budget they have not increased funding to sufficiently deal with systemic inequality.

In fact, Trudeau’s first budget was in 2016, and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal order for \$40,000 in compensation for First Nations children (along with their parent or grandparent) is in relation to a lack of services between December 2007 and November 2017. This means the tribunal recognizes the first two budgets of the Trudeau government as being wholly insufficient. However, the 2018 and 2019 budgets were also criticized by Cindy Blackstock. While the 2018 budget promised funding for First Nations child welfare would rise to about \$1.1 billion a year over the next five years (CBC) and the 2019 budget promised \$1.2 billion towards Jordan’s Principle over the next three years (APTN) – Cindy Blackstock was cautious in her optimism explaining to Aboriginal Peoples’ Television Network (APTN) regarding the 2019 budget, “I think that’s an important piece, to make sure children and families receive the supports that they deserved for so long. [...] So that’s positive but, it doesn’t include funding for children who will become eligible under S-3, or



**Maclean's magazine cover, April 2019**



**Cindy Blackstock, member of the Gitksan First Nation & Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada with the "Spirit Bear" representing the the Caring Society's "Spirit Bear Plan to End Inequalities in Public Services for First Nations Children, Youth and Families". The plan calls on the federal government to fully comply with all Tribunal rulings.**

any kind of population growth." According to APTN, S-3 is a status for

Indigenous children whose parents do not have "Indian Status" with the government of Canada but can prove Indigenous ancestry. What Blackstock is explaining is that even though \$1.2 billion sounds like a fair amount of money, the budget is for the bare minimum number of youths that will need help. It will not stretch to cover new youth expected to enter the system under S-3 or any population growth. How is that possible for a government that claims it is looking for a "systemic fix"?

Since Canada became a country in 1867, it has systemically discriminated against Indigenous people, violated their human rights, ignored treaty obligations, and illegally stolen land. The government and super-wealthy of Canada have built their wealth by exploiting the lands and resources and marginalizing and oppressing Indigenous people. While to some this sounds like history from long ago, this process continues today, and the case of Indigenous children in government care is but one small example.

For over a decade the government of

Canada has fought Cindy Blackstock in court in order to avoid having to pay equally for Indigenous children in government care. Let it be noted, that the government care system is already broken, with a bad reputation for the treatment of children. This system needs much more funding and resources for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

However, what this case shows us is how comfortable the ruling capitalist class in Canada is with continuing to create an unequal playing field for Indigenous children; how acceptable it is for them to provide Indigenous children with substandard services; how everything for the government comes down to dollars and cents and not human rights and needs. These are the fundamental issues that must be addressed if we want to talk about "truth and reconciliation." While the government claims to want a "systemic fix" it continues to perpetrate the same discrimination year after year, budget after budget. Their words are empty promises and their plan is a continuation of Canada's colonial legacy.

Indigenous communities and nations need to be able to determine their own future. Of course, when the money and decisions are in the hands of Indigenous people it does not mean all problems from decades of discrimination will just melt away into a utopian dream, but it means that the communities who are facing these issues directly will have decision making-power. This is why we need to continue demanding that the government of Canada recognize the right of Indigenous nations to self-determination.

We also need to demand better funding and resources for all children in government care, but especially an end to the discriminatory system which provides less funding to Indigenous children living on reserves. Finally, the government of Canada must stop fighting the tribunal's ruling and immediately compensate all First Nations families for the discrimination they faced.

Follow Tamara on Twitter:  
@THans01

## MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES!

### *Indigenous struggle against colonialism*



**Howard Adams (Métis)  
1921 - 2001**

*Revolutionary Métis Marxist scholar and professor Howard Adams grew up in a Métis community in Saskatchewan. He was a leader in the struggle for Indigenous rights, self-determination, and socialism.*

All actions of the colonizer manifest his need to divide in order to facilitate the preservation of the oppressed state. There are ways of dividing the colonized in order to preserve the system that favors the ruling class. There are forms of action that exploit the weak point of the oppressed, their basic insecurity; they are insecure because they come to believe that the oppressor is omnipotent, and the system invincible. Under these circumstances, the oppressors take advantage of these weaknesses and perpetuate divisive action. This basic insecurity is thus directly linked to their oppression. [...]

Every move by the colonized towards unity indicates other actions; it means that sooner or later they will perceive their state of powerlessness and depersonalization. They discover that as long as they are divided they will always be easy prey for manipulation and domination. Unity and organization can make it possible for them to change their weakness into strength.

*Excerpt from Prison of Grass – Chapter 14 "The Failure of Native Leadership"*

## Caught in the system

Indigenous families make up 8 per cent of Canada's population, but First Nations, Métis and Inuit children are disproportionately more likely to be in foster care



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA 2016 CENSUS; MACLEAN'S



# In defense of Mother Earth



By Alison Bodine

## THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS A CALL TO UNITED ACTION!

November 2019 brought yet another chilling announcement about capitalism's dangerous impact on the planet. The United Nations Environment Programme Emissions Gap Report found that unless there is a complete shift in the status quo when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions – the earth will reach a devastating 3.5 degrees Celsius temperature increase by 2100. That is sooner than many have previously understood, and well within the lifetimes of millions of children born in today's generation.

This UN report got straight to the point stating, "Countries collectively failed to stop the growth in global GHG emissions, meaning that deeper and faster cuts are now required."

However, in many ways, the Emissions Gap Report is an affirmation of what many of us already know – even though not everyone wants to admit it. The economic system that we live in, capitalism – a system that puts profit and the exploitation of resources above all else – is warming, melting, and killing the planet. Only, each time a new report is released the predictions are grimmer and the united voice of scientists clearer. Yet, the governments of the richest countries in the world continue their operations, it's business as usual.

### Canada is No "Climate Leader"

In Canada, the current Liberal government and Prime Minister Trudeau have developed a uniquely angering brand of climate inaction. For example,

in June 2019, he declared a "Climate Emergency" one-day and then re-approved the climate killing tar-sands Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) the next. During the recent federal election campaigning, Trudeau promised to plant trees in exchange for building this same pipeline. Then went on to declare that Canada would reach net-zero emissions by 2050, with not even a skeleton of a plan to back it up. These empty words are familiar to most people in Canada – much in line with the promised "reconciliation" with Indigenous people in Canada – which came simultaneously with the continued trampling of the land and treaty rights of Indigenous people.

Not to mention that the 2019 federal election, including all four major political parties, the Liberals, Conservatives, NDP and the Green Party, did nothing to seriously address the climate crisis. There wasn't even a Canada-wide debate on this supposed priority issue.

As it stands today, Canada is the G20 country with the highest GHG emissions per capita. Based on current policies of the government of Canada – this position isn't going to change anytime

soon. In fact, take away Trudeau's lies and manipulations – and Canada is set to overshoot by 15% even the modest commitments to reducing emissions made in the UN Paris Agreements (UN Emissions Gap Report).

The government of Canada knows this full well. In December 2018, Environment and Climate Change Canada itself set this number at 11% (reaching emissions that are 19% below 2005 levels in 2030), after they considered the policies that were not yet active at the time in their calculations. Either way, Canada is nowhere near reducing emissions to 30% of 2005 levels – and even farther from net-zero emissions – as Prime Minister Trudeau continues to throw millions of taxpayer dollars right into the pockets of the world's richest oil and gas companies.

### TMX Theft of Taxpayer Dollars

The Trans Mountain Pipeline and Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX), which will operate to bring dirty oil-sands bitumen from Alberta to the BC coast to be shipped abroad, are a clear example

### Battle of Ideas Press

Available Now

### SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM  
INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM

### By Thomas Davies

Thomas Davies is a social and environmental justice organizer based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper and a founding member of Climate Convergence Metro-Vancouver.





**"Fridays for Future" Global Student Climate Strikes in Vanuatu, Ireland & Vancouver September 2019**

of this criminal transfer of public funds to the tune of at least \$24.5 billion and counting.

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis revealed that Trans Mountain Pipeline has received \$320 million in taxpayer subsidies from both the government of Canada and the government of Alberta – and this is just in the first six months of 2019. These subsidies are added to the \$4.5 billion in tax-dollars that the Liberal government already spent on buying the existing pipeline, and the at least \$20 billion they are expected to recklessly spend on building TMX.

Many of Trudeau's other promises regarding TMX are also being called into question – including by Robyn Allen, an economist and former CEO of Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC). Allen has questioned the government for their promise to spend \$500 million in revenues projected from the TMX to fund climate and environmental initiatives. As she has analyzed, not only has the Liberal government not released the full picture of the costs of building the TMX project, they have also now refused to release the math behind the \$500 million that Finance Minister Bill Morneau has been claiming since this summer.

Not to mention that the Trudeau

government has no excuses for why they couldn't just take the \$4.5 billion they used to buy the pipeline and invest it in environmental initiatives right then and there – nearly two years ago. Instead, the government chose a project that is both climate-destroying and wasting taxpayer money at the same time.

### **SFU Students and Climate Justice Organizers Join to Demand No TMX!**

The danger of the government of Canada's inaction against the climate disaster – and more than that – the expansion of the fossil fuel infrastructure in Canada – can be seen in the growing scar on the face of Burnaby Mountain in BC. As Trans Mountain Corp. (which became corporation of the government of Canada when they bought the existing Trans Mountain pipeline and the TMX project) clears the way for the growth of the tank farm and the TMX pipeline, more and more people are becoming aware of the danger of the project. Simon Fraser University (SFU) – and the 50,000 people that live, work and study there – lies on top of Burnaby Mountain a "High Life Hazard Area" area as declared by City of Burnaby Fire Department. In the event of an emergency, people could face potentially deadly flammable crude oil leaks, poisonous gases, fires burning for days, and exploding tanks spraying

molten crude, igniting other nearby tanks with potential wildfires spreading from the tank farm, as further reported by the Burnaby Fire Department. The TMX pipeline project includes the addition of 14 oil storage tanks into this deadly mix.

On November 14, 2019, the grassroots climate justice group Climate Convergence worked together with SFU-350, BROKE and the Mountain Protectors to hold a rally and a teach-in about TMX and the tank farm at Simon Fraser University. The dynamic action included an energetic rally in the main Convocation Hall of SFU, complete with an Indigenous welcoming and speakers from SFU-350, Climate Convergence and BROKE, as well as light-up signs that spelled out "NO TMX PIPELINE!" in glowing letters for all to see. This rally and teach-in were followed by a vigorous march to a busy intersection on Burnaby Mountain that overlooks the tank farm. Then, SFU students, residents of Burnaby Mountain, concerned community members, and climate justice organizers sang and chanted continuously to draw attention to the dangers posed by the tank farm and pipeline expansion. They also made it known that the project is opposed by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, on whose traditional territories the TMX pipeline would terminate.

*Continued on page 15*

**C l i m a t e  
C o n v e r g e n c e  
t a b l i n g  
a t  
S i m o n  
F r a s e r  
U n i v e r s i t y  
& R u p e r t  
C o m m o n  
p e r f o r m s  
a t  
"M u s i c  
F o r  
O u r  
M o t h e r"  
a t H o o d 2 9  
i n  
V a n c o u v e r  
N o v e m b e r  
2 0 1 9**





## \* EN ESPAÑOL \*

Por Alison Bodine

Traducido por Ana Laura Torres

¡Chile despertó!  
¡Piñera, renuncia!  
¡Piñera ya fue!  
¡Que se vayan los milicos!

Estos son algunos de los  
potentes

# ¡CHILE DESPERTÓ!

## LA CRECIENTE LUCHA CONTRA EL NEOLIBERALISMO EN CHILE

cánticos que hacen eco a lo largo de las calles y avenidas chilenas durante las protestas masivas que comenzaron en octubre de 2019. El pueblo trabajador, pobre y oprimido y el estudiantado se han unido para exigir dignidad y derechos humanos; en suma, para exigir el fin del neoliberalismo en Chile.

Este movimiento comenzó luego del anuncio del gobierno chileno del 6 de octubre sobre el incremento de 30 pesos en el sistema de transporte. Este incremento, que equivale a \$0.04 USD, significó sumar una carga más a un presupuesto que ya era apretado para muchos hogares chileno. Tan es así, que desató la salida a las calles de millones de personas.

**"No son los 30 pesos. Son 30 años"**

Las primeras dos semanas las protestas fueron organizadas por estudiantes de secundario que convocaban a evadir el pago de tarifas. Para el 18 de octubre, el presidente Sebastián Piñera todavía no había respondido sus demandas. En su lugar, declaró "estado de emergencia" y desplegó al ejército y la policía antidisturbios para atacar a los y las estudiantes.

A pesar de la represión y el toque de queda, en Chile las manifestaciones continuaron. El 21 de octubre el presidente Piñera extendió el estado de emergencia declarando: "Estamos en guerra contra un enemigo poderoso,

implacable, (...) que está dispuesto a usar la violencia y la delincuencia sin ningún límite". Con estas palabras Piñera reveló al mismo tiempo un desprecio absoluto por el pueblo chileno y su carácter de aliado de los Estados Unidos y partidario acérrimo del neoliberalismo en Chile. Para entonces, las protestas, que habían estado concentradas principalmente en Santiago, la

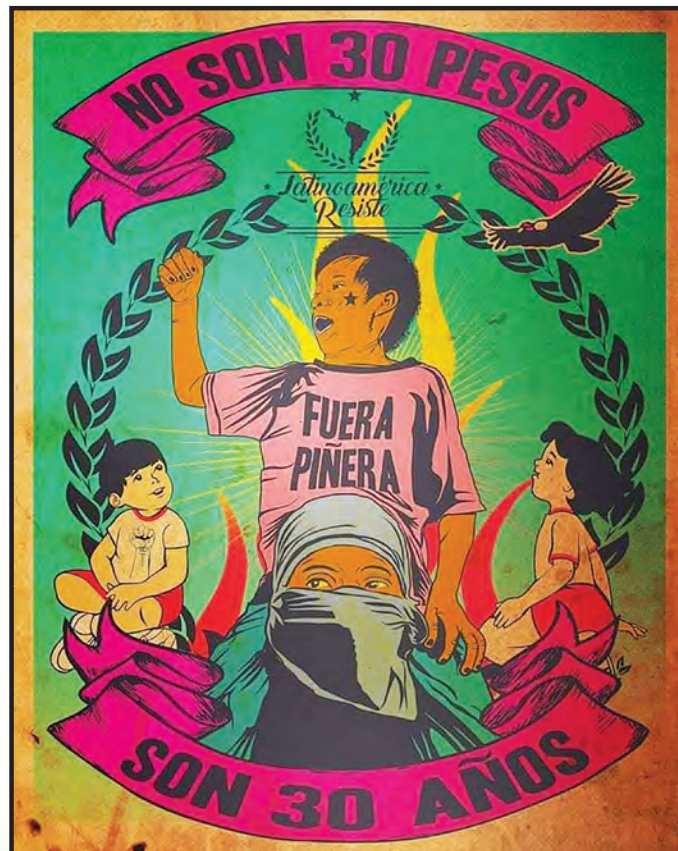
determinación y sus derechos sobre su tierra.

A pesar de la brutal represión, el 25 de octubre de 2019 1,2 millones de personas marcharon en Santiago en representación de diversos sectores de la sociedad chilena, incluyendo movimientos sociales, pueblos originarios, mujeres, jubilados y jubiladas, sindicatos, estudiantes y más. Las protestas continuaban desde entonces y la represión y la crueldad del gobierno de Piñera y sus matones de la policía y el ejército han alcanzado una brutalidad nunca vista en Chile desde el fin de la sangrienta dictadura de Pinochet hace más de 30 años.

Como informaba el Instituto Nacional de Derechos Humanos (INDH), una organización no gubernamental en Chile, al menos 177 personas han sufrido serias lesiones oculares o pérdida de la visión luego de disparos de gas lacrimógeno y balas de goma apuntados deliberadamente a la cara de manifestantes. La misma organización también investiga posibles sitios de tortura y ha documentado casos de efectivos policiales o del ejército vestidos de civil arrojando a personas en el baúl de autos o furgonetas. A la fecha de 30 de octubre de 2019 al menos 19 personas fueron asesinadas y más de 1.200 sufrieron lesiones. El INDH también presentó contra policías y soldados 18 casos de violencia sexual, incluyendo violación, y 92 casos de tortura.

**¿Por qué está protestando el pueblo en Chile?**

Entonces, ¿por qué es que ante tanta violencia la gente de Chile sigue adelante con las protestas masivas? Lo que comenzó como un incremento de tarifas de transporte llevó a una revuelta en contra del gobierno y las instituciones neoliberales de Chile, e incluso con demandas de cambiar la constitución. Como declaró Alan Vicencio, un trabajador de call-center de 25 años, a la revista Time, "Toda la constitución me enfurece, la constitución permitió la



ciudad capital, comenzaron a expandirse a otras ciudades. Al menos 10.500 policías y soldados habían sido desplegados para el 21 de octubre (BBC).

Las protestas contra el gobierno y el neoliberalismo han continuado creciendo y expandiéndose a lo largo del país y entre los sectores más oprimidos de la sociedad. El pueblo originario Mapuche de Chile, que representa el 10% de la población, también organizó y lideró protestas exigiendo el respeto a su auto-





**Manifestantes en Santiago, Chile.  
Octubre de 2019**

privatización de cada aspecto de nuestras vidas y lo ha seguido haciendo por más de 30 años."

Muchas veces aclamado por ser "favorable para los negocios" y el mejor ejemplo del "éxito" de un sistema de libre mercado, Chile es el más desigual de los 36 países miembro de la Organización para la Cooperación y Desarrollo Económicos (OCDE). En 2017 las Naciones Unidas publicaron un informe, "Desiguales. Orígenes, cambios y desafíos de la brecha social en Chile", que explicaba que el 0,1% más rico de Chile controla el 19,5% de la riqueza.

La privatización desbocada en Chile impacta a todos los sectores de la vida, incluyendo el suministro de agua, las carreteras, la energía, la atención sanitaria y el sistema de pensiones. Aunque hay sectores de educación pública, existe una gran brecha entre el sistema educativo público y el privado.

El salario mínimo en Chile no es suficiente para llevar una vida digna, especialmente considerando que todo está privatizado, lo que hace muy costosa la vida diaria en el país. Por ejemplo, para una persona que gana un salario mínimo en Chile, el costo de transporte hacia y desde el trabajo consumiría el 21% de sus ingresos (NACLA.org).

Las protestas en Chile son en defensa de la dignidad. Están luchando en contra de la desigualdad. Están luchando en contra de la brutalidad policial y militar. Todos estos son síntomas del neoliberalismo, que es la expresión en política económica de la agenda imperialista en todo el mundo.

Solo hace falta analizar la relación de los Estados Unidos con el gobierno de Chile para entender cómo se convirtieron en tan buenos aliados. En relación a la violencia en contra de los y las manifestantes, la Casa Blanca declaró que "Los Estados Unidos apoyan a Chile, un aliado importante, en el proceso de restaurar pacíficamente el orden público", y "el presidente Trump denuncia iniciativas extranjeras para socavar las instituciones, democracia o sociedad chilenas."

Más ampliamente, el presidente Trump lo había expresado en una conferencia de prensa hace un año, "hay tantos asuntos que debemos discutir porque Chile y los Estados Unidos son países afines. Compartimos lo más importante, que son los valores: la democracia, los derechos humanos, la libertad. Pero Chile realmente es especial. Si miran lo que han hecho, cuánto han avanzado. Miren lo bien que administran el país." Así suena cuando un gobierno en América Latina sigue las órdenes del gobierno de los EEUU y sus instituciones financieras.

Evidentemente, la represión en Chile cuenta con el apoyo de los Estados Unidos, pero también con el de muchos de sus aliados imperialistas, incluyendo al gobierno de Canadá. Es más, el primer ministro Trudeau sostuvo una llamada telefónica con Piñera en plena brutal represión policial y militar y no dijo una palabra al respecto, según informa CTV News, "Un resumen de la llamada de la oficina del primer ministro Trudeau con Piñera no incluye mención directa a la situación turbulenta en Chile, un país pujante

con el cual Canadá ha negociado un tratado de libre comercio."

Esto no sorprende ya que, como informó el gobierno de Canadá, el 14% de los activos mineros de Canadá están en Chile, incluyendo minas de bronce, oro y plata. Esto incluye a Barrick Gold, que cerró una mina de oro de \$429 millones en los primeros meses de este año debido a serias violaciones ambientales y a los derechos humanos.

Ambos gobiernos, Estados Unidos y Canadá, también quieren sostener el gobierno represivo de Piñera porque tener a Chile como una "historia de éxito" neoliberal y un aliado incondicional les sirve en su intento de re-establecer la hegemonía imperialista en América Latina. Tener un gobierno chileno con apoyo de los EEUU deja a los imperialistas mejor posicionados para sus continuos ataques en contra de los países soberanos e independientes de Cuba y Venezuela.

### **Chile: objetivo de ataques y explotación imperialista**

La historia moderna de Chile es una historia de colonización, dominación y explotación imperialista. Aunque Chile declaró su independencia de España en 1818, no fue hasta 150 años después que el pueblo chileno tuvo la oportunidad de ser verdaderamente independiente del dominio colonial e imperialista. En 1970, el pueblo de Chile eligió revertir su historia de colonización y explotación y eligió como presidente a Salvador Allende, quien tenía una agenda progresista y popular para mejorar su calidad de vida y oponerse a la explotación imperialista de

*Continued on page 26*

**Protesta en solidaridad con Chile en Barcelona, España. 21 de diciembre de 2019**



# "SONIC ATTACKS" IN CUBA: FACT OR FICTION?

## Trudeau Liberal Government Lost the Battle!

*By Tamara Hansen*

It sounded like a Hollywood spy story come to life. U.S. and Canada's diplomats claimed that while working in Havana, Cuba they had been hit by some debilitating 'sonic attacks' hearing strange "buzzing" or "high-pitched" sounds and later suffering an array of symptoms including: headaches, nausea, hearing loss, cognitive problems, and loss of balance. This news made headlines around the world in the summer of 2017 with analysts in both Canada and the U.S. blaming the Cuban government or so-called, "rogue elements of the Cuban government".

Since the problem began in 2017 about 40 diplomats and their families from the U.S. and Canada have reported feeling the symptoms. At first, these were labelled 'sonic attacks.' However, multiple scientists and researchers in Cuba and around the world questioned the possibility of an unknown advanced technology that could direct sonic/microwaves to target specific individuals. Everyone claimed this type of technology has yet to be invented in a manner sophisticated enough to cause the illnesses claimed by the diplomats. Yet across Canada and the U.S. so-called analysts continued making outlandish remarks with little evidence about what had happened, and the mainstream media continued to report on it.

An article in the UK Independent



News recounts some of the steps the U.S. government took in August 2017. They explain, "the US expelled two Cuban diplomats in direct response to the unexplained illnesses. The following month the US then removed all non-essential staff from the US embassy in Havana and warned US citizens not to travel to Cuba. In October 2017, Donald Trump, then in the first year of his presidency, said: "It's a very unusual attack, as you know. But I do believe Cuba is responsible."

However, only a month before President Trump's assertion that Cuba was responsible, his own State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert explained that the U.S. administration had no answers about the source or cause of the 'incidents'. President Trump never produced any proof to back up his claim, and the Cuban government declared the whole campaign about sonic attacks, "science fiction".

On April 16, 2018, Global Affairs Canada announced in a statement its decision "to change the designation of our Embassy of Canada to Cuba to an 'unaccompanied post'. This means that Canadian diplomats posted to Cuba will not be accompanied by their dependants." This statement did not refer to 'sonic attacks', labelling the issues as "unusual health symptoms."

### The case unravels

As the months went by the case of these 'sonic attacks' has slowly unravelled. Unlike the initial U.S.-Cuba Cold War era sensational spy story, many of the follow-up discoveries by scientific experts were not so widely covered in the

mainstream news.

First, "The Mystery of the Havana Syndrome", an article published in The New Yorker Magazine in November 2018, explains that most U.S. research of the so-called 'victims' was centred at the University of Pennsylvania. The article explains that in February 2018, "Douglas Smith and his team at the University of Pennsylvania published their preliminary findings in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). They argued that the victims appeared to suffer from a new type of "brain network disorder," which was similar to the damage seen in patients with mild traumatic

brain injuries or with persistent symptoms after concussions."

However, this report was widely criticized in the U.S. and around the world. The New Yorker article further explains, "JAMA received letters from

other specialists, arguing that the study was flawed, especially in neglecting psychological explanations. Mitchell Joseph Valdés-Sosa, a member of a team of scientists investigating the incidents for the Cuban government, seized on the criticism as evidence that the Americans were embracing unproven theories. "The conclusion that there's brain damage isn't sustainable by the data," he said. He added that the victims' symptoms were common and could have been present before they arrived in Cuba."

The article also quotes Johana Tablada, the deputy director-general of the U.S. division at the Foreign Ministry of Cuba (MINREX), who summarized all of these conflicting reports and lack of evidence shared with the Cubans, stating, "After a year and a half, the most powerful nation





on earth hasn't been able to present one single piece of evidence."

Secondly, one of the audio sounds recorded by a diplomat and released by the Associated Press was analyzed by Alexander Stubbs a UC Berkeley integrative biology Ph.D. student and Prof. Fernando Montealegre-Zapata of the University of Lincoln. In their research paper published on January 4, 2019, they explain, "the calling song of the Indies short-tailed cricket (*Anurogryllus celerinictus*) matches, in nuanced detail, the AP recording in duration, pulse



U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba

repetition rate, power spectrum, pulse rate stability, and oscillations per pulse." This further backed-up the idea that few experts were willing to continue calling this a 'sonic attack' and that the term fell out of favor with the U.S. and Canada governments as well.

Despite this, at the end of January 2019, Canada announced it was cutting its staff at the Embassy in Havana in half. A week later a group of five diplomats who had been stationed in Havana filed a lawsuit against the government of Canada. According to an Associated Press article, these five and their families are claiming \$28 million in damages to their health and well-being from the government of Canada. The lawsuit alleges that "diplomats [were] prevented from considering the true risks

of a Havana posting to their own health, but they were also denied the opportunity to protect their children and must live with the knowledge that they may never fully recover."

Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau responded by saying, "There is no question that the health impacts on diplomats in Cuba have been visible and real. [...] We are continuing to work with local authorities and work with the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) to determine what is the source of these sounds or this issue they are facing."

On May 8, 2019, the government of Canada suspended all visa services to Cubans wishing to travel to Canada, again citing the "unusual health symptoms". This was a cruel move by the government of Canada as Cubans who were unable to get visas to travel to Canada were: separated from their families living in Canada; could not come to study or work in Canada; and many cultural and sports exchanges between the two countries had to be cancelled. It was a very unpopular move and created pushback across Canada and Cuba (To learn more please read and sign the Canadian Network on Cuba petition).

Five studies released no conclusive results

Dr. Robert Bartholomew, a medical sociologist of Botany Downs Secondary College in New Zealand has co-authored two research papers on 'Havana Syndrome'. The first was published in the International Journal of Social Psychiatry in August 2018 and the second was published in October 2019 in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. His latest report titled, "Challenging the diagnosis of 'Havana Syndrome' as a novel clinical entity" promotes the theory that those suffering from 'Havana Syndrome' are actually suffering from a form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or shell shock, as the symptoms are similar to those associated with extreme stress or war trauma.

In the paper released in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, the researchers

assert, "What is the more likely, that the diplomats were the target of a mysterious new weapon for which there is no concrete evidence, or they were suffering from psychogenic symptoms generated by stress? The evidence overwhelmingly points to the latter. [...] Our conclusions are grounded in the prosaic and known science. There is no need to resort to exotic explanations. Claims that the patients were suffering from brain and auditory damage are not borne out by the data."

They also challenge the results of the four other studies of 'Havana Syndrome'

**"What caused it, who did it, why it was done — we don't know any of those things." Dr. Michael Hoffer, of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, speaks during a news conference. Dr. Hoffer examined the U.S. Embassy personnel. December 12, 2018, in Miami, U.S.**



to date, accusing the other findings of "design flaws" in their research.

Interestingly one of the studies Dr. Robert Bartholomew is critiquing was commissioned by Global Affairs Canada and conducted by researchers in Halifax, affiliated with the Brain Repair Centre, Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. They identified

*Continued on page 30*

Canadian Embassy in Havana, Cuba



**Dr. Mitchell Valdes-Sosa, General Director of the Cuban Neuroscience Center, speaks during a press conference in Havana, Cuba. July 23, 2019**



*Intervention by economist José Luis Rodríguez in the tribute made to Che for the 90th anniversary of his birth at the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba (UNEAC) in 2018.*

## PART 1

One of Che's essential contributions is, without a doubt, his Economic Thought.

Unfortunately, in recent times, when reminded, no reference is made to this edge of his thinking, even though his ideas about economic construction in socialism were fundamental at the beginning of our Revolution.

Since the triumph of January 1959, Che assumed a set of responsibilities that went through the Department of Industrialization of INRA, the Presidency of the National Bank of Cuba and finally as Minister of Industries, from 1961. In all these positions he developed intense work, but, above all, also devoted time to studies. Che was an extraordinary man in many ways, but his record in the study of economic issues in particular was very large. Che studied Capital with Anastasio Mansilla, a Spanish-Soviet professor, studied mathematics applied to economics with Salvador Vilaseca and devoted himself throughout that time to investigate what at that time were still almost unknown sciences such as linear programming in designs economic of the first years of the Revolution.

This whole process of thinking of Che occurs in a very complicated, very complex circumstance.

In the first place, between 1960 and 1965, economic reforms were taking place in European socialist countries that increasingly proclaimed the need to consider the market in the conditions of socialism, but with a vision where space was granted to the market, especially in the debates of the Soviet Union, was increasingly displacing, was placing in the background, the issues of planning.

Che learned about these debates and his proposals, and in the debate he

**Left: José Luis Rodríguez speaking at the 6th International Che Guevara Conference in January 2015 in Vancouver, Canada.**

formulated as a result of them, people who were very familiar with those debates and who also presented their points of view also incorporated them into the discussion in Cuba, as is the case of Charles Bettelheim - a French Marxist who was a defender of economic calculation (the formula used by the Soviets) - or that of Ernest Mandel - a Belgian economist, a Trotskyist in those years, who defended very different criteria in relation to these issues. Also very valuable economists such as Paul Baran and Paul Sweezy from the United States, and other Latin American economists who in one way or another contributed to the debate of Che and of which several works were published in Cuba in those years.

It was not an ideal situation for these debates without a doubt; the internal situation that Cuba went through in the early 1960s was a very complex: it was the time when sectarianism emerges in 1962, the Second Agrarian Reform that was approved considering the class struggle in the countryside in 1963, the Marquito's trial - a great process where the potential for division that the Revolution had in those moments and that led to the direct intervention of Fidel came to light -, the Fight Against Bandits itself in those years that will cover from 61 to 65 with a huge cost to the country - Fidel mentioned a figure of one billion dollars in those 5 years - and ends up say this stage by putting a limit on another painful process that is the betrayal of Rolando Cubela, a commander of the Revolutionary Directory in 1966.

All these processes were marking the Cuban reality from the political point of view, above all, that is why developing in that context, in the middle of that discussion, an economic debate that goes from the conceptual to the practical effects, was really a tremendous

thing for those years and Che took it forward with great discipline and with great honesty.

First, Che understood very clearly that the transformations in the economy had a significant social and political impact and that there were very profound changes to be made in the scenario of the period of transition to socialism.

Here we must first highlight Fidel's experience and his essential agreement with Che's ideas since those early years. First, Fidel, like Che, had a critical assessment of other socialist thinkers and of the predominant thought: The Soviet thought of those years. But they also had criteria regarding how socialism was being built in other countries as controversial in that period as Yugoslavia, or the case of the Cultural Revolution in China. For Fidel, as for Che, the system of economic management could not replace ideology and politics and was expressly stated in the First Party Congress. Similarly, in the speech of October 8, 1987 for the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of Che, there was a vindication of his thinking in general, but in particular of his economic thinking. It is a core discourse that we should not forget when analyzing the economic history of the Revolution. Fidel said something that Che put it another way but essentially the same, there is no economy without politics or politics without economy, he said it several times, he said it in the year 1981, he said it in 2003 and finally there is the tremendous speech of November 17, 2005, where Fidel makes a self-critical account of the construction of socialism and in particular in the case of Cuba, when it ends with that phrase that nobody knew how socialism was built and where it affirms with an enormous force a question that we cannot forget, that imperialism could not destroy the Revolution, but that we could do it with our own mistakes. It is a formidable teaching that is present in that discourse,

which would be worth recapping because of

# CHE ' S ECONOMIC THOUGHT





the presence of their ideas and their value today, coinciding with Che's ideas.

**Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, two revolutionary leaders with the same objective - creating a new human being through revolutionary internationalism.**

Already in 1965 Che had said that in the Soviet Union he was on his way to capitalism, who was going to imagine it? 1965! This approach is written in the so-called "Prague papers." Che had a very complex idea in relation to the construction of socialism and there is a phrase that synthesizes it when he says "communism is a process of consciousness and not only a phenomenon of production, communism cannot be reached by simple mechanical accumulation of quantities of products made available to the people"; At a time when the shortcomings were still very strong, Che had a very long light in that regard and was able to say that it is not possible to reach communism if we concentrate the existence of man only on the elements of the material base.

I consider that the deepest axis of Che's discussions was around the problem of the market and the monetary-mercantile relations in socialism.

This is a long-standing issue in the discussion of socialist construction, from the time of the beginnings of the Soviet Union, where successive approaches were reached, but far apart in time to a notion of what the market is in conditions of socialism. The essential approach that leads them to explain why the market remains is given by the impossibility of

granting a directly social character to work in the initial conditions of socialist construction, due to the low level of development that society has. This means that, objectively, the market remains and exists in this sense as a social necessity in the absence of development that allows progress to a higher socialization.

This explanation, however, did not come that way, so quietly.

Already from the time of Marx and Engels and after Lenin it was conceived that the market in socialism was not going to be present because it would arise from a high level of development of capitalism itself, however, we know that this did not happen. The transition to a different society occurred just in the least developed country of the capitalist sphere that was the Tsarist Russia of that time. This leads Lenin to have to face a very difficult



reality and to formulate something that Che would criticize later if it became generalized as a socialist regularity: The New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921.

After Lenin's death there was an attempt to explain why the market remains, why the merchant categories like money remain. There was an explanation of the Soviet economist Eugenio Preobrazenski, later retaken by Stalin, who says that "the market exists in socialism in the mercantile categories in a totally formal way, and that they do not play any role," which is a mistake because in reality it has an anchor in certain production relationships that remain at that stage, but that was an error that remained as an explanation for 40 years. That was the official interpretation of the monetary-mercantile relations at the time of the reforms in the 60s when a discussion is reached regarding the validity or not of the law of value.

**“ Already in 1965 Che had said that the Soviet Union was on its way to capitalism ”**

**Vladimir Lenin (center), Leon Trotsky (left) and Lev Kamenev (right) at the Russian Communist Party Congress of 1919. The central leaders of the Russian Revolution understood that you can't build socialism with capitalist incentives and without revolutionary internationalism.**



It is at this moment that Che enters these discussions claiming that he accepts the validity of the law of value to some extent, but does not accept the indirectly social nature of work, and here it differs from what it would be, say, the most finished conclusion of this relationship.

For Che, that indirectly social character of work is transitory and bearable in the short term, however, life has shown us, we are still living today, that this process is not so simple. Che understood that the market treatment was based on the development of productive forces, not administrative decisions, that is, the market cannot be governed in socialism only with prohibitions or regulations.

## PART 2 in January 2020

*Dr. José Luis Rodríguez is the author of "Notes on Cuban Economy" and a researcher and professor at the University of Havana. Former Cuban Minister of the Economy and Planning a former Vice President of the Cuban Council of Ministers.*

# THE WORLD STANDS WITH CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE!



**U.S. Moral Bankruptcy Exposed!  
Lift the Blockade of Cuba Now!**

By Janine Solanki

November 7 marked the annual debate and vote in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) against the unjust U.S. blockade on Cuba. As the U.S. government continues to tighten the blockade, this year again the world stood with Cuba. For the 28th consecutive year, the resolution passed with 187 countries voting with Cuba against the blockade, and only 3 countries shamefully voting for the blockade (the U.S., Israel and Brazil).

In nearly 6 decades, this criminal blockade has damaged Cuba's economy by over \$134.5 billion. What this means for Cuba is limited access to imported goods such as medicines and medical equipment, construction supplies, food, fuel and many other necessities. Despite the hardships and immense challenges that the U.S. blockade has imposed on Cuba, this island nation has defied the U.S. government's efforts at "regime change" and attempts to bring Cuba under U.S. domination. Instead Cuba has developed a world-renowned universal healthcare system, provides free quality education to their citizens up to a PhD, and has become known world-wide for their courageous stand against U.S. imperialism.

On **November 6 and 7th**, to support Cuba going into the annual debate and vote at the UN, an international Twitter Storm and social media campaign was called to support Cuba, with hashtags #SomosCuba,

#UnblockCuba, and #NoMasBloqueo.

This online action was supported in Vancouver by Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade (FCAB), who joined Cuba supporters around the world in tweeting photos and videos against the U.S. blockade.

On **November 17**, FCAB organized a monthly picket action in front of the U.S. Consulate in downtown Vancouver. This action takes place every month, in coordination with actions in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada, as well as Kiev, Ukraine! Protesters chanted demands and held signs reading "¡Cuba Si, Bloqueo No!" and "End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba Now!" while picketing in front of the U.S. Consulate. In between rounds of picketing, activists gathered to hear from local speakers, as well as to hear a voice message of solidarity from Ottawa Cuba Connections, who had their coordinated protest in front of the U.S. Embassy.

To wrap up the action, protesters took a group photo in front of the U.S. Consulate building, holding picket signs, Cuban flags, and a banner reading "End the Blockade of Cuba! Return Guantanamo Bay to Cuba!" This photo was shared worldwide on social media, showing support for Cuba against the U.S. blockade!

For more info on upcoming actions, visit [www.vancubavsblockade.org](http://www.vancubavsblockade.org) or follow on Facebook and Twitter: @NoBloqueoVan.

## OUR HERITAGE



**Alexandra Kollontai**

1872-1952

*Russian revolutionary leader. During the 1917 Russian Revolution, she was a member of the Central Committee of the Bolshevik party. She is renowned for her Marxist feminist writings.*

If we are looking for the culprit, then we must say directly and honestly: the governments of all the belligerent powers are equally responsible for this present war. Responsibility for the war lies with the capitalists, bankers and landowners, together with their patrons and friends the tsars, kings, kaisers and their ministers and diplomats. They all constitute one criminal band. It is not the interests of the people that they watch over, but their own interests. War does not benefit the people, but their own pockets. They brought on this bloody disaster with their "foreign policy". As for the people—get out there and die!... "Save the motherland" which they themselves betrayed, bringing on disaster. Die "for the glory of the fatherland", forgetting all the injustices, insults and humiliations... Forget that even before the war began you understood that no good would come of government policy. Do not dare remember that only yesterday you seethed with indignation when an officer struck a private, that you cursed the people's lack of rights in their own country... Now it is war! [...] The war is being waged not among peoples of different faiths, not among different peoples with different faiths, not among different peoples with different customs, languages and traditions, but among states, among large capitalist powers. Each such power has swallowed up more than one people, taken more than one piece of land from its neighbours.

*Excerpt from "Who Needs the War?" 1916, written in reference to World War I*



Less than 2 weeks later, on November 25, SFU-350, Climate Convergence and BROKE were back at it again making a surprise presentation to the leader of the federal New Democratic Party (NDP), Jagmeet Singh during his tour of the campus. At the action, SFU Students spoke with Singh in order to send a clear message that stopping the TMX pipeline was necessary both for safety reasons and its devastating climate impacts. They also asked the leader of the NDP to not vote in confidence for Trudeau if he is building a pipeline.

These successful actions are just one example of how together and united we can work to put a stop to the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion. Together, we must also continue to unite to demand a climate justice government that prioritizes the environment, education and healthcare above corporate profits.

### **We Must Build a Climate Justice Movement!**

From here in most parts of Canada or the United States, it is understandingly difficult to even grasp the profound changes that the climate and mother earth have already gone through and will continue to face. However, in many places around the world, the reality of these shifts in climate due economic greed is impossible to ignore - as the storms become unbearable, rising oceans threaten to swallow entire islands, and growing deserts make lands unliveable.

Climate Convergence is continuing to organize actions in Metro Vancouver - against the TMX pipeline, LNG and Site-C dam in British Columbia, and against Canada's devastating contributions to the global climate crisis. To join come to the next organizing meeting or event by checking [www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca)

Every new piece of devastating news about the crisis of our mother earth should be a call to action. Yes, the destruction of the planet is something that we can all be angry, sad and depressed about. However, we, poor, working and oppressed people around the world, who contribute to the world's carbon footprint the least, but suffer its consequences the most, have no other option but to fight back. To do this, we must build a more united and stronger climate justice movement.

Follow Alison on Twitter: @alisoncolette

## **Working and Poor People Under Attack! Repeal Bill C-51 & C-59!**

*By Janine Solanki*

Our human and democratic rights are not something we simply have - they were fought for and must be defended if we are to keep them and to advance them. This is a fact that people in Canada have had to confront with Bill C-51, imposed by the outgoing conservative Harper administration in 2015, and with Bill C-59 which was passed into law in the summer of 2019 under the Liberal Trudeau administration.

The government of Canada used the tactic of fear to justify this infringement on our human and democratic rights. They threw around the word "terrorism" but what were the actual so-called threats defined in this bill? One of the vague definitions implicates those whose activities "undermine the security of Canada and other countries" which include to "threaten the country's economic interests and financial stability". Under Bill C-59, this was clarified as an activity that would constitute significant and widespread interference with critical infrastructure. This can translate to protests for Indigenous rights, environmental protests such as those against the TMX pipeline, or even labour strikes - essentially free reign to criminalize protests.

While Prime Minister Trudeau promised that he would "fix" Bill C-51, the passage of Bill C-59 not only doesn't address many of the fundamental human rights concerns in Bill C-51, it also creates an even worse cyber surveillance regime. "No fly lists" still violate our freedom, personal information can still be shared with up to 17 government agencies without your consent or knowledge, Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) continues to have the chilling and undefined powers of "disruption" and is still able to violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and

Freedoms.


Even before the passage of these bills, our rights have been under attack, and Bill C-51 and C-59 serve to codify into law the stripping away of our rights. Since 2013, the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) has been pursuing complaints against CSIS for their monitoring of environmental groups. Just one week after Bill C-59 was passed, the BCCLA published thousands of pages of heavily-redacted documents disclosed by CSIS, which suggest the spy agency spied on the peaceful protests and organizing activities of Indigenous groups and environmentalists who were opposed to pipeline expansion - and actively shared and received classified information with oil and gas corporation representatives.

To take up the fight to defend our rights, the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 was formed in 2015 and continues to educate, organize and mobilize to repeal Bill C-51 and C-59. Their events and actions include bi-weekly actions across Metro Vancouver transit stations. On November 4th the 225th bi-weekly action took place at the Broadway and Commercial Skytrain Station, and on November 18th the 226th action was held at New Westminster Skytrain Station. With a colorful banner and picket signs reading "Repeal Bill C-51 & C-59!" protesters handed out information to commuters and talked with those who stopped to find out more, and to sign on to the Repeal Bill C-51 petition. Many of these commuters were outraged when they learned how these bills infringed on their rights and that these bills were passed without any input from people in Canada!

To find out about the next action, visit [www.RepealBillC51.org](http://www.RepealBillC51.org) and follow on Facebook and Twitter @StopBillC51







**C**apitalist economy, industry, and technology are in fundamental contradiction and collision with mother nature. Any form of better or humane capitalism is an illusion. Green capitalism is capitalism and it cannot solve environmental degradation, but socialism can. Fundamental change is not an option, it is a human necessity.

**Fire This Time Movement  
for Social Justice**

**FIRETHISTIME.NET**



## Che Guevara Conference

# #UnblockVenezuela Building the Solidarity Movement: Our Tasks & Perspectives in the Imperialist Epoch

*By Alison Bodine*

*Excerpt from a talk given at the 8th International Che Guevara Conference in Vancouver, Canada on October 26, 2019. For report, pictures and videos from the conference visit the website: [www.chequevaraconference.ca](http://www.chequevaraconference.ca)*

How a country for over 20 years can be battling the United States – under attack by all forms of war, sanctions, a diplomatic war, a media war, and remain independent and sovereign. Together with their compañeros and compañeras in Cuba, they are showing the world what it is like to be in the Western Hemisphere, or only 90 miles from the United States, and say “We are not listening to you anymore, we are marching on our own path.”

That is why I think it is so important that we talk about Cuba and Venezuela, and their relationship, both at the International Che Guevara Conference today and yesterday. Venezuela and Cuba have become an epicentre for anti-imperialist struggle.

When we think about the ideas of Che Guevara, about Che’s important legacy in this conference, we must also talk about his legacy of internationalism. About how any oppression around the world must affect all of us, must call us all to action.

**Protest in Venezuela against the coup in Bolivia, Nov 12, 2019**



“Today, 200 years later, we can say it: After having lost that independence that cost so much, Venezuela, in these last ten years... has recovered its independence... and this recovered independence is a door that we should keep open so that for the next years and decades we can recover all the needs of the people: Freedom, equality, happiness, living, life, a humane country, a full country.” President Hugo Chávez, Comandante Hugo Chávez, said these words at a civic-military parade in Caracas, Venezuela on July 5, 2011, during the 200th anniversary of Venezuela’s Declaration of Independence from Spain. As Chávez explains, through the achievements of the Bolivarian revolutionary process, now, the people of Venezuela not only mark their independence from Spain but also their tremendous advances towards independence from U.S. imperialism.

Today, together with Cuba, the democratically elected government of President Maduro and the Bolivarian revolutionary process are now the biggest threat to the hegemony of the United States in the Western Hemisphere.



**Alison Bodine responding to audience questions after the “Building the Solidarity Movement: Our Tasks & Perspectives in the Imperialist Epoch” workshop at the 8th International Che Guevara Conference, Oct 26, 2019**

I think that there are three factors

that explain the situation and how Venezuela has become this epicentre of anti-imperialism. The reasons why a country becomes favourable to imperialism are also why they lose favour and become a target of U.S imperialism. I want to talk about three reasons. One is Venezuela’s independence, two is Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolutionary Process and three is something Professor Acuña discussed in his speech, which is that Venezuela’s success becomes an example for other Latin American countries. The gains of the Bolivarian revolutionary process show what is possible to the rest of Latin America, as we heard the U.S. Trump administration very recently refer to as the “backyard” of the United States. I think when we talk about ALBA, when we talk about Latin American integration, that is a very real threat to the United States as well.

Although the mainstream media, including the CBC here in Canada, never mentions sanctions. In fact, you could listen to entire radio programs that never mention sanctions. I wrote an article for Fire This Time, a polemic against Ana Maria Tremonte, who covered “in depth” the situation in Venezuela and didn’t



**Bike ride against the U.S. blockade by Venezuelan youth in Caracas, June 2019. Banner reads Trump Unblock Venezuela**

mention the word sanctions once. She's retired now, but the CBC editorial policy remains the same.

Venezuela is facing brutal and inhuman sanctions by the U.S., Canada, and the European Union. So, how is it that they can write whole articles explaining "The ruin of Venezuela," for example, this is the front page of an issue from 2018 of the New York Review of Books – and no talk about sanctions.

Under Obama in 2014, the United States, which had already been punishing Venezuela for electing Hugo Chávez in 1998 and beginning the Bolivarian revolutionary process, began blocking economic, financial and commercial trade with Venezuela. Through the approval of laws which made it impossible for anyone in the U.S. to carry out transactions and business with the Venezuelan State. There was the executive order declaring Venezuela, which is thousands of miles away from the U.S., to be an "unusual and extraordinary threat to U.S. national security."

Then, nearly five years later, in 2019, there is a report by the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), based in Washington, DC, it is a think-tank that does independent analysis and work, they estimated that 40,000 people have died as a result of U.S. sanctions between 2017-2018 in Venezuela.

CEPR studied how the sanctions make it impossible, difficult and expensive for Venezuela to get medicine, basic foods, because the United States has over 150 measures aimed at destroying the Venezuelan economy, at bringing

the people of Venezuela to their knees and forcing the overthrow of President Maduro, and reversing the independence that Venezuela has gained.

In total, sanctions imposed by the U.S., Canada, the E.U. and Switzerland are estimated to have cost Venezuela more than \$130 billion since 2015, this amount is equivalent to Venezuela's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in one-year. It is unimaginable to think that that money has just been stolen from the Venezuelan people, and from the government of Venezuela, and still the country is continuing to build as it is.

I have been in Venezuela four times in the last two years – I have been fortunate to travel to Venezuela, for example, to observe the elections in May 2018 as an international accompaniment to the victorious election of President Maduro. After this, there is one reflection that I have, and it is where I started my talk today, the people of Venezuela are steadfast and resilient in their struggle

to defend their sovereignty and self-determination – you can see this in mass organizations, community groups, and more.

So, it is no surprise, for anyone that has seen Venezuela with their own eyes, that 9 months after the U.S. government declared Juan Guaido the "interim President of Venezuela" he is no less of a puppet than when the U.S. attempted coup d'état began on January 23, 2019.

This is very important, but it is only possible because people in Venezuela defend their sovereignty and independence and every time that they do, they know that it is going to create a deepening confrontation with imperialism. When people ask me about the elections of May 2018, they have heard about the lower voter turn out, or they repeat what the media has said about how there wasn't as much support for President Maduro, when in fact, President Maduro received a higher percentage of the electorate voting for him than Trudeau, the same as Obama in 2008, which is hailed as this incredible electoral victory that mobilized the people of the U.S. – this is the same percentage of the vote that Maduro won. So, when I am asked about the May 2018 elections in Venezuela, I tell them about the people that I talked to in the voting lines in Venezuela, about how those people knew that when they voted, if they voted for President Maduro, they knew that the U.S. was going to impose tighter sanctions. They knew when they voted that their life was going to get more difficult if Maduro was re-elected. Can you imagine still wanting to vote for someone, and a government that is defending your sovereignty and independence, even though you know that the United States will continue to punish you if you do?



**Banner at an anti-imperialist rally in Caracas reads "This people knows how to defeat empires. Make no mistake", Nov 2019**



That brings me to a discussion we started yesterday, and what I think is an important question for this conference which is, why do the governments of the U.S. and Canada want to overthrow the government of Venezuela and reverse the Bolivarian revolutionary process?

Well, what would you think if I said that the imperialist war against Venezuela is not about what the mainstream media, and many leftists, or progressives continue to talk about? Let us be clear, the main factor of the US-led imperialist assault on Venezuela is for one, not about oil, and secondly, not about socialism.

Of course, we can debate and discuss both things. The U.S. is attacking Venezuela for oil and its vast resources is obvious, so what is that deeper reason? I assert that the war on Venezuela today is a war on a country that is asserting its independence from imperialism.

Independence from imperialism and sovereignty, not socialism, and not oil, is the message today broadcast from Venezuela to the people of Latin America and the world. The U.S. government and their allies cannot accept and cannot tolerate a growing anti-imperialist

movement, and we will see that with continued horrific repression against people in Chile, or anywhere where people revolt against their neo-liberal, U.S.-allied governments.

Venezuela and the anti-imperialist movement that they are leading together with Cuba in Latin America has the capacity to bring colonial and semi-colonial countries in Latin America and around the world united against the imperialist bully and their endless drive for capitalist market hegemony, neoliberalism and super exploitation which is what the U.S. government intends to bring to Latin America again.

So, what does Venezuela need us to do? Many respected progressive and leftist intellectuals and analysts in North America and Europe I think are paying perhaps too much attention, or are carried away by, the internal dynamics of the Bolivarian revolution, without realizing that our main task is not to speculate about the revolutionary process in Venezuela.

What has the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity

Campaign focused on? We have monthly protests that began in December of 2015, we support delegations where people can go to Venezuela to see for their own eyes what is happening, we hold public educational events about sanctions, the blockade, and the reality in Venezuela, we work together with other groups across Canada and in the U.S., including with something called the Campaign to End U.S./Canada Sanctions on Venezuela, we collect petition signatures, and largely, we talk to people on the streets about what is happening in Venezuela.

We have the necessity to build a more united and stronger solidarity movement. This means building a strong antiwar, anti-imperialist movement that also focuses on building solidarity with Venezuela in defense of their right to self-determination, which I think can bring all types of people on board. We can bring in many more people around supporting the right of Venezuelans to choose their own government.

The Venezuelan Bolivarian revolution and defending its independence has really created for us a golden opportunity for progressive, leftist, pacifist, and all other human-loving activists to overcome the fragmentation that has existed for so long on the left. Working and oppressed people in the U.S. and Canada must hear us; must see us in united action, in order to believe us and to join us. This is a movement that must involve people in Latin American community and all other communities in Canada working together, including people in Indigenous communities fighting for their own right to self-determination. It means concrete actions, handing out information, petitioning, cultural events, bringing people from Venezuela to Canada, which I will tell you, has been nearly impossible given Canada's position against Venezuela.

I also want to call attention to the example of the Embassy Protection Collective, which is now the Embassy Protection Collective Defense Fund, you can get more information at the back table. The Embassy Protection Collective was a protest that lasted over 30 days to defend the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC. The protectors were eventually sequestered inside of the Embassy, and four activists were in the Embassy protecting it from a take-over by the illegitimate representatives of Juan Guaido in the United States when they





**Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign petition drive in downtown Vancouver collecting signatures demanding the government of Canada end its sanctions on Venezuela, Oct 4, 2019**

were arrested. They were defending the right of Venezuela on the grounds of very basic and well-established international laws, the Vienna Convention, that govern the sanctity of embassies. They led the struggle with 24 hours a day protests that were loud and energetic, and brought together different movements. This was a

powerful example of what we can build in solidarity with Venezuela.

Now, four of the Embassy Protestors are facing up to a 1 year in prison and a \$10,000 fine and we are helping to fundraise for them. As I said, you can get more information at the back.

At the root of all conflicts and battles of imperialist countries against independent countries, including colonial and semi-colonial countries, is the drive to deny them their sovereignty and self-rule. Everything else is secondary.

We have very clearly seen that the heroic people of Venezuela and their revolutionary government, under Comandante Chavez and now democratically elected President Maduro, are extremely capable of dealing with all kinds of internal counter-revolutionary sabotage. We must immediately increase our effort to explain to the people in the advanced industrial countries that shortages of goods, food, medicine, and basic necessities are the result of 500 years of colonialism in Latin America, and now today also the result of inhuman, brutal and heavy imperialist sanctions and blockade against

Venezuela, and also against Cuba. We must build a movement in defense of the Venezuelan people with the main slogan of "US, Canada and All Other Imperialists Hands Off Venezuela!" and "End the Blockade Against Venezuela!" Let's work and focus together in a united effort on these basic demands.

As Professor Acuña ended, I also want to end the same – Venceremos, we will win!

*Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette*



# U.S./ CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

► END SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA!

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 2019


1. PROTEST ACTION 4 PM  
US CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER  
1070 WEST PENDER STREET
2. INFO TABLING & PETITION 5:30 PM  
VANCOUVER ART GALLERY  
ROBSON STREET AT HOWE STREET



Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (FTT)  
**WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET**

## Battle of Ideas Press

### Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela



In the struggle between revolution and counter-revolution, in Venezuela which side are you on?  
Alison Bodine

**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.

October 2017, paperback, \$10.00  
190 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9864716-5-0  
Copyright © 2016 by Battle of Ideas Press

**WWW.BATTLEOFIDEAPRESS.COM**  
**INFO@BATTLEOFIDEAPRESS.COM**



# Interview with Revolutionary Venezuelan Councilor Jimmy Gudiño

**WE ARE PEOPLE IN RESISTANCE TO IMPERIALISM!  
WE ARE IN A STRUGGLE FOR SOCIAL MOVEMENTS INTERNATIONALLY!**

*Interview by Tamara Hansen*

*Translated by Azza Rojbi*



**Tamara and Jimmy Gudiño, an elected Councilor for the Municipal Council of the Libertador Municipality of Caracas participating in the CLAP subsidized food distribution program.**

*While in Caracas, Venezuela for the Sao Paulo Forum at the end of July 2019, Fire This Time organizer Tamara Hansen was invited to visit the city with Jimmy Gudiño, an elected Councillor for the Municipal Council of the Libertador Municipality of Caracas with the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV). Jimmy and his wife, Yabidy took Tamara to visit the parishes of Antímamo and El Junquito. This was a part of Jimmy's regular daily work, but Tamara was lucky that she was invited along to gain some insight into the communities that elected Jimmy and how he connects with his constituents. One of the first stops was a construction site in Antímamo where, for nearly three years, a community of about 90 families has been working on building an apartment complex. They have worked with engineers and professionals to learn the trades, cleared the land, and are now working to lay the concrete for the second floor of their complex which will house 92 apartments.*

*They will have a garden for food, some livestock, and community meeting spaces. Having neighbours take on building their own homes has been an important part of the success of the "Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela" or the housing mission.*

*The workers explained to Tamara that the government was previously paying private companies and their construction crews to build the housing. However, due to economic sabotage by wealthy company owners, this was leading to inefficiencies and corruption. Today this specific project of the "Gran Misión Vivienda Venezuela" is asking people to take on the responsibility to learn and build their own homes. This approach has reduced government expenses and increased the feelings of community and ownership over the housing projects. At this site 60% of the workers were women. The pride in their work and achievements was evident, they wanted visitors to see every aspect of what they were doing from cutting rebar, to their pigs, to the architectural plans.*

*After the tour, Tamara sat down with councillor Jimmy Gudiño for an interview. To read more about Fire This Time's experiences in Venezuela, and for some of our other interviews see Fire This Time Volume 13 Issue 10 (October 2019), Issue 9 (September 2019) and Issue 8 (August 2019).*

**Fire This Time:** Thank you for being here with Fire This Time Newspaper from Canada. Can you introduce yourself and say a little about the work you do?

**Jimmy Gudiño:** Thank you, Tamara.

My name is Jimmy Gudiño, municipal councillor of Caracas and coordinator of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) of the Antímamo parish, in Caracas, the most Chavista parish in Caracas. We are working directly in the communities, talking with people about the situation we are living in, about the economic, commercial, and financial blockade we are facing, and we are organizing in resistance, to fully defeat this economic war against our country and to show to the world how we are fighting back in Venezuela. We are fighting at all levels: in social organizations; in the parties of the Revolution, in the PSUV; in our communal councils that work on the social level; in our CLAPs [Local Supply and Production Committees] that work in the resistance by distributing and producing the food that our people require; and in our UPDI [Popular Units of Internal Defense] that work for the defence of our territories. We are willing to defend the revolution in every scenario – in each alley and in each street. Within our communal councils and our communes, we are raising the thoughts, ideas, and words of our commander Hugo Chávez when he said "communes or nothing" to try to reach a communal state.

**FTT:** We now know that sanctions and the blockade against Venezuela - not only from the United States but also Canada and Europe - have an impact on Venezuela. Can you tell us a little about the impact on the daily life of Venezuelans?

**JG:** In Venezuela, we believe that they are not simply sanctions. We believe these are measures that violate our human rights.

The United States and its lackeys, some countries of the European Union and other countries that follow the Pentagon call them “sanctions”. We totally deny them because these countries are not the police of the world, nor are they the tribunal of the world.

The U.S. and its allies continue talking about sanctions, but basically, it is a violation of the human rights of our people. They blocked us from accessing a number of our financial resources.

International institutions, such as the Bank of England, refuse to return Venezuela its gold as we requested. They are simply part of a blockade against our country. They do not allow us to acquire the basic goods we need, meaning they do not allow Venezuela to have the resources to buy medicine, they do not allow Venezuela to have the resources to buy food.

However, we have a president who, together with the government, has been resisting with the people. This resistance has allowed us to build strategies against this blockade, for example through “Carnet de la Patria” [a benefit card available to all Venezuelans that provides access to government bonuses and subsidies], and through the CLAP boxes and bags of food, and through the increase of some wages, and through the creation of publicly funded cafeterias. These advances have allowed our people to continue in resistance against the so-called sanctions, which are not sanctions but are measures that violate our human rights. For this reason, from here in Venezuela, from the Popular

Power, we tell the peoples of the world, we tell the people of Canada that we are in resistance and that we are not going to give up fighting for our Bolivarian Revolution under any circumstance. We will defend our territory and revolution against those measures, that are taking

the shape of an economic, commercial and financial blockade, and we will win!

The blockade harms our communities directly and it harms the entire Venezuelan population. They talk about humanitarian aid. With what morals do they dare to talk about humanitarian aid? We tell them ‘if you want to talk about humanitarian aid, why don’t you remove the economic, commercial and financial blockade against us? Return the money that international banks such as Citibank and the Bank of England stole from us?’

**FTT: How do you think the solidarity movement of North America, Europe and around the world can support the people of Venezuela and work towards ending the blockade?**

**JG:** As Che Guevara would say, “solidarity is the warmth of the people” and as Comandante Chávez taught us, we raise the struggle of social movements internationally. We remember that Chavez, on the international question, sought to unify governments and peoples in the quest to achieve a multipolar world against a unipolar world only directed by the Pentagon. That is why we tell the people and the social movements in Canada, the United States and the world that we are people in resistance fighting for our sovereignty

and for a better world for all. We also make a call to the world to condemn the measures that the United States and its lackeys are taking with the economic, commercial and financial blockade against our country. Those measures violate our human rights and need to end

**FTT: Thank you very much.**



**Top to Bottom: Jimmy grateful for the medical care at the Centro Diagnóstico Integral “José María Aranda” in Antímamo, where Cuban health professionals work hand in hand with Venezuelans, Nov 30, 2019**  
**Jimmy Gudiño at the anti-imperialist conference in Havana, Cuba; Jimmy Gudiño speaking at joint meeting between the PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) and Venezuelan Peace Committee, Nov 10, 2019**

## SUPPORT THE EMBASSY PROTECTORS DEFENSE COMMITTEE!

Collecting funds for the Embassy Protectors who defended the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC from U.S. government sponsored pro-coup Venezuelans for 37 days in the Spring of 2019.

*Funds will go toward legal defense for the four members of the Embassy Protection Collective that have been charged with “interfering with protective services” and now face up to a year in jail and up to a \$100,000 fine, as well as other supporters.*

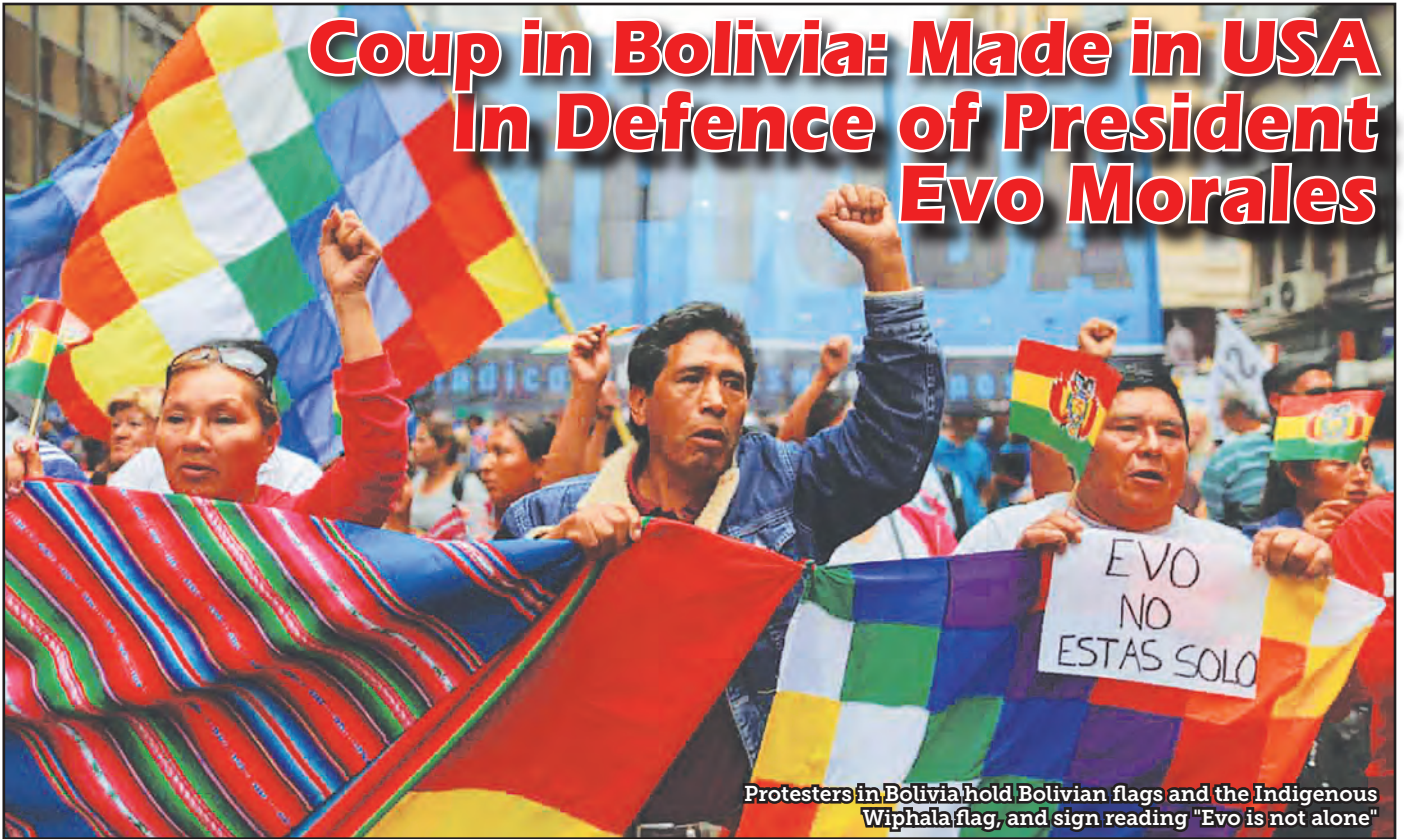
**[www.defendembassyprotectors.org](http://www.defendembassyprotectors.org)**



**Scan to donate!**



# Coup in Bolivia: Made in USA In Defence of President Evo Morales



Protesters in Bolivia hold Bolivian flags and the Indigenous Wiphala flag, and sign reading "Evo is not alone"

By Oscar Sánchez Serra

*If anyone doubts the participation of the United States government and the Organization of America States (OAS) in the coup in Bolivia, take a look at Trump's Twitter account and read this comment on the subject: "These events send a strong signal to the illegitimate regimes in Venezuela and Nicaragua..."*

Which government has led the poorest nation in the region for 13 years; dignified its indigenous roots; achieved international standing; built more than 5,000 educational centers, more than 1,000 health facilities; created financial assistance for the elderly, with a Dignity Bonus; and for children, the Juancito Pinto Bonus, contributing to a significant increase in school retention? That same country is now the fastest growing country in the region, raising the GDP to \$43 billion, up from some \$9 billion from 2005 when the government took office.

What government has in 13 years reduced illiteracy from 13% in 2006 to 2.4% in 2018; lowered unemployment rates from 9.2% to 4.1%, the lowest in the region; moved moderate poverty from 60% to 34.6%; and extreme poverty from 38.2% to 15%, in this same period of time? According to this country's ambassador in Cuba (in an interview on Cuban television) today it has for the first time a young woman serving as the head of a diplomatic mission; a 29-year-

old Senate President; and a Parliament which is 51% female; many of whom wear traditional ponchos and clothing.

All this was accomplished by giving the people power and participation, not with neoliberal formulas to enrich a few to the detriment of the majority. Which is why this government has become a preferred target of U.S. imperialism and the right-wing oligarchy, since they were being run out of business.

Their ire is even greater if the nation's President stands with the world's poor in the UN Security Council, and looking the empire in the face says: "The United States government is not interested in democracy, if that were the case, it would not finance coups and support dictators; it would not threaten democratically elected governments, as it does in Venezuela. The U.S. is not interested in human rights or justice, if it were, the U.S. would sign international conventions for the protection of human rights. The U.S. shows contempt for the international order, it is not interested in multilateralism, if that were the case, it would not withdraw from the Paris Agreement or the Global Migration Pact. This contempt is motivated by a desire to appropriate our natural resources." The U.S. government cannot forgive any government behaving this way.

This is the Bolivia of President Evo Morales, and these strengths became his "sins." They

are the real reason that led Carlos Mesa, Presidential candidate/coup plotter, and Luis Fernando Camacho – with a list of planned assassinations in hand, like Pablo Escobar, as he himself has stated to anyone opposing violent change in the country – to organize a coup that in its essences is fascist, dismissing human beings in pursuit of the oligarchy and imperialisms' interests.

## LIES EXPOSED

Evo and the growing plurinational State bothered them so much, that in their desperation, they challenged the elections which indicated the majority supported continuing the Movement to Socialism project. But the coup plotters were drowned in their own lies. The NewsFront agency cites a report from the Center for Economic and Political Research in the United States, which noted the absence of irregularities in the elections held on October 20, refuting the OAS [Organization of American States] position.

The news agency indicates that statements from the organization – which has yet to present any evidence to support its position – has had a significant impact on media coverage and, therefore, on public opinion. Additionally, they note that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia has two count systems, one provides the legal result, and the other a quick count, a system implemented following suggestions of the OAS for electoral transparency.





**Top: A funeral march from El Alto to La Paz (9 miles) for 8 protesters killed by police in earlier protests. The funeral procession was later attacked by police and mourners were forced to leave coffins in the streets. November 21, 2019**

**Bottom: Supporters of Bolivian President Evo Morales are confronted by military in La Paz, Bolivia. November 15, 2019**

At no point in the OAS report, the research center states, are the “irregularities” mentioned specifically described, insisting, “Neither the OAS mission or any other party has shown that there were widespread or systematic irregularities in the elections.” The research center itself questioned the OAS independence from the U.S. - which provides 60% of its budget - and challenges its silence on comments by President Trump and Senator Marco Rubio, asserting electoral fraud in Bolivia.

## THE TRUTH WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THE PEOPLES

Several carefully planned steps, leading to the coup, were taken, beginning well before October 20. However, once the cries of fraud were raised; the main state media closed and their journalists threatened; the OAS audit was rejected, as well as the option of electing new electoral authorities, proposed by Morales himself. Then the Bolivian Armed Forces and police turned their backs on the people and the democratic process in the country.

It is symptomatic - as revealed by the report from the U.S. Center for Economic and Political Research - that Bolivia's Police Chief, Vladimir Calderón, and

the Commander of the Armed Forces, Williams Kalimán, were, until December of 2018, police and military attachés, respectively, of the U.S. and they were the ones to step forward and call for the resignation of their President. Evo insisted that the armed forces not provoke violence, not confront the people, and now, following the coup plotters' orders, they have come out to attack.

Argentinian journalist Stella Calloni reports for Resumen Latinoamericano (via <https://telegra.ph>) that Ivanka Trump could have delivered money for the coup to the city of Jujuy, Argentina which Gerardo Morales could hand off to Camacho on his trip to Santa Cruz. The same source tells us that in the first days of September, on the pretext of Ivanka Trump's visit, a huge military-economic CIA team arrived, camouflaged as firefighters from the Jujuy Ministry of Environment, who were sent as replacements to the “sister nation” of Bolivia. At that time Jujuy sent “help” to fight forest fires in the Bolivian Amazon.

Those who tell the truth and defend it



**Right-wing senator Jeanine Áñez, after declaring herself Interim President of Bolivia, holding a bible at the balcony of the Presidential Palace in La Paz, Bolivia. November 12, 2019**

always find the answers. Nicolás Maduro, on the day after the coup - in the Caracas of Chávez, of Bolívar, of a united America - in an international meeting in support of Bolivia and its President, unmasked Luis Fernando Camacho. “The father of this fascist was the owner of the gas company that Evo nationalized to distribute the wealth amongst his people,” he said.

If anyone doubts the participation of the United States government and the Organization of America States (OAS) in the coup in Bolivia, take a look at Trump's Twitter account and read this comment on the subject, “These events send a strong signal to the illegitimate regimes in Venezuela and Nicaragua...”

From: <http://en.granma.cu>

Minor edits made by Fire This Time for clarity  
Original title: “Evo and Bolivia bother the empire”

Follow Oscar on Twitter: @AlberDaz

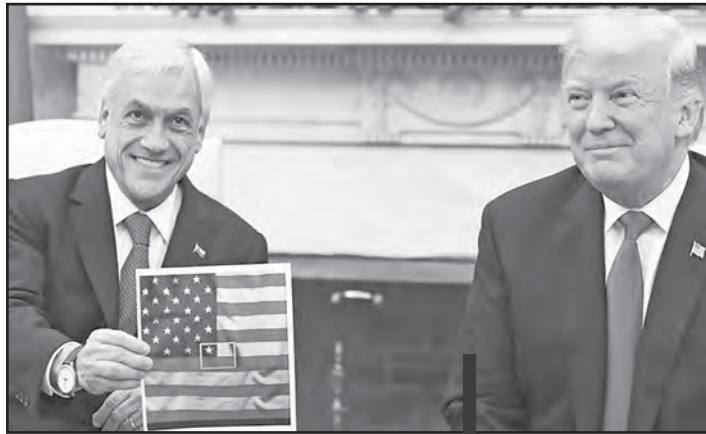
**"We are realists... we dream the impossible" - Che**

# Fire This Time!

**Distribute Revolutionary Change in Your Area!**

**For distribution of Fire This Time in your area, across BC, and internationally, please contact:**  
**Thomas Davies**  
**Publicity and Distribution Coordinator**  
**Phone: (778) 889-7864**  
**Email: [firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com)**





**El presidente chileno Piñera con una imagen que muestra la bandera chilena en el centro de la bandera estadounidense, con el presidente estadounidense Trump en la Casa Blanca, Washington DC. 28 de septiembre de 2018**

Chile.

Sin embargo, apenas tres años después de su elección, en 1973, los Estados Unidos y sus aliados imperialistas orquestaron un brutal golpe de Estado, asesinaron a Allende e instalaron una sangrienta dictadura militar. En solamente los primeros 5 años, el violento régimen dictatorial de Augusto Pinochet, con el apoyo de los Estados Unidos, encarceló y torturó al menos 30.000 personas y desapareció a otras 3.000. Una constitución escrita en dictadura, la misma que consagra la privatización, sigue vigente en Chile hoy.

Revisar la historia moderna de Chile también ayuda a explicar la determinación inquebrantable de su pueblo para continuar protestando masivamente en las calles hasta que sus demandas sean satisfechas. A pesar de algunas concesiones que Piñera se vio obligado a ceder, como el incremento a las pensiones mensuales o el salario mínimo y una reorganización de su gabinete, o acordar no subir las tarifas de transporte, la gente sigue en las calles.

Como explicaba Vilma Álvarez, dirigente del sindicato de Jumbo (cadena de supermercados en Chile), en una entrevista con el periódico argentino Página 12, las concesiones que Piñera ofreció a quienes se están manifestando no son suficientes. Son "otra forma de seguir traspasando dinero hacia los sectores financieros y no dar ningún alivio a la población" y

"la demanda es que Piñera renuncie y que se haga una Asamblea Constituyente". El pueblo chileno ya tuvo suficiente.

### **Construyendo solidaridad con el pueblo chileno**

¿Por qué el pueblo trabajador y oprimido de Canadá debería apoyar la lucha del pueblo chileno?

Un motivo es que en Chile se desató una represión criminal y violenta que vulnera los derechos humanos más básicos. Las personas movilizadas han sido arrestadas, torturadas, violadas y asesinadas por salir a las



**Manifestante se enfrenta a la policía antidisturbios en Santiago, Chile. 22 de octubre de 2019**

calles masivamente para oponerse a la desigualdad y austeridad y en defensa de su dignidad.

Como declaraba Isabel Sánchez a

Aljazeera el 26 de octubre, "somos la generación que comenzó su vida en la dictadura y no hemos tenido juventud. Perdimos amigos; vimos personas masacradas. Vivimos con miedo, pero ahora los y las jóvenes han florecido, perdieron ese miedo." Así que ya es hora de que nosotros y nosotras, como el pueblo trabajador oprimido de Canadá y los Estados Unidos, reconozcamos el coraje y la lucha del pueblo chileno y ofrezcamos nuestro apoyo, nos hagamos eco de sus voces.

Como personas que viven en los Estados Unidos y Canadá, tenemos la responsabilidad adicional de brindar nuestra solidaridad al pueblo de Chile porque los gobiernos de Canadá y EEUU están apoyando la represión y la crueldad del gobierno de Piñera.

### **La diáspora chilena apoya la lucha**

En los EEUU y Canadá, integrantes de la comunidad chilena y aliados también han tomado las calles para exigir se respeten los derechos humanos en Chile y denunciar la violencia indiscriminada ejercida contra los y las manifestantes por el gobierno de Piñera. Se han organizado manifestaciones en solidaridad en las principales ciudades a lo largo de Estados Unidos y en Canadá, incluyendo Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Vancouver y Victoria. Estas acciones de solidaridad no solo reunieron a personas de las más variadas trayectorias y experiencias, sino también a muchas generaciones de chilenos y chilenas; desde

**Protesta en Santiago, Chile. Octubre de 2019**



quienes se exiliaron durante la dictadura de Pinochet hasta jóvenes de Chile que están en Canadá o EEUU por estudios.

En Vancouver, la diáspora chilena se ha unido a otros que viven en Canadá para conformar un nuevo grupo llamado Van4Chile. Van4Chile organizó protestas y manifestaciones públicas en solidaridad con el pueblo chileno, incluyendo una energética protesta el 2 de noviembre de 2019 frente a CBC en el centro de Vancouver. En esta actividad más de 200 personas, de todas las profesiones y clases sociales, unieron fuerzas para exigir que CBC cubra las protestas en Chile. También denunciaron la complicidad del gobierno canadiense en la represión de los derechos humanos y democráticos en Chile. Para involucrarse y seguir el trabajo de Van4Chile pueden buscarlos en Facebook, Instagram y Twitter @Van4Chile.

### No boicoteen a Chile

También es importante decir que dentro del movimiento en solidaridad con el pueblo chileno han surgido demandas de boicotear vino u otros productos producidos en Chile. Si bien esta propuesta puede haber surgido con las mejores intenciones, la acción más importante que podemos llevar adelante nosotros, como pueblo pacífico de Canadá y EEUU, en beneficio del valiente pueblo chileno no es boicotearlos, sino apoyarlos. Quizás cabe analizar más críticamente qué impacto tendría en el pueblo chileno un boicot al vino producido en su país.

Hoy en Chile la clase trabajadora y oprimida está bajo un brutal ataque a nivel económico, político y social orquestado por el gobierno de Sebastián Piñera y la explotación imperialista. Por ende, es posible que un boicot dirigido a la economía chilena tiene le potencial de dañar al movimiento y reforzar las medidas de austeridad que ya están soportando. Cualquier perjuicio a la economía de Chile seguramente será trasladada de las familias chilenas más ricas y la clase capitalista (quienes tienen miles de millones de dólares para sobrevivir) al pueblo pobre y trabajador del país, Incrementando la austeridad, la presión y la desigualdad que enfrentan. ¡Y Chile no solo produce vinos! ¿Queremos acaso también boicotear las compañías mineras y metalúrgicas cuyos productos alcanzan \$40 mil millones o 60% de todas las exportaciones chilenas, representando el 20% de su PBI? La industria vitivinícola solamente exporta \$2 mil millones de los \$70-77 mil millones totales de

exportaciones de Chile.

Habiendo dicho esto, ¿realmente queremos que la industria chilena se declare en bancarota? ¿A quién beneficiaría esto? ¿A los y las trabajadores? Por supuesto que no. ¿Queremos que los y las trabajadoras y personas que trabajan en la industria vitivinícola pierdan sus trabajos? ¿Queremos dar a la clase capitalista una excusa para despidos, para imponer recortes de personal y horas extra? ¿No son precisamente éstas las políticas neoliberales a las que el pueblo chileno se está oponiendo? ¿No es acaso un tiro por la culata?

Además, también es importante tener en cuenta la alternativa. Si pedimos a las personas del mundo entero que boicoteen el vino chileno porque el gobierno de Chile es reaccionario, ¿es realmente mejor consumir vino de EEUU, Canadá, Francia, España, Inglaterra, Australia, Italia o Alemania, que son responsables por la masacre de decenas de millones de personas en todo el mundo (incluyendo el golpe de 1973 en Chile)? La diferencia es que Chile es un país oprimido, un país del tercer mundo. Chile no es un país imperialistas con inmensos recursos financieros e industriales. Como país, Chile se esfuerza por sobrevivir en el mercado mundial que está dominado de manera apabullante por países imperialistas y sus corporaciones

**Más de 10,000 mujeres son parte de una protesta artística contra el gobierno chileno y contra la violencia sexual, fuera del Estadio Nacional en Santiago, Chile. 4 de diciembre de 2019**

(incluyendo las compañías de vino).

Implementar cualquier táctica en una lucha puede ser muy contraproducente si no está bien pensada. En la historia de las luchas por un mundo mejor, un movimiento de boicot nunca ha sido la manera más efectiva de construir solidaridad. El único boicot efectivo ha sido aquel exigido por las personas dentro del país sujeto de boicot; el movimiento de boicot en contra del apartheid en Sudáfrica.

Nuestro impacto será mucho mayor si dirigimos toda la energía que dedicaríamos al boicot y en su lugar la utilizamos para generar más empatía y solidaridad con el pueblo chileno en el territorio canadiense y de los EEUU a través de actividades callejeras, petitorios, eventos educativos y más.

Como pueblo pobre trabajador y oprimido de Canadá/EEUU y de todo el mundo debemos plantear la problemática de los derechos humanos, tortura, violación, ejecución, represión y, sí, medidas neoliberales de austeridad en Chile. Tenemos que exponer las atrocidades de Piñera y la complicidad de gobiernos como los de EEUU y Canadá en esta brutalidad.

¡Sebastián Piñera se tiene que ir!

*Follow Alison Bodine on Twitter:  
@Alisoncolette*







# Poetry Night for Peace

*By Janine Solanki*

The new era of war and occupation, which began with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, has carved a path of death and destruction throughout the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America. Every day there are more reasons to stand together as peace-loving people against the deadly U.S. war machine. From brutal sanctions imposed on the people of Iran and Venezuela, to the continued bombardment of Yemen by a Saudi-led coalition armed with U.S., Canadian, and European weaponry.

On November 10, the U.S. government backed a military coup against President Evo Morales in Bolivia, escalating imperialist attacks against people in Latin America, particularly those fighting for their self-determination and sovereignty. In neighboring Chile, people are continuing to protest neo-liberalism and austerity despite facing horrific police and military brutality unleashed upon them by the U.S.-allied President Piñera. Meanwhile in Palestine, the Israeli military unleashed two days of bloody bombardment on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip starting November 12, killing at least 34 people and wounding over 100.

On November 15, 2019 Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) organized an antiwar rally and petition campaign in downtown Vancouver, which is held monthly for the last 16 years, as long as imperialist wars, occupation and aggressions continue against oppressed nations around the world. Banners and picket signs reading "U.S. Out of the Middle East and North Africa!" and "U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!" attracted the attention of many passers-by, who stopped by the information table to pick up antiwar literature and talk to organizers. Teams of activists also collected petition signatures from people passing through the busy plaza. The petition demands that Canada end its \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia for so-called "light" armoured vehicles – a deal which exposes the government of Canada's complacency and



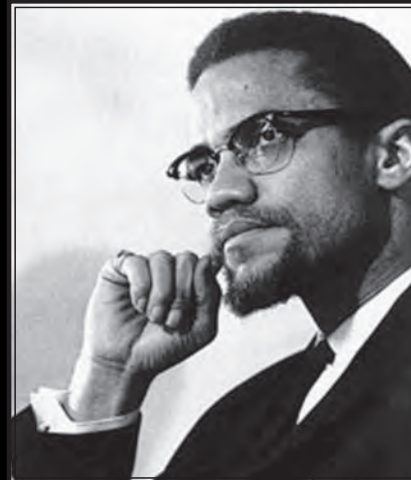
## Vancouver Peace Activists Demand an End to War

support of Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen.

The day's activities continued after the protest, with a "Poetry for Peace" cultural night at East Vancouver's Britannia Community Center. The event started out with a collection of music videos with an antiwar message, before Azza Rojbi, MAWO executive committee member, spoke about her newly published book, "U.S. and Saudi War on the People of Yemen". The evening included several poems in Spanish: Lucy Ortiz, President of Proyecto Cultural Sur Vancouver; Macarena Cataldo, also a Proyecto Cultural Sur member and Chilean activist; Mayra Climaco, a Nicaraguan poet and social justice activist and former Sandinista fighter; and Stephany Mazuera, Colombian social justice activist and graduate of the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana, Cuba. MAWO organizer Shakeel Lochan shared his spoken word, and poetry was also shared by activist Neb Jorgacevic and political editor of Fire This Time Newspaper Ali Yerevani. In between poets, participants got up Won their feet and danced to the beats of one of the best local Hip Hop MC's, Estea Elements, who reflects socially conscious rhymes through his music. This beautiful evening of music and poetry gave voice to the hopes and goals of activists and supporters with MAWO, for a world of peace, and without war.

For upcoming MAWO events and actions, please visit [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org) or follow on Facebook & Twitter @MAWOVan

## "By Any Means Necessary..."



### MALCOLM X SPEAKS

One of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn is how to see for yourself and listen for yourself and think for yourself. Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself.

If you form the habit of going by what you hear others say about someone, or going by what others think about someone, instead of searching that thing out for yourself and seeing for yourself, you will be walking west when you think you're going east, and you will be walking east when you think you're going west. This generation, especially of our people, has a burden, more so than any other time in history. The most important thing that we can learn to do today is think for ourselves.

It's good to keep wide-open ears and listen to what everybody else has to say, but when you come to make a decision, you have to weigh all of what you've heard on its own, and place it where it belongs, and come to a decision for yourself; you'll never regret it. But if you form the habit of taking what someone else says about a thing without checking it out for yourself, you'll find that other people will have you hating your friends and loving your enemies.

– From "Malcolm X Talks to Young People" a speech delivered on December 31, 1964 at the Hotel Theresa in New York City

# Declaration of Solidarity with the Cuban Revolution

## *Anti-imperialist Solidarity Meeting for Democracy and against Neoliberalism.*

The Government of the United States continues its hostility against Cuba, with increased aggressiveness in recent months. The tightening of the blockade, its marked extraterritorial nature, application of the Helms-Burton Act and other mechanisms and additional sanctions constitute the principal obstacle for the socio-economic development of the Cuban nation, an attack on its sovereignty and flagrant violation of the principles of International Law.

We, the peoples of the world, need the example of Cuba and therefore, we have the commitment to defend it from the attacks of Yankee Imperialism and to support it in the fulfillment of its noble aspirations to build a prosperous and sustainable nation, with the slogan of José Martí which says: Whoever rises up today with Cuba, rises up for all times!

Inspired by the legacy of Fidel, and throughout over 150 years of struggle, resistance and victory of this heroic nation; proud of the steadfastness and iron-clad unity of the Cuban people before the obsessive economic war, aggressive escalation and hostile policy of Yankee Imperialism, the 1332 delegates of 86 nations, meeting on the 1 to 3 of November of 2019,

### **WE AGREE:**

**① To demand** lifting the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on Cuba by the government of the United States and we condemn the implementation of the Helms-Burton Act, violator of the principles and basic norms of International Law, which persists in its aim to destroy the Cuban Revolution.

**② To support** and back the Resolution “Need to end the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”, which will be presented at the United Nations General Assembly on the 6th and 7th of November, 2019.

**③ To demand** returning to the Cuban people the territory illegally occupied by the Guantánamo Naval

Base, usurped over one hundred years ago by the US government, in violation of Cuban sovereignty.

**④ To reject** the growing aggression of the government of the United States and its allies against the medical collaboration programs, one of the noblest expressions of the spirit of solidarity and internationalism of the Cuban Revolution.

**⑤ To demand** cessation of the subversive and destabilizing programs against Cuba and for Cuba's right to self-determination and independence be respected.



**Participants at the Anti-imperialist Solidarity Meeting for Democracy and against Neoliberalism in Havana, Cuba**

**⑥ To spread** the truth about Cuba, countering the media campaigns funded by the American administration with millions of dollars from its federal budget, and which systematically slander, distort and lie about what is happening in the country and hide the achievements of the Revolution.

**⑦ To ratify** that Cuba is a safe, peaceful and healthy country for Cubans, foreigners, accredited diplomats and for the millions of persons who visit every year, including American citizens.

**⑧ To support** the Cuban Revolution which is based on the principles of solidarity, social justice, internationalism and indivisible unity, and which constitutes a reference point for our peoples.

**⑨ To strengthen** the bases of the



**Anti-imperialist Meeting of Solidarity for Democracy and against Neoliberalism**

From November 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019  
Havana, Cuba

**“Peoples keep fighting”**

#ManosFueraDeCuba #SeguimosEnLucha

#NoMasBloqueos #JornadaContinental #SoyAntiimperialista

Solidarity with Cuba Movement through greater coordination of social and people's movements and the forces of the Left, in order to promote the actions of solidarity before the imperialist and interventionist policy of the government of the United States and its allies.

**⑩ To develop** the greatest and most urgent mobilization possible by carrying out public and media actions, on a permanent, systematic and intensive basis, condemning the escalating aggression of Yankee Imperialism against the Cuban people.

We thank Cuba for its hospitality and its solidarity with all the peoples of the world. We support all its efforts for the unity and integration of our nations, for which our forefathers fought so hard.

We recognize that, despite the limitations brought Cuba by the economic barrier policy, its Socialist Revolution has achieved that its people enjoy the rights and freedoms fundamental for the full development of all Cubans, without resorting to neoliberal formulae. Moreover, its constant internationalist practice has contributed to the development of human rights in many countries in the world.

At this decisive moment for the struggle against the imperialism of the US and its allies, and for democracy, justice and peace, we join our actions to the legacy of Fidel: “Let us sow faith and we will be sowing freedoms; let us sow hope and we will be sowing freedoms; let us sow solidarity and we will be sowing freedoms”.

Yankee Imperialism! Hands off Cuba!  
Long live the friendship among our peoples!  
Long live the heroic Cuban Revolution!



that the symptoms are consistent with low dose exposure to neurotoxins. The working theory is that diplomats may have been affected by the use of pesticides sprayed against mosquitos which can spread diseases like Zika virus and dengue fever. A CBC News article titled, "Havana syndrome: Exposure to neurotoxin may have been caused, study suggests" explains, "The researchers found that since 2016, Cuba launched an aggressive campaign against mosquitoes to stop the spread of the Zika virus. The embassies actively sprayed in offices, as well as inside and outside diplomatic residences — sometimes five times more frequently than usual. Many times, spraying operations were carried out every two weeks, according to embassy records. Toxicological analysis of the Canadian victims confirmed the presence of pyrethroid and organophosphate — two compounds found in fumigation products. There was also a correlation between the individuals most affected by the symptoms and the number of fumigations that were performed at their residence."

The government of Canada's hypocrisy

While this report seems quite credible, it does not account for the situation of U.S. diplomats and the researchers that are now planning to work with Cuban authorities to further investigate the results of their theory. However, it is interesting that

research paid for by the government of Canada demonstrates that indeed Cuba is not to blame (as most of the spraying was conducted by the embassy itself). Yet Global Affairs Canada maintains that, despite the release of the report, it "hasn't definitively determined a cause to the mysterious ailments." Furthermore, Canada has not restored all services at the Canadian Embassy in Havana Cuba which were cut off in May 2019.

On November 26, 2019, the National Post newspaper published an article titled, "In court filing, Canadian government argues diplomats exaggerated 'Havana Syndrome' claims behind \$28M lawsuit." This article deepened the hypocrisy of the government of Canada who are now accusing the diplomats



Cicadas and crickets implicated as a possible cause of "Havana Syndrome"

of exaggeration in the claims in the lawsuit. The article explains, "Government lawyers acknowledge that some of the 14 plaintiffs in the lawsuit exhibited concussion-like symptoms, but say the cause is unknown and that "in any case, the Defendant pleads that there is no definitive medical diagnosis of any medical condition, illness or disease called Havana Syndrome, notwithstanding the use of this term by the Plaintiffs." They say the government "has no knowledge or insufficient knowledge" to conclusively determine how many plaintiffs were affected by the symptoms referred to as Havana Syndrome."

This makes it clear why the government of Canada has been so cautious in the language it uses and whether or not to accept the findings of the report commissioned from the Brain Repair Centre, Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Health Authority. They are worried about this lawsuit. Nevertheless, while the government of Canada accuses the

diplomats of exaggerating, they continue to refuse to fully restore services to Cubans at the Canadian Embassy in Havana, Cuba.

Whether caused by pesticides, mass hysteria or a form of shell shock/stress it is clear there were no 'sonic attacks' in Cuba. Overall the question remains if there is something concrete that impacted diplomats or if it is simply "psychogenic symptoms generated by stress". In all cases, it is quite clear that the Cuban government was not targeting diplomats from Canada or the U.S. and this campaign against Cuba was yet another red herring thrown on the path to stop the real normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations. It also seems it was meant to scare tourists from Canada and the U.S. from travelling to Cuba and generally promote suspicion in the U.S. and Canada towards the Cuban people and their revolutionary government. All in all, it seems this Hollywood spy story of 'sonic attacks' and 'Havana Syndrome' is more fiction than fact.

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01

**SCAN TO SIGN THE PETITION!** ➔

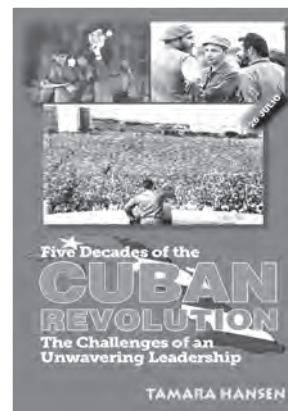


**CANADA MUST FULLY REOPEN THE IRCC OFFICE & ALL VISA SERVICES TO CUBANS IN HAVANA, CUBA!**

#CDNVISAS4CUBA  
#UNBLOCKCUBA #NOMÁSBLOQUEO

## 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,  
Copyright © 2010 by Battle of Ideas Press

**WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**  
**INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**

# Defending Venezuela Against Imperialist Aggression is a Central Task of Working and Oppressed People

By Janine Solanki

The concept of "self-determination" or "sovereignty" are widely recognized as the fundamental rights of a nation. However, the United States government flagrantly violates these rights in Venezuela (as well as in many, many other countries throughout the world and throughout history).

Since 1999 Venezuela has been charting its own path, without U.S. foreign domination, through the Bolivarian Revolution which has made huge gains for the Venezuelan people. Social missions have greatly improved education, healthcare and access to subsidized food and other social services in Venezuela. For example, in 2005 Venezuela was declared free of illiteracy by UNESCO, only two years after the launch of Mission Robinson, a literacy program. Prior to the program's implementation, 1.5 million Venezuelans were illiterate, 2 million had not finished primary school, and many more had not finished high school, which further educational missions addressed.

These accomplishments are an example of what can be done in a country free from U.S. colonial policies and is exactly what the U.S. is trying to destroy at all costs. After years of an economic war, the U.S. government backed an attempted coup in Venezuela on January of 2019, which failed as Venezuelans defended their democratically elected President Nicolas Maduro. Now the U.S. has imposed a cruel blockade against Venezuela, which consists of over 150 illegal unilateral coercive measures that negatively impacts all facets of life for the people of Venezuela.

Peace and justice loving people around the world are standing up in defense of Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution, against these attacks from U.S. imperialism and their allies. In Vancouver, Canada, the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign organizes a protest action every month, most recently on November 8, 2019.

At the November 8th action, Venezuela supporters gathered in front of the U.S. Consulate in downtown Vancouver, raising picket signs and chanting "U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!" In between rounds of picketing, protesters heard from local speakers, who also demanded that the U.S. drop all charges against members of the Embassy Protection Collective who were arrested during their heroic defense of Venezuela's sovereignty. For 37 days the Embassy Protection Collective protected the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC from a take-over by supporters of the U.S.-backed puppet, the so-called "interim President" of Venezuela, Juan Guaidó. (Read more about this important struggle in Fire This Time Newspaper, Volume 13, Issue 6, and donate to the Embassy Protectors' Defense Fund at <https://defendembassyprotectors.org> )

The action then moved to the busy Robson street plaza, where the many passersby stopped to talk to organizers and get information. Many also signed on to the petition demanding that Canada stop its sanctions against Venezuela, as the government of Canada also targets Venezuela with cruel sanctions and a media campaign aimed at "regime change" in Venezuela.

These actions continue monthly, and you can find out about the next action at [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net) or by following on Facebook, Twitter: @FTT\_np and Instagram: @FTT.Venezuela.



*The Newspaper Of*  
**FIRE THIS TIME**  
MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
**www.firethistime.net**  
**Volume 13 Issue 12 December 2019**  
Published Monthly

## Political Editor:

Ali Yerevani - [editorftt@mail.com](mailto:editorftt@mail.com) @aliyerevani

Editor: Tamara Hansen @thans01

## Editorial Board:

Tamara Hansen, Alison Bodine, Janine Solanki, Azza Rojbi, Thomas Davies, Ali Yerevani

## Layout & Design:

Azza Rojbi, Max Tennant, Janine Solanki, Tamara Hansen, Mike Larson

## Contributors:

Ana Laura Torres, Jose Luis Rodriguez

## Copy Editors:

Tamara Hansen & Alison Bodine

## Publicity & Distribution Coordinator:

Thomas Davies

## Production Manager:

Azza Rojbi

## Contact:

Phone (778) 938-1557

Email [firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com)

Mail PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC, V5L 5G3

## Subscriptions

For a one year subscription outside the lower mainland, make cheques payable to "Thomas Davies" (Canada \$15, USA \$20, International \$30) Send to: PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC, V5L 5G3

## Distribution

For Fire This Time in your area across BC, Canada, and internationally contact Publicity and Distribution Coordinator Thomas Davies  
Phone : (778) 889-7664

## Submissions & Suggestions

We welcome articles, letters, unsolicited submissions, and suggestions. However, we cannot promise publication. Submissions and suggestions can be made by email by contacting [firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com) fax, or regular mail. Submissions will not be returned.

The opinions expressed in the newspaper are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of Fire This Time.

## Donations

If you find Fire This Time to be an effective tool in the struggle of oppressed people for justice, more than ever, we need your support. On top of our regular costs of production, we regularly send members of our editorial board on assignment throughout North America, the Caribbean and beyond in order to make Fire This Time a better resource. These efforts have strained our finances.

If you would like to help with a donation, please make cheques payable to "Thomas Davies".

Fire This Time is an independent newspaper and publishing Fire This Time could not be possible without the generous contributions from our supporters.

## Reprint Policy

Reprinting of articles from Fire This Time by progressive media is welcomed, with source credit to the author and Fire This Time Newspaper. All other media, including mainstream media or institutions must request permission.

## Advertisement Policy

*Fire This Time does not accept commercial ads. Ads in this newspaper are political ads and Fire This Time makes no profit off of these ads. The presence of ads are solely for political purposes.*

Fire This Time Newspaper is written, produced and distributed entirely by volunteer labour and printed in Burnaby, Greater Vancouver, Canada

ISSN-1712-1817

## Subscribe to Fire This Time!

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE (optional)

For a one year subscription, 12 issues, make cheque payable to: Thomas Davies

Send along with form to:  
PO Box 21607  
Vancouver BC  
V5L 5G3

Canada "SPECIAL OFFER" \$10  
USA "SPECIAL OFFER" \$15  
International \$30  
Cuba & Venezuela FREE!

## Distribute Revolutionary Change in Your Area!

For distribution of Fire This Time in your area, across BC, and internationally, please contact:

Thomas Davies

Publicity & Distribution Coordinator

Phone: (778) 889-7664

Email:

[firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com)



# CELEBRATE 5 YEARS SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE CUBAN 5 HEROES!



## THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES TO LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!



**TUESDAY DECEMBER 17<sup>2019</sup>**  
#NoMasBloqueo #UNBLOCKCUBA

**MONTHLY PICKET ACTION**  
**4 PM**  
**U.S. CONSULATE**  
1075 W. PENDER ST.  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

**7 PM**  
**CULTURAL NIGHT FOR THE CUBAN 5**  
**MOUNT PLEASANT**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**  
800 E. BROADWAY  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER  
**WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG**



**TUESDAY - 8PM - 31ST  
DECEMBER**

**new year's party!**

FOOD & DRINKS!  
LIVE MUSIC!  
& LOTS OF  
DANCING!

HERITAGE BANQUET HALL  
726 12TH STREET  
NEW WESTMINSTER

**CELEBRATING  
61 YEARS  
OF THE CUBAN  
REVOLUTION!**

**20\$ PRE-SALE | 25\$ AT THE DOOR**  
**INFORMATION: 778-882-5223**

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA - VCSC  
**VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM**