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Fire This Time!

VICTORY IN ARGENTINA! & INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



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UNBLOCK VENEZUELA



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CANCELLING THE KXL PIPELINE:

→ A VICTORY FOR THE WORKING CLASS & THE ENVIRONMENT

→ THE TRANS MOUNTAIN (TMX) PIPELINE IS NEXT!

By Alison Bodine

On January 20, 2021, U.S. President Biden's first day in office, he cancelled the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline by rescinding a Presidential permit required to complete construction at the U.S./Canada border. This cancellation is a victory for people throughout the United States who have organizing against the project, which, if built, would have put vital water sources, ecosystems, Indigenous communities, and farmers in peril. So, it is a victory for the Canadian people too.

However, not everyone celebrated this step forward in the fight for our planet. The Premier of Alberta, Jason Kenney, called the cancellation, "a gut punch for the Canadian and Alberta economies." The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, who claims to be a so-called 'climate leader', stated that he was "disappointed."

The Premier of Saskatchewan, Scott Moe, appeared on the CBC to express his outrage at the cancellation and argue that KXL was set to transport a "sustainable product" (his way of describing dirty tar-sands oil that has been extracted with natural gas instead of coal).

No matter how many times the likes of Prime Minister Trudeau and Jason Kenney try to convince us that it is true - poor, working, and oppressed people in Canada, the U.S. and around the world do not benefit from resource extraction projects. If we are going to have a future on this planet, then we must expose the empty promises of fossil fuel profiteers. The KXL pipeline cancellation is an opportunity to do just that - uncover

the lies that are told in defense of pipelines that destroy the planet and bring outrageous profits to oil and gas executives. This is the way profit driven capitalism works.

What is the KXL pipeline?

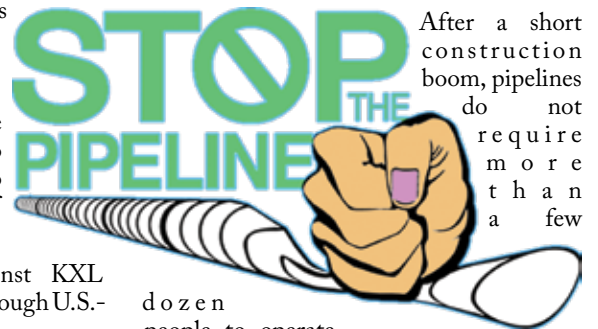
The KXL pipeline is an 1,897-kilometre \$14.4 billion project first proposed in 2008 by Canada-based TransCanada Corp (now called TC Energy Corp). It was planned to deliver 830,000 barrels of tar sands heavy oil (bitumen) from Alberta to Nebraska daily. From there, the pipeline would connect into other pipeline infrastructure to be sent to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico.

For 12 years, the fight against KXL continued as the pipeline went through U.S.-

In defense of Mother Earth

in the path of the pipeline from Alberta to Texas. There is no doubt that this consistent widespread campaigning and pressure played a significant role in President Biden's decision to cancel KXL.

Pipeline Lie #1 - The KXL pipeline will create thousands of "much-needed, well-paying jobs."



After a short construction boom, pipelines do not require more than a few

dozen

people to operate.

Even the U.S. State department itself analyzed in 2014 that KXL would only create 35 permanent jobs in the U.S. The job calculations presented by TC Energy and the government of Canada are heavily exaggerated. As reported by the Parkland Institute in Alberta, "The 34,000 jobs number includes a supposed calculation of every single direct, indirect, and induced job resulting from the pipeline itself, from increased bitumen production, from increased tanker traffic, and even from the investment of increased profits and dividends. It's a stretch at best..."

In a 2018 article in the Toronto Star about the TMX pipeline, Werner Antweiler, from the Sauder School of Business explained, "you get this small kick during the construction phase in terms of employment that will, of course, not turn into long-term jobs and high-quality jobs that are essential for the economy."

On top of this, the energy industry is constantly cutting the "well-paying jobs," citing falling revenues. For example, Suncor, a major tar sands developer, announced plans in October 2020 to lay off 2,000 people next year. Meanwhile, a merger of two other tar-sands giants, Husky and Cenovus, brought about layoffs of 1,750- 2,150 people that



Protest led by Indigenous community members at an Enbridge Line 3 pipeline construction site near Palisade, Minnesota, January 9, 2021

Presidential approvals and cancellations, environmental reviews, and court cases. This included large mobilizations of climate activists, Indigenous people, farmers, and ranchers whose livelihoods were under threat. The largest rally against the Keystone XL pipeline happened when 50,000 people gathered in Washington DC in 2013. At the same time, there were hundreds of protests organized in communities that fell



began in January 2021. This is on top of measures taken by the oil, gas, and other extractive industries to increase their profits by turning to automation for jobs such as driving trucks. When profits begin to drop, the first costs to be cut by the mega-corporations are sure to be these promised well-paid jobs.

Pipeline Lie #2 - The KXL pipeline will provide a boost to Canada's economy:

Claims about pipeline jobs and a booming economy are dangerous assertions meant to convince poor and working people in Canada that prosperity will come by recklessly destroying the planet.

For example, Alberta's government stated that KXL would, "generate \$30 billion in tax and royalty revenues for current and future generations of Albertans." But working people in Alberta know all too well how much these estimates are tied to a lot of risk and uncertainty. One and a half years after oil prices crashed in 2014, 40,000 workers in Alberta had lost their jobs, according to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. This crash devastated thousands of families, who were left to fend for themselves. Meanwhile, the oil and gas industry continued to turn out enormous profits. Poor, working, and oppressed people in Canada need more than this reckless capitalist boom-and-bust economy.

As well, when Kenney was crying foul about the KXL cancellation, someone should have asked him about his government's reckless spending of taxpayer money during the pandemic. In the Spring of 2020, Alberta's government invested \$1.5 billion in KXL and guaranteed \$6 billion in loans. At that time, people in Alberta needed PPE and economic support for their everyday needs, not another handout for a pipeline project.

It is also important to mention that the estimated economic "boost" from KXL is based on the pipeline being operational for

decades. However, we know that the planet cannot support decades worth of dirty tar-sands extraction and consumption. If the world is going to stay below 2 degrees temperature increase, there is only so much oil that can be consumed. In response to Premier Moe's claim that

KXL, "provides jobs for years into the future," we must ask - what good is a job on a planet with poison food, water, and air?

Pipeline Lie #3 - Canada builds the "cleanest" pipelines:

There is definitely something suspicious when someone tries to spin tar sands oil as a "clean" product. Extracting oil out of the tar sands takes massive amounts of water, chemicals, and power supplied by either natural gas or coal.

At the same time, any spin-doctor claiming that the tar sands oil mines are "clean" completely disregards the fact that the heavy crude transported in the pipeline would eventually be burned and emitted into the



Banners at a protest against TMX pipeline in Vancouver organized by Climate Convergence Vancouver

atmosphere. Given that there is only one planet, it seems foolish that some continue to argue that supplying more fossil fuels to be burned is an environmentally conscious action just because the 830,000 barrels a day of oil will not be burned in Canada.

As the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in 2018, humanity has until 2030 to drastically cut emissions or face catastrophic and likely irreversible consequences. It must be repeated over and over: Canada and the United States have the highest GHG emissions per capita in the world. Any projects that increase this already unacceptable footprint are too much for the

planet to bear.

Our fight in defense of mother earth continues

In his first few weeks in office, President Biden also made further declarations about changing the U.S. policy in response to the climate crisis. Through Executive Orders, he has committed the United States to return to the Paris Climate Agreements and put a moratorium on oil and gas drilling in U.S. National parks (although this does not impact existing projects). However, these adjustments mark a return to the Obama-era status quo for the environment, not a fundamental shift. For example, the massive environmental degradation brought on by the U.S. military and war is never even mentioned, even though the U.S. military is the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases. This is not the time to bring our guard down. The struggle in defense of mother earth must continue.

TMX pipeline is Next!

Without the KXL pipeline to count on to squeeze out the last bit of tar-sands mega-profits, there is now more pressure on Canada's government to push through with the disastrous Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) project. Across North America, the Dakota Access Pipeline, Line 3 and Line 5 are slated to proceed. The KXL pipeline project could also come back again, just as it did after it was cancelled the first time by President Obama.

In the United States, the movement against the Line 3 pipeline, which is also planned to carry tar-sands bitumen from Alberta to Wisconsin, has been growing over the last year. In B.C., construction for the TMX pipeline is starting to ramp up. Trees are being cleared in the municipalities surrounding Vancouver, and a drill has been moved close by, set to core a 2.6km hole through Burnaby Mountain. With this, actions and organizing against TMX are also growing.

Every united struggle we wage in defense of mother earth is an important opportunity to expand and broaden the climate justice movement. We must not only expose the lies of the government of Canada and the United States and their capitalist billionaire backers in the oil and gas industry. We must collectively act in a united front to demand that people's needs are put before that of pipelines and profits. To do this, we have no other option than to build a sustained and consistent united movement for climate justice and Indigenous rights.

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

*In defense of
Mother Earth*

Organizing, Educating, and Mobilizing for Climate Justice

By Alison Bodine

In the first three months of 2021, there have been dozens of examples of the growing imbalance in the delicate relationship between humanity and mother earth. As people in India and Malaysia faced deadly and devastating floods, at least 80 people died in Texas, mostly from hypothermia, when the privately owned power grid failed due to winter storms. In March, the Red Cross released a report stating that 10 million people had been displaced in the last six months due to climate disasters.

Starting in January 2021, construction on the dirty tar-sands oil Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) began to ramp up all along the pipeline route in British Columbia, Canada. At the end of February, the BC-NDP government of John Horgan also announced they are continuing to build the Site-C Dam, a dangerous \$16 billion mega-dam project opposed by the Indigenous nation whose territory it would flood, as well as local landowners and environmental activists alike. Construction on the Coastal GasLink (CGL) fracked gas pipeline in Wet'suwet'en has also continued throughout the pandemic.

Building the Climate Justice Movement Locally and Internationally in the Time of Covid-19

December 22: As construction of the TMX pipeline hung on the horizon, Climate Convergence organized "What's Next in the Fight to Stop the TMX Pipeline," a webinar that featured updates from people fighting back across the Lower Mainland. Jane Thomsing, Chair of the Colony Farm Park Association and Laura Dupont, Port Coquitlam City Councillor, spoke about a secret deal that had been made between Metro Vancouver and Trans Mountain to turn the sensitive wetlands of the Colony Farms Regional Park in Coquitlam into a massive construction staging area. Then, Christine Thuring, an organizer with Protect the Planet! Stop TMX! And Maureen Curran highlighted the ongoing resistance to the TMX pipeline at the Homes Creek Camp. Alison Bodine, Climate Convergence organizer, journalist, author and researcher, wrapped up the panel with comments about the importance of the struggle against the

TMX pipeline and the relationship between capitalism and the climate catastrophe.

February 10: Climate Convergence organized a webinar, "Prospects & Challenges for the Climate Justice Movement Around the World" This dynamic event, which was broadcast in English and Spanish, featured speakers from North and South America and Europe. The event was opened by Coast Salish Elder Kelly White and included: Kandi White (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) from the Indigenous Environmental Network



(IEN); Viviana Moreno, Organizer with the grassroots Assembly of Neighbors - No to the Esquel Mine, which organizes against mining projects in the Patagonia region of Argentina; Freddy Rodriguez Santana, a biologist, ornithologist and ecologist with the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment; Sofia Rodriguez, an activist who led the local volunteer group in Vancouver for Greenpeace who is now living in Berlin, Germany and Thomas Davies, a central organizer of Climate Convergence.

United, we will win!

Climate Convergence also continued to join with other groups in actions against the TMX pipeline expansion, from physically distanced actions on the streets, to social media campaigns, and online

meetings. This included action on **February 15**, Family Day in BC, where people were encouraged to post photos and videos of themselves using #FamiliesForFuture #StopTMX hashtags against TMX. On **February 23**, Protect the Planet! Stop TMX! The coalition held their third people's assembly to coordinate local actions and campaigns against the tar-sands pipeline construction in Burnaby and Coquitlam.

Part of growing actions have also been the young Indigenous land defenders' work, the Braided Warriors. Starting in February, they have organized multiple actions targeting the companies that have insured the TMX pipeline. On **February 19**, they were brutalized by the police and arrested during a peaceful sit-in at the AIG Insurance company in downtown Vancouver. Climate Convergence stands in solidarity with the Braided Warriors and condemns the police brutality and racism unleashed against them.

Join the Struggle in Defense of Mother Earth!

Every day there are more reasons to stand up in defense of mother earth – and in solidarity with those that are also in the struggle for a better and more sustainable future for humanity. Climate Convergence has continued to organize from large-scale poster campaigns in the streets to webinars and physically distant and safe actions over the past year of the Covid-19 pandemic with creativity, dynamism, and the belief that building a more united climate justice movement is possible and necessary.

We have no other choice than to build a mass movement in opposition to the devastating anti-environment and anti-human policies imposed on poor, working, and oppressed people by capitalist and imperialist governments around the world. There are many ways to get involved. Visit www.climateconvergence.ca or www.firethistime.net and find out about upcoming online organizing meetings and public actions.

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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.



FREE MENG WANZHOU!

Who is Meng Wanzhou, why has Canada unlawfully arrested her, and what you can do about it!

On December 1, 2018 Meng Wanzhou was arrested while transiting through Vancouver International Airport. The CFO of Huawei Technologies was essentially kidnapped at the bequest of U.S. authorities in an unlawful operation which violated Canada's own laws, due process and Meng Wanzhou's rights. Two years later, Meng Wanzhou is still held as hostage in a politically tainted extradition case, which former U.S. President Trump made clear hinged on his trade war with China. Currently, hearings in the extradition trial of Meng Wanzhou are scheduled to resume March 1, 2021 in the B.C. Supreme Court. Efforts to free Meng Wanzhou are increasing, and Fire This Time (FTT) has joined the Cross-Canada Campaign to Free Meng Wanzhou, an initiative of the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War. Below is more information about the case, taken from the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War website, including how you can get more information and take action!



The Arrest of Meng Wanzhou & the New Cold War on China

By Ken Stone

March 1 marks the resumption of hearings in Vancouver in the extradition trial of Meng Wanzhou. It also marks an event by her supporters in Canada, determined to block her deportation to the USA where she would stand trial again on fraud charges that could potentially put her in jail for over 100 years.

By March 1, Meng Wanzhou will have spent two years and three months in detention, accused of no crime in Canada. Her company, Huawei Technologies, of which she is Chief Financial Officer, is likewise not charged with any crime in Canada. In fact, Huawei has a very good reputation in Canada, where it has created some 1300 very high-paying tech jobs as well as a state-of-the-art research and development centre, and has voluntarily worked with the Canadian government to increase connectivity for the mostly Indigenous peoples of Canada's North.

The arrest of Meng Wanzhou was a colossal blunder by the Trudeau government, executed at the request of the now, almost-universally-discredited Trump Administration, which blatantly admitted that she was being held hostage as a bargaining chip in Trump's trade war on China. There was some speculation, when Meng's extradition trial was adjourned for three months last December, that an out-of-court settlement might be reached before March 1. The Wall Street Journal caused a media frenzy when it floated a trial-balloon story that the US Department of Justice had proposed a plea deal for Ms. Meng. International lawyer, Christopher Black, deflated the balloon in an interview with The Taylor Report. And nothing came of that trial balloon so far.

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Key Facts in the Case of Meng Wanzhou

- ▶ Meng Wanzhou is accused by the U.S. of violating its unilateral and illegal economic sanctions against Iran. However these sanctions and alleged "crime" do not exist in Canada.
- ▶ Canada has a requirement of "double criminality". Unless the alleged crime is a crime in both jurisdictions, you cannot extradite.
- ▶ The U.S. tried to have Meng Wanzhou arrested in six other European and Latin American countries - all of which rejected U.S. demands.
- ▶ Former President Trump declared he might release Meng if he secured a favourable trade deal with China, and that he told John Bolton that Meng was "a bargaining chip" in his negotiations in his trade war with China. This is enough to throw the case out as politically tainted.
- ▶ By holding Meng Wanzhou when the U.S. government has offered her release in exchange for getting their way on a trade deal, she is being held hostage. This then constitutes a violation of the UN Convention on Hostages.

FIND OUT MORE!

**Free Meng Wanzhou
Cross-Canada Campaign
@ Hamilton Coalition to
Stop the War**

**SCAN ►
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OR
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**hamiltoncoalitiontostopthewar.ca/
campaign-to-free-meng-wanzhou/**

Former Canadian Parliamentarians, Diplomats & Notable Personalities Call on Canada to Free Meng Wanzhou!

Louise Arbour - Former President and CEO of International Crisis Group; **Lloyd Axworthy** - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs; **Lawrence Cannon** - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Canadian Ambassador to France; **Ed Broadbent** - Former Leader of the new Democratic Party; **Hugh Segal** - Former Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade; **Derek Burney** - Former Ambassador to the U.S.; **Wendy Dobson** - Professor Emerita, University of Toronto and Former Associate Deputy Minister; **Leonard J. Edwards** - Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Former Canadian Ambassador to Japan and Korea; **Yves Fortier** - Former Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN and UN Security Council; **Robert Fowler** - Former Foreign Policy Adviser to Prime Ministers Pierre Trudeau, John Turner and Brian Mulroney; **Louise Frechette** - Former Deputy Secretary General of the UN; **Fen Osler Hampson** - Chancellor's Professor, Carleton University and Executive Director, World Refugee & Migration Council; **Paul Heinbecker** - Former Canadian Ambassador to Germany, Former Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN and UN Security Council; **Michael Kergin** - Former Canadian Ambassador to the U.S.; **Claude Laverdure** - Former Foreign Policy Adviser to PM Jean Chretien; **Don Newman** - Journalist, Broadcaster and Author; **Maureen O'Neil** - Former President of the International Development Research Centre; **Andre Ouellet** - Former Foreign Affairs and International Development Minister; **Allan Rock** - Former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

By Azza Rojbi

February 15, 2021, marks one year since the Saudi-led coalition's horrific air raid on a residential area in Yemen's northern province of al-Jawf. The bombing killed 35 people, including 25 children, and 18 children were amongst the 23 injured. According to the Yemen Data Project, "During 2020, air raids in #Yemen averaged 6 per day - double the average daily rate in 2019. Despite the pandemic, strikes hit healthcare facilities, markets, farms, schools, and vital water infrastructure, including water wells. At least one Covid-19 quarantine centre was bombed."

The brutal U.S.-backed Saudi-led war on Yemen is approaching its sixth year, causing over 230,000 deaths, and plunging the country into the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The airstrikes and bombing have destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, markets, and many other vital infrastructures. The destruction, combined with the land, sea, and air blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia, pushes Yemen to the brink of collapse. According to the United Nations, 2.3 million children under the age of five will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021, of which 400,000 could die of starvation.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is dire. Years of bombing and wars have destroyed over half of the hospitals in the country. The ones that are still functional lack the essential resources and medicine to provide adequate care to those in need. The Covid-19 pandemic threatens to make an already disastrous situation worse.

Since the start of the war in 2015, the United States has provided full backing to the Saudi-led coalition, including technical

support, training fighter jet pilots, targeting assistance, selling arms, and supplying military hardware. On February 4, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new shift in the U.S. support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen. This announcement was welcomed as a positive step, and it seems that it created hope that the Biden administration is ending its support for the war on Yemen. Biden's remarks were full of doublespeak and deceiving words. We have to be cautious and careful about what his announcement really means.

Biden's maneuvers and delay tactics

A closer examination of Biden's speech reveals contradictory and confusing statements. "This war has to end. And to underscore our commitment, we are ending all American support for offensive operations in the war in Yemen, including relevant arms sales," Biden said.

One wonders what Biden is referring to by, "offensive operations" and "relevant arms sales"? This ambiguous expression leaves the door open for the United States to continue its support for the war. Saudi Arabia has continuously framed its war on Yemen as defending itself and the region from the threat of Houthi rebels.

In the same address, Biden continues to say,



"At the same time, Saudi Arabia faces missile attacks, UAV strikes, and other threats from Iranian-supplied forces in multiple countries. We're going to continue to support and help Saudi Arabia defend its sovereignty and its territorial integrity and its people." This language sounds very similar to that used by the Obama administration when it announced the start of Yemen's war in 2015.

This rhetoric reinforces and validates the suspicion that Biden's promise to end the war on Yemen is a sheer lie. His promise to end "relevant" arms sales is another example of doublespeak. It allows the United States to deflect criticism about their complicity in fuelling the war on Yemen while finding ways to continue selling weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Absent from Biden's remarks is any mention of ending U.S. drone strike operations in Yemen or lifting the cruel Saudi-led



Left: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal welcomes US Vice President Joe Biden at the Riyadh airport on Oct. 27, 2011

Right: More than 2,000 trucks carrying food and humanitarian aid have been forced to a standstill parked by a gas station in Hodeidah, due to the lack of oil as a result of the US detaining Yemeni oil ships



January 25, 2021
The World Says NO to War on Yemen
Global Day of Action
 (Top to bottom) Chicago and New
 York, USA, Hamilton and Vancouver,
 Canada and Sana'a, Yemen



blockade against the people of Yemen. Overall, Biden's words are a change of tone from the previous Trump administration, but they are hollow in substance. In response to the speech Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan tweeted, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes the United States' commitment, expressed in President Biden's speech today, to cooperate with the Kingdom in defending its security and territory."

How and why the war on Yemen started

March 26, 2021, marks 6 years of the inhuman and devastating war on Yemen. Backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia led a coalition of allied countries to militarily intervene in Yemen under the guise of restoring 'legitimacy' and 'stability' to Yemen and the region. Where is that legitimacy or peace today? They destroyed an entire country and caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The Saudi-led coalition never had the future or the well-being of the Yemeni people in mind! Their goal has been to crush any democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people and impose a puppet regime in the country that will serve Saudi Arabia and its Washington masters' interests. Yemen's strategic location is vital for the United States and imperialists to expand their military and economic hegemony over the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), as well as the East African region. Yemen's coast borders the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a narrow strategic waterway between the Horn of Africa and the Middle East connecting the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, and the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and the Indian Ocean. The strait is one of the most active and vital maritime shipping routes in the world.

Yemen is a land of rich history and ancient civilization; beautiful and complex culture; and resilient people. The potential of an independent, democratic, and powerful Yemen with its strategic location in the MENA region is a threat to the Saudi kingdom and its imperialist masters. In addition, the U.S., U.K., Canada, France, Germany, Italy and other European states made billions of dollars on arms sales and training contracts with Saudi Arabia and other countries in its military coalition.

As we approach the sixth year of the war, Saudi Arabia and its imperialist backers are stuck in a quagmire in Yemen. They were unsuccessful in restoring the power of widely unpopular puppet Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and they failed to crush

the resistance of the Yemeni people to foreign domination. The atrocities committed by the Saudi-led coalition are condemned internationally, and Saudi Arabia can no longer hide the horrific destruction and humanitarian crisis it caused in Yemen. Biden's vague pledge to end the war on Yemen is a maneuver and delay tactic for the growing world-wide criticism against the war and Yemen's dire humanitarian situation.

Building solidarity with Yemen

The overwhelming sentiment of people in Canada, the United States, and around the world are against Yemen's war. This was evident at the successful Global Day of Action against the war on Yemen that took place on January 25, 2021. Tens of thousands of people in 28 countries joined the online virtual rally and the 30+ protests on the streets around the world. The coming together of anti-war activists and peace-loving people from across the globe to stand against the war in Yemen is inspiring!

We need to build on this momentum and continue educating, organizing, and mobilizing against the war in Yemen. Coordinated and consistent local and international actions and campaigns are vital to keeping the pressure on our respective governments. Here in Canada, we need to raise the issue of Yemen among working and oppressed people, student unions, political groups, labour unions, civil society organizations and mobilize all peace-loving people to demand that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government ends all its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

There cannot be peace in Yemen without an immediate ending of all arms sales to Saudi Arabia and its coalition. There will be no peace in Yemen without the withdrawal of all foreign troops and mercenaries. To end the humanitarian disaster in Yemen, the Saudi blockade must be ended fully and immediately so that the desperately needed humanitarian aid can freely flow to Yemen. Any real solution needs to include all Yemeni voices without any foreign interventions or coercion. The Yemeni people deserve to determine the future of their country freely. Self-determination is a fundamental right of any sovereign nation.

Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza_R14

ADD YOUR NAME TO THE PARLIAMENTARY PETITION CANADA: STOP ARMING SAUDI ARABIA!

Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

According to the UN, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world with 24.3 million (80% of the population), including 12.2 million children, needing humanitarian assistance;

According to UNICEF, a Yemeni child dies every 10 minutes from preventable war-related causes, and 85,000+ have already died;

Thousands of schools have closed and more than 2 million children are not in school;

The humanitarian crisis has been exacerbated by the blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia on Sana'a Airport and Hudaydah Port;

The port city of Hudaydah, where 70% of imports enter the country, is under relentless attack from airstrikes and naval ships. Houses, farms, livestock, businesses, roads, medical facilities and water facilities have all been hit;

As of September 9, 2020, a panel of independent experts monitoring the conflict for the UN have publicly named Canada as one of the countries helping fuel the war in Yemen; and

Images of what appear to be captured or destroyed Canadian-made light armoured vehicles (LAVs) have been publicized.

We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to:

- 1) Halt arms shipments to Saudi Arabia immediately and ensure that any future arms transfers fully comply with Canada's international legal obligations under the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty;
- 2) Participate in international efforts to bring an immediate end to the deliberate Saudi-led attacks on civilians which constitute war crimes; and
- 3) Demand and support international partners in lifting the siege on Sana'a Airport and Hudaydah Port in order to deliver humanitarian assistance;



Sign the petition before April 25, 2021 at:
<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3122>



#CANADASTOPARMINGSAUDI 68 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING NEARLY 1 MILLION PEOPLE DEMAND CANADA STOP ARMING SAUDI ARABIA

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The undersigned, representing a cross-section of Canadian labour, arms control, human rights, international security, peace, and other civil society organizations, are writing to reiterate our continued opposition to the Canadian government's issuance of arms export permits to Saudi Arabia.

Now entering its sixth year, the war on Yemen has killed almost a quarter of a million people, and Yemen today remains the worst humanitarian crisis

in the world. Over 4 million people have been displaced because of the war, and 80% of the population, including 12.2 million children, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

On February 4, 2021 President Joe Biden announced the US would be freezing all American arms sales to Saudi Arabia and ending all US support for the Saudi-led war on Yemen. A week earlier, on January 25, 2021, a Global Day of Action to End the War on Yemen was held, which included the participation of

civil society, labour and anti-war groups from across Canada, with protests, car caravans, events and arms-blockades in Vancouver, London, Hamilton, Montreal and Halifax.

Germany and Italy have also recently banned or halted arms exports to Saudi Arabia, while the EU Parliament urged its members to halt arms sales to UAE and Saudi Arabia on February 11, 2021.

Canadian civil society has spoken out

Continued on page 36



By Janine Solanki

Yemen today is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, according to the United Nations. This statement was made even before the Covid-19 pandemic, and today Yemen has one of the very worst Covid-19 death rates in the world: It kills 1 in 4 people who test positive. This brutal crisis is due to the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war on Yemen which has devastated the country since 2015 through relentless and indiscriminate bombings and an air, sea, and land blockade.

On January 25, 2021, over 300 organizations worldwide joined a Global Day of Action for Yemen and signed on to the joint statement, "World Says No to War on Yemen." Organizations around the world held many different actions, both on the streets (where possible) and in global events online. On January 21 and 25, activists and supporters worldwide took part in a social media blast. Selfies taken with posters addressed to Justin

Trudeau, Joseph Biden, and Boris Johnson demanding, "Stop Arming Saudi Arabia! End the War on Yemen" were posted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other platforms with the hashtags #YemenCantWait #WorldSaysNo #DayOfAction4Yemen and in Canada specifically, #CanadaStopArmingSaudi

In Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO),

Yemeni flags and signs that read "Canada Stop Arming Saudi Arabia!" and "Canada Stop Bombing Yemen!" Pedestrians and other drivers responded to the caravan with supportive honks, thumbs up, hand waves, and taking photos of the protest.

The worldwide events culminated in a Global Online Rally on January 25, which had thousands of attendees worldwide via Zoom and Facebook live. The online

action included speeches from prominent politicians, academics, and public figures, including UK Member of Parliament Jeremy Corbyn; Hollywood actor Donny Glover; Dr. Cornel West; and Yemeni Nobel Peace Laureate, Tawakkol Karman.

Even during a pandemic, this global day of action brought people together in new and creative ways, online and around the world. This day of action is just the beginning and solidarity with Yemen against the brutal U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war continues to grow! For upcoming activities and news, visit www.mawovancouver.org, or follow on Twitter and Instagram @MAWOVancouver and Facebook @MAWOVancouver

Battle of Ideas Press

New Book

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

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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.



the Yemeni Community Association of Canada, and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice all signed on to the Global Day of Action and joined together for a car caravan protest. Activists, supporters, and Yemeni community members participated in the 2-hour car caravan throughout the streets of Vancouver and neighbouring Burnaby. The caravan of eight cars was decorated with



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By August H. Nimtz

"I can't breathe" were the final words of George Floyd, repeated more than 20 times while a white Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes on May 25, 2020. The horrific killing of George Floyd ignited mass anti-police brutality protests in more than 1,700 cities and towns in all 50 U.S. states and hundreds of cities worldwide. "I Can't Breathe" has been painted on murals, banners, protest signs and chanted by protesters along with "Black Lives Matter."

The jury selection process for the trial of the killer cop, Derek Chauvin, began on March 9, 2021 with testimonies set to begin on March 29, 2021. Protests demanding "Justice for George Floyd" and "Convict Killer Cops" have taken place outside the Minneapolis courthouse and across the United States.

Fire This Time is printing an excellent article by August Nimtz, a professor of Political Science and African-American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota. He is also a resident of Minneapolis.

Civil liberties and human rights are frequent targets of critics of the Cuban Revolution. There are indeed limits to civil liberties in Cuba. Where I differ from most of Cuba's critics is their assumption that these limits are in place against the will of the majority of Cubans. That is the price, I argue, that most of them are willing to pay for defending their sovereignty against their implacable foe to the north, looking forward to the day when those limitations are no longer in place.

If human rights includes, as United Nations instruments do, economic, social, and cultural rights such as healthcare, then Cuba does as well as, if not better than, the United States. Witness, as I write, the exemplary job it is doing in combatting Covid-19, unlike its northern neighbour. But almost never on the list of alleged human rights abuses on the island, particularly those drawn up by US critics, is police brutality—specifically, the killing of Cuban citizens, and especially those with roots in Africa. Even the most vociferous critics of the "repressive

Cuban regime", to use their language, are unable to produce any credible evidence that the police in Cuba murder blacks as they do in the United States. Their silence on the matter is almost deafening.

The hated US-backed Fulgencio Batista regime that was overthrown in 1959 was notorious for its brutality. Its police were particularly sanguinary. A parent going to a police station in search of a missing son dreaded to hear the detested "se estaba . . ." from the authorities—"he used to be". For Afro-Cubans the situation was especially horrific. This is why many of the police assassins, some of whom were black, were tried and executed within months of the revolution's triumph on 1 January 1959, to the applause of millions of Cubans.

But am I guilty of comparing apples and oranges, two very different societies? The history of both societies suggests otherwise. If the murder of George Floyd has its origins in the institution of racial slavery, as some would argue, then we should expect to see similar outcomes in Cuba. It existed there almost a century before being planted in what would become the United States. And it outlived America's "peculiar institution" by two decades. But, again, what happened to George Floyd simply does not happen in Cuba.

Think of another country in the Americas with a long history of racial slavery, Brazil—where the police regularly kill blacks with impunity. What, then, explains Cuban exceptionalism? Exactly what happened in 1959: the triumph of the Cuban Revolution.

In the twenty-five month lead-up to that victory on 1 January 1959, the Rebel Army, once it liberated a piece of territory from Batista's despised military, realized that a police force was needed—along with other social services like healthcare and education. To be

The ReglaSOUL Afro-Cuban initiative and artists, activists and Afro-Cuban community members gather at the Malcolm X monument in Havana, Cuba to show solidarity and demand justice for the lives lost to police brutality in the U.S., Colombia, Brazil and the Dominican Republic. June 10, 2020



WHY THERE ARE NO GEORGE FLOYDS IN CUBA



Top: The historic meeting of Fidel Castro and Malcolm X at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem, New York, September 24, 1960

Middle: A police officer in Austin, Texas uses pepper spray at close range against a protester following the police killing of George Floyd, May 30, 2020

effective, the new police force, unlike its predecessor, depended on the support and active cooperation of the denizens.

This practice informed the Rebel Army when it forced Batista to flee the island on 31 December 1958. In collaboration with the underground, the 26th of July Movement, a general strike took place the following day. Key to its success was the seizure of police stations—a relatively easy and bloodless operation owing precisely to the mass character of the general strike. Rank-and-file police surrendered or tried to blend into the crowds.

“No police”, as the New York Times reported on 6 January, “are on the streets since they are held in quarters and all officers are under arrest. A few police patrol cars are circulating, occupied by two policemen and two members of the rebel militia. Boy scouts are directing traffic in some places.” Thus began the simultaneous top-down/bottom-up reinvention of Cuba’s police. The Rebel Army commander who headed up the police in the liberated areas became the national head of Cuba’s new police force. The intimate collaboration between the Rebel Army and local population to police an area generalized to the entire country.

When I ask Cuban friends about “snitching” to the police when they see misbehaviour in their neighbourhoods, they immediately say, “of course; why not?” US police constantly complain about not getting that kind of cooperation. Unlike in the United States, especially in communities of colour, Cubans do not see the police as a foreign occupation force. A US rapper once said about the police: “when they start to snitch on each other, then we’ll snitch.”

Race continues to be a challenge for the revolution. Fidel Castro acknowledged as much in a speech to a largely African American and Latinx audience in New York in 2000—the unfinished quest for racial equality exposed with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Thus began a series of programs and measures that have garnered some success.

I have had only one encounter with Cuban police during my visits since 1983. In 2006, while sightseeing with a woman friend who was Caucasian, a policeman, a mulatto, thinking I was Cuban,

asked for my identification—a frequent complaint of black Cubans. Cuba has strict laws against the harassment of tourists. Without my passport, I eventually convinced him I was a US citizen. He appeared, at the end, a bit sheepish about the whole matter. Never did I feel threatened; maybe because like most police in Cuba—at least then—he did not carry a gun.

I confess that I have had only one negative (something I am not doing right!)—but telling—experience with the police in Minnesota since moving here in 1971. It was due to the former chief of police of Minneapolis, Tony Bouza, and occurred in his own home. I was attending a Cuba-related event in late winter 1995, hosted by his wife. Together with my then companion, who was Caucasian, we were retrieving our overcoats from one of his bedrooms. He came in and without cause began trying to provoke a fight by mocking how I looked. I thought, at first, that he was being facetious. No, he was serious, and I decided not to take the bait and quickly left. “Imagine”, I remember saying later, “being a black male in the Minneapolis police station when he was in charge”.

Being more conscious about my blood pressure—not unimportant for African American men—I have noted that it improves when I have been in Cuba. Maybe because I am more relaxed there, unconsciously less on guard when it comes to the police.

For those who fault America’s “original sin” for George Floyd’s murder, Cuba teaches that history is not destiny. Again, despite the revolution’s continuing challenges on the race question, what happened to Floyd does not happen in Cuba. Even its severest critics have to agree with this. Is there a better explanation than what I offer here?

August H. Nimtz is Professor of Political Science and African American and African Studies, and Distinguished Teaching Professor, at the University of Minnesota. Recent publications include Lenin’s Electoral Strategy from Marx and Engels through the Revolution of 1905: The Ballot, the Streets—or Both (2014), Lenin’s Electoral Strategy from 1907 to the October Revolution of 1917: The Ballot, the Streets—or Both (2014), and Marxism versus Liberalism: Comparative Real-Time Political Analysis (2019).

“By Any Means Necessary...”



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

Our method is: any means necessary. That’s our motto. We’re not restricted to this, or confined to that. We reserve the right to use any means necessary to protect our humanity, or to make the world see that they respect us as human beings. Any means necessary.

When I say that, I don’t mean anything illegal. The government—You’re being treated criminally. The criminal is the one who’s illegal. The one who’s responsible for these criminal conditions, he’s a criminal, he’s illegal. And whatever you’ve got to do to stop this crime from being committed against you, as far as I’m concerned you’re not illegal.

So that’s our first step at the international level. And politically, we devise and support any program that’s designed to give the Black man in this country an opportunity to participate as a citizen, a free citizen, in this political system and in this society.

Excerpt from Speech to civil rights workers from Mississippi, January 1, 1965

CANADA

By Tamara Hansen

Over the last year, during the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been numerous stories in Canada's mainstream media about anti-Indigenous racism across many jurisdictions: from policing, to children in care, to access to clean drinking water to the justice system. Still, some of the most infuriating stories of discrimination have come from the healthcare sector.

While healthcare is quite literally meant to be about people's health and wellness, under capitalism it is a for-profit scheme, even in countries like Canada with a public (or nationalized) system. Just as the country of Canada was born from colonialism, the removal of Indigenous people from their lands, and the attempted erasure of their cultures and languages, there are colonial roots to Canada's healthcare system.

To better understand this, we can look specifically at the province of British Columbia, where two health crises – the overdose crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic – have further exposed systemic racism within the provincial healthcare system. Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, a member of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and former judge, was appointed by the B.C. Ministry of Health to carry out a review of anti-Indigenous racism in the provincial healthcare system. Turpel-Lafond's highly critical report was issued in November 2020 under the title, "In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care." On February 4, 2021, the same review released some important supplemental evidence in "the data report."

In every talk or interview, Turpel-Lafond starts discussions about this review with a trigger warning, as the contents may trigger unpleasant feelings, memories, or even post-traumatic stress in people who have had their health and lives endangered during their experiences with the B.C. healthcare system. This is an important

& anti-Indigenous Racism in Healthcare



Top: Image from "Empathy, dignity, and respect: Creating cultural safety for Aboriginal people in urban health care" report by the Health Council of Canada in 2012. Bottom: Dr. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond presents the report, "In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care"

reminder that while to some (mostly non-Indigenous people) the review's first-hand stories will be angering and perhaps shocking, to others, these stories are a recounting of direct violence and trauma inflicted on their community, friends, and family. As human-loving people, we have a responsibility to listen, learn and join the fight for change.

First-hand accounts of anti-Indigenous racism in B.C. healthcare

The review collected hundreds of first-hand reports from those surveyed during the process. Here are five accounts that were published in the report:

>> **First**, the review highlights the words

of a non-Indigenous man whose family gets better treatment when he accompanies them to appointments instead of his partner, a First Nations woman. He says, "After the third time, we gave up and I just started taking the kids to every appointment because I am a white male and got better service. Sad, but reality."

>> **Second**, "A First Nations woman in her 50s, living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, told the Review about her recent experience when, after going to the hospital for a COVID-19 assessment, she was mistakenly assessed as suicidal and temporarily detained under the Mental Health Act.

The woman, who has recently been working as an advocate for Indigenous women in her neighbourhood, has become terrified of going to the Emergency Department to seek care because of past traumatic experiences in more than one hospital. She told the Review that the only time she has been able to get respectful treatment and not be assumed to be drunk or high or subject to racism was when she had a non-Indigenous friend accompany her as an advocate and support person.

>> **Third**, "An Indigenous physician offered the Review some personal observations about the racism they have experienced on the job:

- I have been asked to look after my "drunk relatives" in the ER or have had Indigenous patients reassigned to me on the wards [who were considered difficult patients] when I was a resident.

- As a resident, I was often required to advocate for Indigenous patients who were scared and frightened due to mistreatment while they were in the hospital. [...]

- My own family members have left without receiving care because they were told they were just "drug-seeking."

>> **Fourth**, "A non-Indigenous woman, employed in food services at a hospital told the Review about her experiences with racism in the health care workplace. She says a fellow employee went on a

“rant” about Indigenous people, “and when I informed them that my partner was Native, they doubled down and declared that Native people and their partners (i.e., me) should be ‘sterilized,’ so they don’t have eight kids on welfare.”

The woman emailed her supervisor and recalls being told: “We can’t control peoples’ opinions, sweetie.” She says the employee who made the comments to her received no correction or reprimand. The woman knows she is not the only employee who has complained about racism in her workplace.

>> **Fifth**, an Indigenous health director, gave their perspective for the report, explaining, “As First Nations people, we have a vivid memory of pandemics, and this collective fear sets us apart from others. Now, our people are avoiding going to the Emergency Room because they are afraid of racism. And because of COVID, they can’t bring anyone with them to speak on their behalf.”

Anti-Indigenous racism impacting the health and wellness

The first-hand accounts are not just stories to shock or anger, they have real impacts on Indigenous people’s willingness to access healthcare and thus on their health outcomes. For example, the “In Plain Sight” report found that:

- “Indigenous people in B.C. don’t have access to family doctors and other primary-care services, and instead, end up in the emergency room dealing with health crises.” (CBC)
- “Indigenous patients are 75 percent more likely to visit the ER than anyone else in B.C.” (CBC)
- “Overall, Indigenous people in B.C. have a higher rate of chronic conditions, worse outcomes for babies and children and have been disproportionately affected by both the COVID-19 pandemic and the overdose crisis. The death rate for Indigenous women from overdoses in 2020 was almost twice as high as that of non-Indigenous women.” (CBC)

Furthermore, prior to the “In Plain Sight”

review beginning its research, there was an assumption that problems would be worse in rural/remote areas of B.C. However, Turpel-Lafond explains, “When we did the review and looked at it, we found it is not a rural/remote problem, but in fact, it is a problem everywhere in British Columbia.

free,” and generally misogynist views of Indigenous women.” These stereotypes lead to discrimination when Indigenous patients seek care, including: “Abusive interactions, denial of service, ignoring and shunning, inappropriate pain management, medical mistakes, and disdain for cultural healing.”

Each of these factors contributes to poor health outcomes for Indigenous patients, including higher suicide rates, higher stress, reduced life expectancy, increased rates of chronic disease, and higher infant mortality. This of course is an infringement on their human rights as well as Indigenous specific rights recently encoded into B.C. law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The “In Plain Sight” review graphic indicates that the foundation of this cycle is colonialism, segregation, racism, and discrimination.

The “In Plain Sight” review ends with 24 recommendations based on the information exposed by the survey. These recommendations involve setting up new Indigenous leadership positions in hospitals and the ministry of health, as well as better training, awareness building within healthcare settings, etc. These recommendations should be implemented but will not be sufficient actually to end anti-Indigenous racism in B.C. healthcare. Reforming the broken capitalist health care system is not enough. It needs to be dismantled to

expose and dig up the colonial and racist roots of the system; then rebuilt from scratch putting people’s health and wellbeing ahead of profits.

Not just a B.C. problem, not just an anti-Indigenous problem

While this report focuses on the province of British Columbia, its findings clearly apply to all health jurisdictions in Canada, which need to work to dismantle capitalist anti-Indigenous racism actively. On January 27-28, 2021, Canada’s federal government held a national dialogue on anti-Indigenous racism in healthcare with

Continued on page 25



Top: Rally in Quebec demands “Justice for Joyce Echaquan” in September 2020. Bottom: Nurses stand for racial justice in New York City on June 9, 2020.



[...] Indigenous women, in particular, are quite disproportionately affected even in our best teaching/high quality specialty hospitals, like Women’s hospital. We have Indigenous women leaving against medical advice at 11 times greater rate than other residents.” (the Quality Forum 2021)

The “In Plain Sight” review has been summarized in a graphic. The review graphic establishes that Indigenous people’s problems at the point of care start with racist stereotypes. This includes the racist stereotypes that Indigenous patients are: “Less “worthy,” drinkers/alcoholics, drug-seeking, bad parents, “frequent flyers,” non-compliant, less capable, get “stuff for

**Hands Off
Venezuela!**



BIDEN MUST NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND LIFT ALL SANCTIONS AGAINST VENEZUELA!

By Alison Bodine

On March 5, 2021, Venezuela solidarity organizations and activists across Canada came together to organize the first monthly online picket in solidarity with Venezuela. Below are the remarks made by Alison Bodine, the Coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice – Venezuela Solidarity Campaign.

I think there is a great importance of gathering here today and continuing to build solidarity with Venezuela against the U.S. and Canada sanctions and war. By coming together today, we are taking action for Venezuela. We must take advantage of being here to build a more united, stronger movement to confront what imperialist governments, including Canada, are doing against Venezuela's self-determination, independence, and human rights.

Sanctions and Aggression Against Venezuela Expand During the Pandemic

Since Comandante Hugo Chavez was elected in Venezuela in 1998, the U.S.-led imperialist campaign has been growing in intensity against the people of Venezuela.

On March 2, 2021 Marc Garneau, Minister of Foreign Affairs, spoke with U.S.-backed puppet Juan Guaidó, Venezuela's unelected so-called "interim President". According to a Global Affairs readout, "During the call, Minister Garneau expressed Canada's serious concern over the unacceptable actions taken by the Maduro regime against democratic forces and civil society and reiterated Canada's commitment to supporting a peaceful return to democracy in Venezuela." Meanwhile, Canada's government has imposed unilateral and illegal sanctions against Venezuela that are a daily attack on the democratic and human rights of the people of Venezuela.

Then on March 3, U.S. President Biden extended the 2015 Obama executive order declaring once again that, "he situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual



Top: Venezuelan President Maduro unveiling homes for low-income families in La Guaira, Venezuela, on December 26, 2019. The Venezuelan Great Housing Mission has built nearly 3.5 million homes, with a goal of 5 million.

Bottom: Glendy Rivero became the first doctor in Venezuela to receive the Russian Sputnik V vaccine on February 18, 2021.



and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." With a population similar in size to Canada, over two-thousand miles away from the U.S., Venezuela has been declared a threat to the United States national security.

This is a dangerous maneuver, which, in part, enables the United States to impose brutal sanctions on Venezuela. This is also a sign that U.S. attacks on Venezuela's sovereignty and self-determination are going to continue. The United States also maintains its recognition of imposter Juan Guaidó as the "interim President" of Venezuela, as announced by Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the very first

day of the new Biden administration.

Throughout the pandemic, governments of the U.S. and Canada have been relentless in their escalation of the blockade and sanctions against Venezuela. Despite the deadly threat of the coronavirus pandemic, the United States government has imposed further sanctions, especially under former President Trump, limiting access to fuel, food, medicines, and medical equipment.

These sanctions have cost Venezuela's economy at least \$114 billion in the last five years and killed an estimated 100,000 people, as was reported by Alfred DeZayas, a former U.N. rapporteur on human rights.

In February 2021, Alena Douhan, an independent United Nations human rights expert went to Venezuela to document the impact of sanctions imposed by the U.S., Canada, and European Union. Her preliminary report states, "The devastating effect of

sanctions imposed is multiplied by extra-territoriality and over-compliance adversely affecting public and private sectors, Venezuela citizens, non-governmental organizations, third-country national and companies." Douhan's report is a strong condemnation of the imperialist campaign to attempt to overthrow Venezuela's democratically elected Maduro government through economic, commercial and financial sanctions.

People of Venezuela Continue to Defend Their Independence and Self-Determination!

Today we are marking the 8th anniversary of the passing of Comandante Hugo Chavez.

He was one of the giants in the history of the working class struggle for liberation.

A growing anti-imperialist movement in Latin America is the legacy of Comandante Chavez. A movement that can bring colonial and semi-colonial countries in Latin America and around the world united against the United States bully. Against the endless plundering of Latin America and imperialist drive for capitalist market hegemony, neocolonialism and super exploitation that the U.S. government and their allies hope to bring once again to Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite sanctions, aggression, and continued meddling in Venezuela by the U.S. and Canadian governments and their allies, Venezuelan people continue to defend their popular democracy, president Maduro's democratically elected government. This is what the U.S. and Canadian imperialist governments and their allies cannot accept and cannot tolerate.

Building a Venezuela Solidarity Campaign

We must understand now more than ever what our immediate tasks are as people living in the U.S. and Canada, known as the belly of the beast. The best way to contribute to the struggle of the Venezuelan people against the reactionary, pro-imperialist right-wing opposition inside Venezuela and also against the constant attacks, blockade and interventions of imperialism is to build a strong anti-war, anti-imperialist movement that focuses on building a Venezuela solidarity movement in defense of self-determination for the Venezuelan people. This campaign must also demand the normalization of diplomatic relations between the United States government and the democratically elected, Bolivarian, revolutionary government of Venezuela. I look forward from the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign to working with people on this call and building this movement.

A campaign means ongoing political activities, no matter what conditions we may face. We have very clearly seen that the heroic people of Venezuela and their revolutionary government, under Comandante Chavez and now democratically elected



Supporters of Venezuelan President Maduro rally in Venezuela

President Maduro, are extremely capable of dealing with all kinds of internal counter-revolutionary sabotage. We must immediately increase our effort to explain to people in advanced industrial countries that shortages of goods, fuel, food, medicine, and daily necessities are the result of inhuman, brutal, and heavy imperialist sanctions and blockade. At the same time, we must demand that President Biden normalize diplomatic relations with Venezuela immediately.

That is why Venezuela solidarity activists and organizations across Canada have started these monthly online actions and have come together today. 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!" We must build a movement to defend the self-determination, sovereignty, and human rights of people in Venezuela. Let's work and focus together on a united

effort and a united front on these basic demands. We will win.

As Comandante Hugo Chavez said, "Let the dogs of imperialism bark...that's their role, to bark. Our task is to consolidate this century and the real liberation of our people right now."

Follow Alison on Twitter:
@Alisoncolette



Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau meeting with Juan Guaidó, so-called "Interim Venezuelan President" according to the governments of Canada and the U.S., January 27, 2020

Battle of Ideas Press

Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela



By Alison Bodine

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

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Women's Rights Are Human Rights



By Alison Bodine

Women's Rights are Human Rights

March 8, 2021, International Women's Day, is an important day to recognize the challenges confronted and the great victories made by women around the world, especially in the past year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Over the last 12 months, in addition to the health challenges posed by Covid-19 itself, women have faced increasing rates of domestic violence, higher rates of job loss, as well as a larger burden of the care of children and families because of the pandemic. In countries like the U.S. and Canada, government mismanagement of Covid-19 has amplified the health and economic crisis. Black, Indigenous, and immigrant women and their communities have been disproportionately impacted by the crisis.

Despite these difficult conditions, women around the world have also continued fighting for their rights throughout the pandemic, and even made great gains.

Women's struggle for the Right to Choose Wins in Argentina!

On December 30, 2020, the Senate in Argentina passed a law legalizing abortion for any reason during the first 14 weeks of a pregnancy. In a further victory for reproductive justice, the law also requires the government to provide healthcare and nutrition services for women who need it for 1000 days, from the beginning of a pregnancy to the child's second birthday. Argentina, with a population of 49 million, is now the largest country in Latin America where women, trans, and non-binary people have won the right to reproductive choice.

For women in Argentina, especially poor, rural, and marginalized women, the passing of the Voluntary Termination of Pregnancy (IVE) bill into law could not have come soon enough. According to Minister of Health Ginés González García, each year at least 38,000 people are hospitalized due to complications from illegal abortions, and this is in Argentina's public hospitals alone. Statistics from private hospitals are not reported. The Ministry also reports that over 3,000 deaths have occurred in Argentina in the last 40 years due to unsafe and underground abortions.

The needless deaths, injuries, and emotional trauma imposed on women in Argentina fueled the victorious National Campaign for the Right to Legal, Safe, and Free Abortion and the "Marea verde" (green wave), as

the pro-choice mass movement is also known. Over the last few years, this mass women-led movement has brought hundreds of thousands of people together in the streets of Argentina, including political, labor, and cultural organizations of women and the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

Through these mass mobilizations, school strikes, and constant campaigning for their rights, women in Argentina raised their demands for "Ni una menos por aborto clandestino," (Not one more to underground abortions) as an extension of the "Ni una menos," (Not one less) campaign against violence against women and femicide. The "Ni una menos" movement was sparked in 2015 when 14-year-old Chiara Páez, who was pregnant, was brutally beaten to death by her boyfriend.



Celebration outside Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina after the Senate approved a bill to legalize abortion

From the green scarfs of the pro-choice movement to the white scarfs of the Las Madres y Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, the women's rights movement in Argentina has shown the way forward in the world-wide struggle for reproductive rights and reproductive justice.

From Poland to Ireland – Through Victories and Defeats, the Struggle Continues!

Throughout the pandemic the women of Poland have also shown their tremendous strength and resilience. Beginning in October 2020, the Women's Strike movement

organized mass mobilizations against an initiative by the right-wing government of Poland to criminalize abortion in the case of fetal defects. This would make abortions in Poland legal only in the case of incest, rape or threat to a woman's life, and lead to needless physical and emotional trauma during pregnancy.

Throughout 2020, women in Poland mobilized on the streets against the impending abortion ban, bringing over 7 million people into the streets at a protest on October 3, 2020. Despite the mass opposition to this completely inhuman measure, this law was enacted in January 2021. There is now a near-total ban on abortions in Poland. However, the Women's Strike movement and the struggle of women in Poland continues.

Women, trans, and non-binary people around the world are continuing to take to the streets for their right to control their own bodies, building on the 2018 victory in Ireland. On May 25, 2018, after a decades-long campaign led by Irish women, a popular referendum was passed overwhelmingly to revoke the constitutional ban on abortion. This constitution ban, the Eighth Amendment, had been in place since

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SIGN THE ONLINE PETITION: CUBA: LIFE SAVER NOT TERRORIST. REVERSE POMPEO/TRUMP DESIGNATION!

By Tamara Hansen

In U.S. President Trump's final 10 days in office, he teamed up with his Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, to outrageously add Cuba back on the United States list of so-called "state sponsors of terrorism." Many are under the false impression that this list is internationally recognized, the truth is that it is a bogus American creation that can clearly be manipulated at the whim of any U.S. president.

On January 12, 2021 Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel responded on Twitter, "We firmly and fully condemn Cuba's fraudulent description as a State sponsor of terrorism. The US #Blockade vs #Cuba is state terrorism. And in the height of cynicism, the immoral terrorists of the #Trump administration accuse us of sponsoring terrorism."

In the midst of a global pandemic and 60 years of U.S. sanctions and blockade

against Cuba, this Trump - Pompeo action was yet another demonstration of the cruelty and inhumanity of U.S. policy towards Cuba. The Trump administration made 2020 the most costly year of the blockade against Cuba. President Trump's vicious tightening of the blockade in the last four years cost Cuba over \$5 billion in economic, commercial, and financial damages. Ironically, this move against Cuba came just three months after the world elected Cuba to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

It is clear that Trump and Pompeo want to label Cuba as a so called "state sponsor of terrorism" to continue their slanderous accusations against Cuba's revolutionary internationalist medical missions. Cuba has over three thousand medical professionals working around the world to fight the



Covid-19 pandemic with the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade. By adding Cuba to this list, the U.S. government is hoping to sabotage the global movement for Cuba's medical professionals to win the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

In response, the Cuba solidarity movement in the United States, under the banner of the National Network on Cuba, launched an online petition aimed at the new Biden administration demanding that Cuba be removed from this list of so-called "state sponsors of terrorism". Fire This Time Newspaper is reprinting this important petition below and we encourage our readers to visit the change.org website (link below) to sign and support.

Many are under the impression that because President Biden was Obama's Vice President, that he will be open to reversing the harmful measures against Cuba enacted by Trump and work towards ending the blockade on Cuba. However, without world-wide pressure it is clear this will not happen.

On January 28, 2021 during a press briefing Biden's press secretary, Jen Psaki was asked if their administration will be "walking back all of those restrictions that were put into place under the Trump administration." Psaki responded explaining, "We'll review the Trump administration policies as we are in a number of other areas of national security with an eye to ensuring that our approach is aligned with that. But we will take our own path. I don't have anything to predict for you at this point in time." Psaki and Biden have made no commitments about removing Cuba for the so-called "state sponsors of terrorism" list or removing new restrictions against Cuba made by the Trump administration.

Fire This Time Newspaper believes it is up to us to build the pressure on the U.S. government to ensure that 2021 is the final year of this unjust policy against Cuba, we encourage everyone to sign this important petition.

NATIONAL NETWORK ON CUBA PETITION TEXT:

Cuba's Henry Reeve Brigade sends doctors on request to COVID-19 hot spots and natural disasters. Cuba saves lives. Its contribution is valued and recognized around the world.

Yet, on January 11, discredited President Trump's State Department added Cuba to its unilateral list of "state sponsors of terrorism". This action has nothing to do with terrorism, but everything to do with making life harder for the Cuban people.

Since 1959 US-backed terrorism has killed more than 3,000 Cubans. Just last year an assault weapon attack on the Cuban Embassy in Washington DC didn't even merit comment from the current administration. From April 2019 to March 2020, US economic terrorism cost Cuba more than \$5,570,300.

On December 17, 2014 the US and Cuba renewed diplomatic relations. Respectful discussions signed mutually beneficial agreements -- including one on health that could even help us fight the pandemic.

Look at these numbers. In Los Angeles County -- similar population to Cuba -- 12,250 people have died. But in Cuba 153 -- total, since March! And, not one Cuban health care worker has died from COVID-19!

Especially those of us who have lost loved ones want to know how Cuba has saved lives -- but US laws keep us apart.

It is time to end the sixty year, failed U.S. economic, financial and commercial blockade of Cuba -- completely, for the benefit of people on both sides of the Florida straits, let's #unblockCuba2021.

The Biden-Harris administration can sweep away the Trump regulations. We tell them, do it quickly. Please add your voice by signing this petition.

Sign the petition here: <https://www.change.org/p/transition46-cuba-life-saver-not-terrorist-reverse-pompeo-trump-designation>



SCAN ME

A Letter on Cuba to U.S. President Biden

from U.S.-based religious institutions and faith-based humanitarian aid organizations

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As religious institutions and faith-based humanitarian aid organizations, many of us with longstanding ties to Cuban faith communities and people, we greatly appreciate your pledge “to reverse the failed Trump policies that inflicted harm on Cubans and their families.”

We advocated for and strongly supported the Obama Administration’s groundbreaking U.S.-Cuba policy changes. While our two governments have significant disagreements, these are best addressed through respectful dialogue and engagement. Reinstating these Obama era policies at this time is critical. Ordinary Cubans, including members of churches and of other religious communities, were suffering increased unemployment and hunger because of the Trump Administration restrictions, even before the devastation of COVID travel restraints.

Religious freedom and religious life have grown dramatically in Cuba in the last two decades, and religious attendance – among Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim communities – has grown as well. The faith community is

playing a greater role in the life of the Cuban people, and we look forward to its continuing growth and expansion. Reversing the Trump Administration policies and taking new steps toward full normalization will help further religious freedom and human rights in Cuba. We believe the U.S. can achieve these aims through engagement rather than through a punishing sanctions regime. Re-engagement will also uphold the religious freedom of Americans to engage with the Cuban people.

We ask you to take executive action that returns the regulations governing travel, remittances and trade with Cuba to where they stood on January 20th, 2017. The Trump administration restricted remittances sent by churches, Cuban-Americans and other U.S. persons to families in Cuba, limited family travel and restricted people-to-people travel for all U.S. citizens, limited agricultural exports to Cuba, and weakened the opportunities for

trade and investment that benefit U.S. society and the Cuban people, especially in the growing Cuban private sector. We urge you to immediately reverse these measures.

We also ask you to reverse by executive action the Trump Administration decisions to reinstate Cuba on the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism,” and to permit private lawsuits against third country investors in Cuba under Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996 (LIBERTAD Act).

We urge you to rebuild the U.S. diplomatic presence in Cuba, fully staffing our embassy, especially our consular staffing. While we need to be alert to potential health concerns and the safety of our diplomats, it is clearly in U.S. interest to fully staff our embassy. We urge you to resume all consular services that would permit Cuban citizens to re-engage through travel with their families in the United States and with U.S. society more broadly. This will vitally expand the religious,

“▶ We ask you to take executive action that returns the regulations governing travel, remittances and trade with Cuba to where they stood on January 20th, 2017.
▶ We also ask you to reverse by executive action the Trump Administration decisions to reinstate Cuba on the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism,”
▶ We urge you to rebuild the U.S. diplomatic presence in Cuba, fully staffing our embassy, especially our consular staffing.”

cultural, artistic, environmental, educational, scientific and athletic exchanges between our societies. It’s particularly important to U.S. religious communities that Cuban clergy and faith leaders be able to travel readily to the United States to participate in faith-based conferences and other religious events.

Fully staffing our embassy will facilitate bilateral dialogues on issues of mutual interest. In line with this, we urge you to allow parallel increases in the staffing of the Cuban embassy here in the United States.

We and our faith partners in Cuba have long called for an end to the U.S. embargo on Cuba, and the development of normal relations between our two countries. We are convinced that it is in the interest of both the United States and the Cuban people to move forward with normalization.

The process of normalization will benefit people of faith and religious organizations in Cuba and the United States by creating more opportunities for mutual support and encouragement. It will benefit the Cuban people who are facing difficult economic and humanitarian circumstances and respond to concerns about their well-being among the Cuban-American community here in the United States.

Our country will benefit as we expand cooperation on issues of mutual interest including addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, security, people-to-people relationships, and increased travel, trade, and commerce. And it will enable Cuba to engage more readily in its own internal processes of reform and political debate. We are convinced that it is in the interest of both the United States and the Cuban people, and in particular beneficial to religious communities in Cuba, to move forward with normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations

We commit ourselves to support you in these actions, and to encourage Members of Congress to support U.S. engagement with Cuba and bring an end to the embargo.

Please know that you and your family, Vice President Harris and your Administration are in our prayers.

Yours,

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

American Friends Service Committee
Alliance of Baptists
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice
Church of the Brethren, Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Church World Service
Disciples Center for Public Witness
The Episcopal Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ
Marynoll Office of Global Concerns
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office
National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA
Pax Christi USA
Presbyterian Church (USA)
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

TO RESPOND PLEASE CONTACT
CATHERINE GORDON, PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (USA), AT
CATHERINE.GORDON@PCUSA.ORG

24 HOUR VIRTUAL PICKET FOR CUBA!



Canadian Network on Cuba hosts a successful 24-hour Global Virtual Picket demanding
>> END TO THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!
>> AWARD CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL BRIGADE THE NOBEL PRIZE!
>> END U.S. INTERFERENCE IN CUBA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS!

A REPORT AND LETTER OF THANKS!

A successful 26-hour virtual event was organized by the Canadian Network on Cuba on December 17, 2020 to demand, "Lift the U.S. Blockade on Cuba now!" Throughout the global action people from all around the world united for a dynamic program which included speakers, video greetings, documentary films & performances of music and poetry. It should be noted that the action was planned for 24-hours, however due to the great number of messages received, the program was extended to 26-hours.

More than 1,000 people from 50 countries/nationalities, representing over 200 organizations, and spanning 6 continents joined throughout the+ action. As of December 21, 2020, videos of the livestream on Facebook now have over 5,850 total views.

People of 50 countries and nations participated including: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Dominican Republic, England, El Salvador, France, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, India, Italy, Ireland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Musqueam, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Quebec, Republic of Akhasia, Russia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Scotland, Spain, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, United States of America, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, and Zambia.

It was not only a success, but something that the Canadian Network on Cuba plans to build on. We must continue struggling and pushing to make 2021 the final year of the criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba!

The global action came together for 26 hours to condemn the 60 years of cruel and criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba. At the same time, the virtual action promoted the work of Cuban doctors and medical personnel in the Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade and why this brigade is deserving of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021. The event also praised Cuba for being an important example for

the world in its fight against this global Covid-19 pandemic, both internally and internationally. The Canadian Network on Cuba also congratulated the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) for its 60th anniversary coming up this December 30, 2020. Of course, the event was organized on December 17, 2020 specifically to mark six years of the return of all 5 of our Cuban heroes. After 16 years of being held unjustly in U.S. jails, they continue to defend Cuba and defend the dignity of the Cuban people as free men living in Cuba today.

The Canadian Network on Cuba would like to thank everyone who participated in this important event and recognize that the success of the event was due to the special support of: Instituto Cubano de Amistad con los Pueblos (ICAP), El Movimiento Colombiano de Solidaridad con Cuba (MCSC), the Ukrainian Committee "Stop the blockade of Cuba", the U.S.-Cuba Normalization

Conference Organizing Committee, Australia-Cuba Friendship Society WA, Table de concertation et de solidarité Québec - Cuba, Associazione Nazionale di Amicizia Italia-Cuba, & the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) - U.S.

The Canadian Network on Cuba is committed to continuing to organize virtual events on the 17th of every month and looks forward to joining together once again on January 17, 2021. We hope that you will continue to join us!

In Solidarity,

Tamara Hansen

Executive Member of the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) & Central organizer of the 24-hour virtual event



For video and news coverage links visit:

<https://bit.ly/3dTcuXK>



50 countries/nationalities participated including Argentina, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Colombia, Ukraine, Russia, Canada, & the Philippines





“ Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it’s more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody’s blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It’s only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely. ”

MALCOLM X & MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

“ A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa, and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say, “This is not just.” It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of South America and say, “This is not just.” The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just. [...] A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. ”





3 SPEECHES BY MALCOLM X

Black History Month has been co-opted and hijacked by government institutions and the mainstream media. Every February they share images and words from a series of handpicked black leaders, stripped of any historical relevance or any spirit of revolutionary black struggle. Fire This Time Newspaper wants to counter the mainstream watered down account of the struggle for black liberation in the U.S. and internationally. In this issue we honour the revolutionary legacy of two black liberation leaders that have fought for black rights and for the rights of all oppressed people and nations around the world.

Malcolm X (1925–1965) is a revolutionary black liberation leader in the United States. Excerpts from 3 speeches by Malcolm X.

November 9th, 1963

Look at the American Revolution in 1776. That revolution was for what? For land. Why did they want land? Independence. How was it carried out? Bloodshed. Number one, it was based on land, the basis of independence. And the only way they could get it was bloodshed. The French Revolution - what was it based on? The landless against the landlord. What was it for? Land. How did they get it? Bloodshed. Was no love lost, was no compromise, was no negotiation. I'm telling you - you don't know what a revolution is. Because when you find out what it is, you'll get back in the alley, you'll get out of the way.

The Russian Revolution - what was it based on? Land; the landless against the landlord. How did they bring it about? Bloodshed. You

haven't got a revolution that doesn't involve bloodshed. And you're afraid to bleed. I said, you're afraid to bleed.

As long as the white man sent you to Korea, you bled. He sent you to Germany, you bled. He sent you to the South Pacific to fight the Japanese, you bled. You bleed for white people, but when it comes to seeing your own churches being bombed and little black girls murdered, you haven't got any blood. You bleed when the white man says bleed; you bite when the white man says bite; and you bark when the white man says bark. I hate to say this about us, but it's true. How are you going to be nonviolent in Mississippi, as violent as you were in Korea? How can you justify being nonviolent in Mississippi and Alabama, when your churches are being bombed, and your little girls are being murdered, and at the same time you are going to get violent with Hitler, and Tojo, and somebody else you don't even know?

If violence is wrong in America, violence is wrong abroad. If it is wrong to be violent

defending black 'women and black children and black babies and black men, then it is wrong for America to draft us and make us violent abroad in defense of her. And if it is right for America to draft us, and teach us how to be violent in defense of her, then it is right for you and me to do whatever is necessary to defend our own people right here in this country.

So I cite these various revolutions, brothers and sisters, to show you that you don't have a peaceful revolution. You don't have a turn-the-othercheek revolution. There's no such thing as a nonviolent revolution. The only kind of revolution that is nonviolent is the Negro revolution. The only revolution in which the goal is loving your enemy is the Negro revolution. It's the only revolution in which the goal is a desegregated lunch counter, a desegregated theater, a desegregated park, and a desegregated public toilet; you can sit down next to white folks - on the toilet. That's no revolution. Revolution is based on land. Land is the basis of all independence. Land is the basis of freedom, justice, and equality.

April 3rd, 1964 - Cleveland, Ohio, USA

When we begin to get in this area, we need new friends, we need new allies. We need to expand the civil rights struggle to a higher level—to the level of human rights. Whenever you are in a civil-rights struggle, whether you know it or not, you are confining yourself to the jurisdiction of Uncle Sam. No one from the outside world can speak out in your behalf as long as your struggle is a civil-rights struggle. Civil rights comes within the domestic affairs of this country. All of our African brothers and our Asian brothers and our Latin-American brothers cannot open

Los Angeles street mural by artist Tristan Eaton, created in the summer of 2020



their mouths and interfere in the domestic affairs of the United States. And as long as it's civil rights, this comes under the jurisdiction of Uncle Sam.

But the United Nations has what's known as the charter of human rights, it has a committee that deals in human rights. You may wonder why all of the atrocities that have been committed in Africa and in Hungary and in Asia and in Latin America are brought before the UN, and the Negro problem is never brought before the UN. This is part of the conspiracy. This old, tricky, blue eyed liberal who is supposed to be your and my friend, supposed to be in our corner, supposed to be subsidizing our struggle, and supposed to be acting in the capacity of an adviser, never tells you anything about human rights. They keep you wrapped up in civil rights. And you spend so much time barking up the civil-rights tree, you don't even know there's a human rights tree on the same floor.

When you expand the civil-rights struggle to the level of human rights, you can then take the case of the black man in this country before the nations in the UN. You can take it before the General Assembly. You can take Uncle Sam before a world court. But the only level you can do it on is the level of human rights. Civil rights keeps you under his restrictions, under his jurisdiction. Civil rights keeps you in his pocket. Civil rights means you're asking Uncle Sam to treat you right. Human rights are some thing you were born with. Human rights are your God given rights. Human rights are the rights that are recognized by all nations of this earth. And any time any one violates your human rights, you can take them to the world court. Uncle Sam's hands are dripping with blood, dripping with the blood of the black man in this country. He's the earth's number one hypocrite.

He has the audacity—yes, he has— imagine him posing as the leader of the free world. The free world! And you over here singing We Shall Overcome. Expand the civil-rights struggle to the level of human rights, take it into the United Nations, where our African brothers can throw their weight on our side, where our Asian brothers can throw their weight on our side, where our Latin-American brothers can throw their weight on our side, and where 800 million Chinamen are sitting there waiting to throw their weight on our side.

Let the world know how bloody his hands are. Let the world know the hypocrisy that's practiced over here. Let it be the ballot or the bullet.

Let him know that it must be the ballot or the bullet. When you take your case to Washington, D.C., you're taking it to the criminal who's responsible; it's like running from the wolf to the fox. They're all in cahoots together. They all work political chicanery and make you look like a chump before the eyes of the world. Here you are walking around in America, getting ready to be drafted and sent abroad, like a tin soldier, and when you get over there, people ask you what are you

fighting for, and you have to stick your tongue in your cheek. No, take Uncle Sam to court, take him before the world.

**February 11th, 1965
- London School of
Economics**

It is only being a Muslim which keeps me from seeing people by the color of their skin. This religion teaches brotherhood, but I have to be a realist—I live in America, a society which does not believe Brute force is used by white racists to suppress nonwhites. It is a racist society ruled by segregationists...

[W]here the government fails to protect the Negro he is entitled to do it himself. He is within his rights. I have found the only white elements who do not want this advice given to undefensive Blacks are the racist liberals. They use the press to project us in the image of violence.

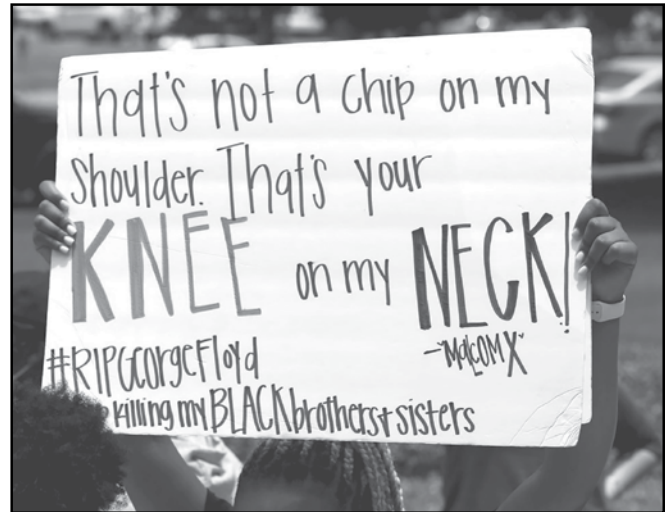
There is an element of whites who are nothing but cold, animalistic racists. That element is the one that controls or has strong influence in the power structure. It uses the press skillfully to feed statistics to the public to make it appear that the rate of crime in the Black community, or community of nonwhite people, is at such a high level. It gives the impression or the image that everyone in that community is criminal.

And as soon as the public accepts the fact that the dark-skinned community consists largely of criminals or people who are dirty, then it makes it possible for the power structure to set up a police-state system. Which will make it permissible in the minds of even the well-meaning white public for them to come in and use all kinds of police methods to brutally suppress the struggle on the part of these people against segregation, discrimination, and other acts that are unleashed against them that are absolutely unjust.

They use the press to set up this police state, and they use the press to make the white public accept whatever they do to the dark-skinned public... They have all kinds of negative characteristics that they project to make the white public draw back, or to make the white public be apathetic when police-state-like methods are used in these areas to suppress the people's honest and just struggle against discrimination and other forms of segregation.

A good example of how they do it in New York: Last summer, when the Blacks were rioting—the riots, actually they weren't riots in the first place; they were reactions against police brutality. And when the Afro-Americans reacted against the brutal measures that were executed against them by the police,

Protest against police brutality in Jackson, Mississippi, 2020



the press all over the world projected them as rioters. When the store windows were broken in the Black community, immediately it was made to appear that this was being done not by people who were reacting over civil rights violations, but they gave the impression that these were hoodlums, vagrants, criminals...

But this is wrong. In America the Black community in which we live is not owned by us. The landlord is white. The merchant is white. In fact, the entire economy of the Black community in the States is controlled by someone who doesn't even live there. The property that we live in is owned by someone else. The store that we trade with is operated by someone else. And these are the people who suck the economic blood of our community.

And being in a position to suck the economic blood of our community, they control the radio programs that cater to us, they control the newspapers, the advertising, that cater to us. They control our minds. They end up controlling our civic organizations. They end up controlling us economically, politically, socially, mentally, and every other kind of way. They suck our blood like vultures.

And when you see the Blacks react, since the people who do this aren't there, they react against their property. The property is the only thing that's there. And they destroy it. And you get the impression over here that because they are destroying the property where they live, that they are destroying their own property. No. They can't get to the man, so they get at what he owns. [Laughter] This doesn't say it's intelligent. But whoever heard of a sociological explosion that was done intelligently and politely? And this is what you're trying to make the Black man do. You're trying to drive him into a ghetto and make him the victim of every kind of unjust condition imaginable. Then when he explodes, you want him to explode politely! [Laughter] You want him to explode according to somebody's ground rules. Why, you're dealing with the wrong man, and you're dealing with him at the wrong time in the wrong way.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. "BEYOND VIETNAM"



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968) was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. Below is an excerpt from: "Beyond Vietnam" delivered on April 4, 1967 at the Riverside Church in New York City. In this important speech Martin Luther King connects the war the imperialist ruling class was conducting in Vietnam to the war against Afro-American and other oppressed people in the United States, like the restriction of democratic rights, poverty, and racism.

Excerpt from "Beyond Vietnam."

Since I am a preacher by trade, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle

I, and others, have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor -- both black and white -- through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad on war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic destructive suction tube. So, I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

Perhaps the more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that

they would never live on the same block in Detroit. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness, for it grows out of my experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years -- especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected and angry young men I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked -- and rightly so -- what about Vietnam? They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today -- my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent. For those who ask the question, "Aren't you a civil rights leader?" and thereby mean to exclude me from the movement for peace, I have this further answer. In 1957 when a group of us formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, we chose as our motto: "To save the soul of America." We were convinced that we could not limit our vision to certain rights for black people, but instead affirmed the conviction that America would never be free or saved from itself unless the descendants of its slaves were loosed completely from the shackles they still wear. Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam. It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that America will be are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land.



"No lives matter til Black lives matter. #saytheirnames" protesting police brutality in Miami, USA on May 30, 2020.



Banner held at the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) anniversary march in New York in 1993

MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES!

Indigenous struggle against colonialism



Berta Cáceres (1971-2016)

Berta Cáceres was a Lenca Indigenous leader in Honduras and co-founder and coordinator of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras. A hit squad murdered Berta Cáceres for her work in defense of mother earth and Indigenous rights on March 3, 2016.

"True movement building happens in the concrete opportunity that struggle and resistance give us. We don't see it any other way. The moment when we are struggling and resisting is the best opportunity for movement building. I also must say that we find it important to understand both the structural challenge and the vast struggle that means standing before this structural challenge that, in our communities, organizations, and movements, we still don't fully understand.

We also have strengths, and one of them is the accumulation of historical, old, ancient resistance that continues to express itself in so many ways. We act historically as Indigenous peoples, as communities, regardless of the borders that have been drawn between us, in the historical solidarity of the Central-American people. This has been shown during the times of armed insurrection, and it's now showing in the struggle in defense of water, forests, and land. We don't see this as something that divides us, but as something that unites us, with strategic lines of struggle in our region."

From her speech at the 7th International Workshop on Emancipatory Paradigms (Havana, Cuba, 2007)

<https://capiremov.org>

Continued from page 13

provincial, territorial, and Indigenous representatives. However, this government meeting was not a benevolent gesture – instead, it was organized in reaction to community fury and protest following the death of Joyce Echaquan. Echaquan, a 37-year-old Atikamekw mother of seven, died on September 28, 2020, in a Quebec hospital. Prior to her death, Echaquan used Facebook live to broadcast racist and discriminatory comments made to her by hospital workers. In the video, nurses can be heard saying, "She's good at having sex, more than anything else," and ask, "Are you done acting stupid? Are you done?" Among other hateful comments. These remarks are clearly based on the same racist stereotypes that were identified in the B.C. review.

Anti-Indigenous racism is not the only racism plaguing Canada's healthcare system, many racialized people face racist stereotypes, which lead to discrimination and barriers to accessing care. In many racialized communities this leads to poorer health outcomes than for white patients. Meanwhile, racism is also only one barrier to care, many people with disabilities are stuck with huge and unpayable medical bills despite Canada's so-called 'universal' system, many of their therapies, assistive devices, and medications are not covered. The same goes for trans folks on hormones and some aspects of gender confirmation surgeries such as vocal feminization or reduction of Adam's apple, which are not covered. It should also be mentioned that this universal healthcare system is a capitalist and colonial based system, and it is only partially extended to non-residents and migrant workers, which is completely unjust and must be dismantled.

How do we confront and change systemic issues within healthcare?

The base of the healthcare system in Canada continues to be many private companies and corporations vying for contracts and business. People across Canada must pay

out of pocket for dental care, eye care, so-called "elective surgeries," medicines, physiotherapy, counselling, psychology, and even parking at many hospitals. While some workers have coverage from workplace insurance plans, in many cases, there are yearly maximums, and for many, there is no coverage. Many of the services that are not covered are medically necessary: glasses, hearing aids, hormone treatments, dental work, counsellors, and psychologists, etc. For many, these are medical requirements to get out of bed in the morning and go about your regular day.

Within all of this, we also have to recognize the stress and pressure placed on the shoulders of healthcare workers. Every year



Rally in Quebec demanding justice for Joyce Echaquan.

funding for the public system is under threat of being cut, and healthcare workers are asked to do more with less resources. This is not to excuse racism and discrimination from healthcare workers towards patients, but to acknowledge that the problem is built into the whole system and something that a few reforms will not fix.

Each of these issues reminds us that healthcare in Canada is not an unbiased science and care system for the betterment of human health and wellbeing. This whole system needs to be dismantled and reimagined with human beings and their health and wellness as the priority. The system should prioritize preventing illness, providing discrimination-free access to all, and ensuring all medicines and therapies are available free of charge. We need a free healthcare for all system. This is the healthcare system that working and oppressed people in Canada deserve, but it is not something that we will be given to us, it is something we will have to fight for together.

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01

DR. BELÉN CARCEDO: The feminist movement and the women's movement are global

For this issue of Fire This Time, we spoke with Dr. Belén Carcedo, a general practitioner and family doctor in the province of Córdoba, Argentina and member of the Network of Health Professionals for the Right to Decide, as well as a political and feminist militant with



a long history of working together with social movements and with the Campaign for Legal, Safe and Free Abortion. Ana Laura Torres, our co-fighter and a revolutionary feminist and social justice organizer in Argentina, spoke with Dr. Carcedo, and transcribed her important reflections about the victory of women in Argentina for the right to choose.

Dr. Belén Carcedo: “Regarding the enactment of the law into practice, it begins to be guaranteed little by little, progressively but quite quickly, in all public and private health centers. It is not only that it has been legalized, but that all people and health centers must offer the possibility. It is not only that people who were already seeking an abortion can safely access abortion, but also now a pregnant person who is not asking for an abortion is also given the information. This opens the range of possibilities to people who were doubting, or those that had already made the decision but did not dare to ask for help, etc. Therefore, this categorically reduces unsafe abortions, decreases the possibility that a person will carry out a practice in a clandestine and unsafe way and put their life, their personal health at risk.

The law means that in every corner and the most remote places of the country there is now process in place to make sure that there will be someone, a health professional, who guarantees the practice. The previous legal framework, which allowed for legal interruption of pregnancy due to specific causes, which was what we had prior to the voluntary interruption of pregnancy law, people had to travel a lot to be able to reach large cities to access legal abortion services. Today the reverse is being achieved little by little. People can stay in their local area because there is someone who guarantees the practice, at most they may have to travel to the next town, but not much more.

In terms of whether this works for other countries: of course. We have already seen that the Green Tide in 2018 transcended borders. The feminist movement and the women's movement are global and go far beyond the limits of common historical agreement that we have by dividing pieces of land. This has to do with linking, it has to do with networks. Both with networks of people and now also with social networks and the media that allow this to expand, spread and travel, as a powerful energy to all parts of the world and to corners and places where we did not even imagine it could reach. Mobilizations will arise from the impulse, from seeing that it is possible, that it is achievable, that something concrete is reached that makes sense, that is worthwhile. All that will be shown in this process that we live here in Argentina and, of course, it is expanding.”

Continued from page 16

1983. It criminalized abortion in Ireland under all circumstances, except where the life of a pregnant person was at risk.

As a testament to the powerful women's rights movement in Ireland, this referendum passed with overwhelming support and participation, with 39 of the 40 constituencies voting Yes. This in a country where the right to divorce was not legalized until 1995.

The Struggle for the Right to Choose and the Reproductive Justice in the U.S. and Canada

Although abortion is legalized in the United States and Canada, women, trans and non-binary people continue to face significant barriers in accessing abortions and health services such as pregnancy care. This is especially the case for poor and marginalized people, as access to these vital services is often dependant on a person's location, immigration status and ability to pay. Trans and non-binary people also face additional obstacles due to transphobia and discrimination in the medical system. In the U.S. and Canada these barriers disproportionately impact poor, Black, Indigenous, immigrant and undocumented people and people of colour.

Since 2011, 400 laws that restrict access to abortion services have been passed in U.S. state legislatures. Planned Parenthood reports that there are currently six states that have passed legalisation that makes the right to choose virtually meaningless - Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio. Ironically made in the name of “right to life,” these attacks on reproductive choice also extend to services essential for a healthy pregnancy. For example, in the state of Georgia, 40% of the counties do not have a gynecologist, a doctor that is fundamental for reproductive health and pregnancy.

Indigenous people have never had safe and secure access to abortions due to the Hyde Amendment. This amendment prohibits the Indian Health Service from using Federal funds for abortion services. The Hyde Amendment also means abortion services are not covered by Medicaid, a government-funded health insurance plan for low-income people, or those unable to work.

In Canada, only one out of every six hospitals have abortion services according to Options for Sexual Health. People who live in Northern and Indigenous communities have practically no right to choose. “There are significant disparities between rural and urban access to abortion. In some provinces like Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario, abortion providers are only in urban centers, despite 35-40% of the population living in rural or remote communities,” as reported by Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights. Across Canada, the services available, and how much they cost varies. In Nunavut, Prince Edward Island and the Yukon, there is only one abortion provider for the entire province or territory (and the provider on Prince Edward Island only



Protest in Krakow, Poland against the Constitutional Court ruling tightening abortion law in the country

opened in 2016!). As in the United States, the regions where women have the least access to abortion services are the same areas that people also have the least access to sex education, contraceptives, or even basic healthcare.

Beyond the right to access to abortions, there are also many other important and continued struggles for full reproductive choice and reproductive justice. The pro-choice movement and women's rights movement must work to recognize and struggle against the impact that racism, xenophobia, and transphobia have on the human and reproductive rights of women, trans and non-binary people. To begin the fight for reproductive justice, the women's rights and pro-choice movement must also take on demands for trans-inclusive abortion services, an end to the forced sterilizations of Indigenous and immigrant women, and free and universal access to sex education, birth control, and abortion services, as well as free and universal healthcare for all.

Building a Mass Trans-Inclusive Movement for Women's Rights

At a pro-choice rally in March 2017, Irish independence fighter and civil rights leader Bernadette Devlin McAliskey said, "The issue of repeal of the Eighth Amendment is actually not even an issue about abortion. It is fundamentally in this case about abortion. But it is at its core, in the 21st Century, a demand that the last usurpation of authority of the individual human being, of human beings, be ended. That is the usurpation of a woman's right to control her own body. To exercise first and last authority over that individual body. All day. Every day that she is alive. Not simply when she is a pregnant woman.

Let us be clear that the demand of the end of usurpation. The demand for our right to control our bodies. To make our own reproductive system is not a favour we are asking for certain circumstances. It is a fundamental defense of democracy for every person..."

The powerful and united mass pro-choice movements in Argentina, Ireland and Poland are showing women around the world the way forward towards achieving this fundamental human right – the right to control our own bodies.

At the same time, it must also be said that access to abortion is only one part of the larger struggle for women's equality and liberation. This fight against women's oppression is not just a struggle for women, but for all of humanity. Firstly, because one of the most important steps to improving the lives of all children, is the empowerment of women. Secondly, because the deeply harmful ideology and values that capitalist patriarchy forces on humanity not only debase and demean women and LGBTQ+ people, but they also debase and demean all people.

A victory for women – from Argentina to Ireland and beyond, is a victory for all working, poor and oppressed people around the world!

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette



People celebrate in Dublin after the Yes vote won in the Irish referendum on abortion in 2018



Nancy Morejón is one of the most preeminent and internationally successful Cuban poets today. Growing up within Cuba's revolutionary process, she became the first widely published black woman poet in Cuba, winning prizes in Cuba and internationally for her work. As a Cuban revolutionary and poet, she is known for celebrating women and blackness in her poems.

A Black Prince for George Floyd

NANCY MOREJÓN (1944-)

Although his dream was to throw you into the Mississippi,
that cannibal in opaque uniform
has silently burned his knee
into your inert neck.
The smoke from your flesh rises to the wet sky.
Skipping among the flowers, the air from your bronchi
chases after its ghost until you bite
the cannibal's bloody fang.
And you breathe energy, untamed, onto the wet asphalt,
under the still shadow of an apple tree
in Minneapolis,
where we will place, for you,
this brilliant, this
immaculate black prince of ours,
in your memory.

Cerro, Cuba. June 4, 2020.

*[Translated by Ivette Romero. *Príncipe negro/Black Prince is the name of a dark red rose.]*

Príncipe Negro para George Floyd

NANCY MOREJÓN (1944-)

Aunque su sueño era lanzarte al Mississippi,
aquel caníbal de uniforme opaco
ha quemado en silencio su rodilla
sobre tu cuello inerte.
El humo de tu carne va subiendo hasta el cielo mojado.
Saltando entre las flores, el aire de tus bronquios
persigue su fantasma hasta morder
el colmillo sangriento del caníbal.
Y tú alientas, indómito, sobre el asfalto húmedo,
bajo la sombra quieta de un manzano
en Minneapolis,
donde colocaremos, para ti,
este brillante, este limpio
príncipe negro nuestro,
a tu memoria.

Cerro, Cuba 4 de junio, 2020

On January 29, 2021, the Globe and Mail newspaper published an opinion piece by Madeline Albright, Lloyd Axworthy, Mayu Brizuela de Avila, and Fen Osler Hampson, "Canada and the U.S. must unite to help Latin American refugees," www.theglobeandmail.com. Unlike the title implies, this article was a showcase for the authors, apologists for imperialist attacks on Venezuela and Latin America, to spread lies and misinformation about Venezuela.

To set the record straight about U.S. and Canada's sanctions and attacks on Venezuela, Radhika Desai, of the Venezuela Peace Committee, Winnipeg; Alison Bodine of the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, Vancouver; Maria Páez Victor of the Louis Riel Bolivarian Circle, Toronto; and Alan Freeman of the Canadian, Latin American and Caribbean Policy Centre, Winnipeg submitted the below opinion piece to the Globe and Mail. The Globe and Mail refused to publish it.

Canada's Failed Foreign Policy for Latin America and Venezuela should be Abandoned, not Re-furbished

February 9, 2021

We write in response to the article, 'Canada and the U.S. must unite to help Latin American refugees' by four prominent public figures including former US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright and former Canadian Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy urging U.S.-Canadian cooperation on important hemispheric issues, particularly the 'crisis in Venezuela' and the region's mounting refugee crisis.

Unfortunately, their proposals only seek to salvage failed and failing policies. The refugee crisis in the region is caused not by 'gang warfare and endemic violence' but the imposition of neoliberal policies through compliant governments and the actual or attempted overthrow of non-compliant ones. Speaking in the name of the refugee women and children, Albright, Axworthy et al propose a resettlement plan that will, no doubt, convert the people displaced by their policies into a labour reserve sited at a comfortable distance from U.S. and Canadian borders and conveniently on tap for their economies. Their 'major programme of development assistance' to 'alleviate poverty and promote human security [and] climate adaptation' also adds 'good governance' to its agenda. It is a code word for the very neoliberal

austerity policies that underlie the region's problems and can only make the already bad situation worse.

The U.S.-Canadian policy on Venezuela has been pursued through illegal organizations such as the Lima Group, illegal policies such as sanctions not approved by the United Nations, and illegitimate means such as supporting unconstitutional upstarts such as Juan Guaido to undermine Venezuela's

in Canada's failure to secure a seat on the U.N. Security Council, and the European Union's withdrawal of support from Juan Guaido.

The policies proposed by Albright, Axworthy et al are, like U.S. and Canadian policies of long-standing, based on falsehoods.

The article claims, like U.S. and Canadian official sources and most media, that Venezuela's National Assembly elections were fraudulent. However, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) has pointed to the facts: over 1500 international election observers witnessed and validated the December 6 election, including the Council of Latin American Electoral Experts and several former heads of state including Evo Morales of Bolivia, Rafael Correa of Ecuador,

and Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain. In all, 107 political parties, of which 98 were opposition parties, and 14,000 candidates contested the election.

Albright, Axworthy et al. blame Venezuela's migration crisis on the Bolivarian government when it has, in fact, been caused, as Senator Richard Black of Virginia recognises, by illegal U.S. and allied



Left: Venezuelan government CLAP program delivers staple food items to Venezuelan homes. The program, started in 2016 to counter the effects of US sanctions, came under attack of US sanctions in 2019. Right: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau poses with Antonieta López and Lilian Tintori, members of Venezuela's right-wing opposition. May 16, 2017

constitutional government.

Despite all the effort put into them, these policies have failed. On the one hand, the successful conclusion of the Venezuelan National Assembly elections has demonstrated the political vitality of the Bolivarian government despite the great pressure it is under. On the other, the failure of the U.S.-Canadian policy is clear

sanctions against Venezuela since 2015 that have made it impossible for Venezuela to maintain its oil production or trade its oil and is the chief cause of Venezuela's economic crisis. Moreover, thanks to the harsh conditions facing migrants in their new countries, often members of the Lima Group, they have been returning. Working with the U.N., the Maduro government runs a special program to ease their

return at no cost, and more than 40,000 Venezuelans have returned.

Venezuela has not only not “failed to provide basic health services,” despite great economic difficulties, the Maduro government has organised a successful effort against Covid 19 with 43 deaths per million (compared to neighbouring Columbia’s 1088 per million or the U.S’s 1405 or Canada’s 551) and have done so despite the U.S. blockade and financial sanctions that hamper the effort, as does the Bank of England’s blocking Venezuelan gold. Indeed, the authors’ reference to ‘blood gold’ misses the mark: not only is Venezuelan gold not mined in a war-torn country (unless the authors wish to concede that the U.S. and Canada have been waging an undeclared and illegal hybrid war in Venezuela), the only the only Venezuelan ‘blood gold’ is that literally stolen by the Bank of England.

The authors not only ignore the real US-Colombia narco-capitalist nexus when they accuse Venezuela’s “top military leaders” of narco-trafficking and embezzling public funds, they helping the US, which usually laces its regime change operations with such terms. They also fail to note that it is Canada’s protégé, Juan Guaido, who has links with drug traffickers in Colombia and has been accused of corruption and misappropriation of funds.

Albright and Axworthy propose a “humanitarian response to the Venezuelan crisis, but also the creation of a new multistakeholder regional network” particularly by mobilizing the Organization of American States (OAS) “notwithstanding the fact that Venezuela and its regional allies (Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and a number of small Caribbean states) would frustrate diplomacy”. However, what they deign to call ‘diplomacy’ would in fact be illegal as the OAS charter forbids interference in the affairs of a member state.

We encourage news media, including Globe and Mail, to practice fairness and accuracy in reporting and to publish more responsible opinions from more responsible figures: Madeleine Albright, it should be remembered, kicked off the post-Cold War U.S. unilateral aggression, insisting ‘What’s the point of having this superb military that you’re always talking about if we can’t use it?’ and believed the death of half a million Iraqi children under US sanctions as a price worth paying.

Support this letter online at
<https://nosanctions.org>

Continued from page 5

Others speculated that, with his new administration in Washington, President-elect Biden might withdraw the US request for Meng’s extradition in an attempt to reset relations with China with a clean slate. But, so far, no request withdrawal has been put forward and

instead Biden has ramped up tensions with China over Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the South China Sea, and also repeated allegations of genocide by China against its Uyghur Muslim population.

Still others thought that Justin Trudeau might grow a backbone, demonstrate some independence of foreign policy for Canada, and unilaterally end the extradition process against Meng. According to Canada’s Extradition Act, the Minister of Immigration can, completely according to the rule of law, terminate an extradition proceeding at any point with a stroke of his pen. Trudeau has been under pressure by old Liberal Party stalwarts, former cabinet ministers, and retired judges and diplomats, who publicly urged him to release Meng and reset relations with China, which is Canada’s second largest trading partner. They hoped as well, by releasing Meng, that Trudeau might secure the release of Michael Spavor and Kovrig, who were arrested on espionage charges in China.

Two months ago, Meng Wanzhou’s lawyer applied for a loosening of her bail conditions to allow her to move around the Vancouver region unescorted during the day. Currently, she is monitored 24 hours a day by security guards and an ankle GPS monitoring device. For this surveillance, she is reputed to pay well more than \$3000 per day. She did so because, if the trial resumes on March 1, it could drag on, with appeals, for several years. Two weeks ago, the court rejected Ms. Meng’s request.

The economic cost to Canada of deteriorating relations with China so far has meant losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars for Canadian farmers and fishers as well as the termination of a Sino-Canadian project to make Covid-19 vaccines in Canada. But that picture will worsen if the Trudeau government gives into the warnings of the Five Eyes intelligence network, as expressed in the infamous Wagner-Rubio letter of

October 11, 2018 (just six weeks before Meng’s arrest), to exclude Huawei from the deployment of a 5G network in Canada. Such an exclusion, according to Dr. Atif Kubursi, Professor Emeritus of Economics at McMaster University, would be a clear violation of WTO rules. It would also



further estrange Canada from positive diplomatic and trade relations with China, which now boasts the largest trading economy in the world.

Canadians are increasingly alarmed that we are being conditioned by every one of the parliamentary political parties and the mainstream media for a new cold war with China. On February 22, 2021, the House of Commons will vote on a Conservative motion officially declaring China’s treatment of the Turkic-speaking Uyghurs a genocide, despite the fact that the evidence of such a crime was concocted by Andrew Zenz, an operative working as a sub-contractor to the US Central Intelligence Agency. Bloc, Green, and NDP members spoke for the resolution. On Feb 9, Green Party leader Anamie Paul called for the Beijing Winter Games, slated for Feb 2022, to be relocated to Canada. Her call was endorsed by Erin O’toole, Conservative Party leader, as well of several MP’s and Quebec politicians. For his part, on February 4, Canada’s immigration minister announced that Hong Kong residents will be able to apply for new open work permits as part of its program to create pathways towards Canadian citizenship. Mendicino noted “Canada continues to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Hong Kong, and is deeply concerned about the new National Security Law and the deteriorating human rights situation there.” Finally, Canada is well on the way to procuring \$77b. worth of new fighter jets (lifetime costs) and \$213b. worth of warships, designed to project Canada’s military power far beyond our shores.

Ken Stone is a longtime anti-war, anti-racist, environmental, and social justice advocate in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He is Treasurer of the Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War and a Steering Committee member of the Cross-Canada Campaign to FREE MENG WANZHOU.

Follow Ken on Twitter: @ccarken



Vaccination against selfishness and inequality



By Randy Alonso Falcón

“It will not be an exhausted and outdated world order that can save humanity and create the indispensable natural conditions for a dignified and decent life on the planet. (...) This is not an ideological question; it is already a question of life or death for the human species.”

- Fidel Castro Ruz (Speech at the Open Tribune of the Revolution, held in San José de las Lajas, January 27, 2001)

Solidarity and Justice are still words in disuse even when the catastrophe concerns us all, like a great universal Titanic. A tiny and sticky virus has moved fears, shaken societies and health systems, provoked countless reflections on today and the future, but it has not succeeded in making equity and love for others prosper.

This week will mark the 100 millionth person infected with COVID-19 in the world and already more than 2 million people have died.

“Every day the gap between the haves and have-nots grows. The pandemic has reminded us that health and economics are linked and that we are all in the same boat. The pandemic will not end until it ends everywhere,” said World Health Organization Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday.

The numbers bear incontrovertible witness to the expert's assessment.

THE PRIVILEGED CURE

Despite numerous calls from the UN and various world leaders to seek a global response to the pandemic and to facilitate and share access to a cure for the disease, narrow views and deaf ears predominate.

“Science is succeeding, but solidarity is

failing,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted on January 15. Several vaccines are already available worldwide to tackle the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but access to them is as deeply unequal as the world we inhabit.

In all of sub-Saharan Africa, only 25 doses of vaccine could be administered in Guinea. Populous countries like Nigeria, with 200 million inhabitants, are waiting for the first dose.

The same scramble that took place at the beginning of the pandemic with lung

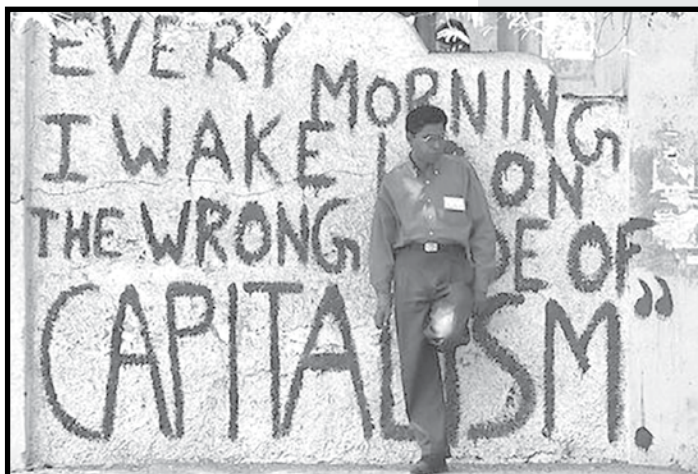
Another handicap has been the high cost of the vaccines that have the most international approval so far. As Norwegian expert John-Arne Rottingen told *The Guardian*, “The difficulty is that we really only have widespread international approval for marketing two vaccines: the two mRNA vaccines. The challenge is that one, the Moderna vaccine is very expensive, and the other, the Pfizer / BioNTech vaccine, which was first available and is now being applied in Europe, is moderately expensive compared to others, and requires a super cold chain. The price and cold chain makes it not the ideal vaccine for a global vaccine.”

While nations like India and South Africa are calling on the WHO to campaign for pharmaceutical companies to relinquish intellectual property rights to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. That would allow other qualified manufacturers in the South to expand production of those antidotes; countries like the US, UK and Canada have opposed the initiative. Those three wealthy nations have purchased or reserved enough doses to inoculate their populations at least four times.

High-income countries account for 16% of the world's population, but hold more than 60% of the vaccines purchased so far.

Some forecasts put the total population of middle-income and poor countries that could be vaccinated this year at 27%. Duke University's Center for Global Health Innovation estimates that there will not be enough vaccines to immunize the world's population until at least 2023.

“The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure, and the price of this failure will be paid in lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries,” Dr. Tedros said regretfully.



The graffiti reads, “Every morning wake up on the wrong side of Capitalism.”

ventilators, masks and protective suits is now being staged with vaccines: hoarding, overpricing and speculation. “An immoral race to the bottom,” as the WHO's top executive described it.

The COVAX fund, created as a sort of global effort to make vaccines accessible to the poorest nations or those with limited resources, announced that in February it will begin to deliver the first doses (they first said that in January), but it recognizes that it has been limited by the lucrative agreements of various individual nations with the pharmaceutical companies that produce the anti-COVID vaccines.



THE VIRUS OF INEQUALITY

“Vaccine nationalism” is the exact reflection of an unequal and unjust world in which a few remain the great beneficiaries of wealth, for which billions must make do with the leftovers.

It is the “inequality virus” that OXFAM denounces in its most recent report, in which it evidences that the current failed economic system “allows a super-rich elite to continue to accumulate wealth in the midst of the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression, while billions of people face great hardship to get by.”

While billionaires saw their fortunes increase between March and December 2020 by a total volume of \$3.9 trillion-to amass an unimaginable \$11.95 trillion-the poorest people on the planet will need “more than a decade to recover from the economic impacts of the crisis” accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

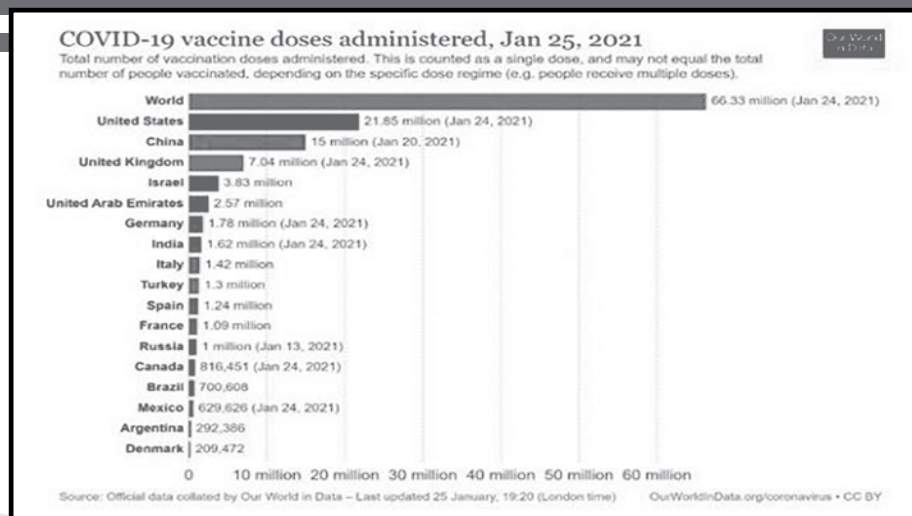
Racial differences have also deepened. In the United States, the most powerful nation on the planet, if mortality rates were equal to those of the white population, nearly 22,000 Latinos and blacks would not have died from the coronavirus outbreak. In Brazil, people of African descent are 40% more likely to die from COVID than whites.

One of the conclusions of the Oxfam report is that “the pandemic is likely to increase inequality in a way never seen before”. The World Bank has warned that, in the current context, more than 100 million people could reach extreme poverty.

The 10 richest men in the world saw their net worth increase by \$540 billion in the pandemic 2020 period. That list is topped by Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk. It also includes luxury group LVMH CEO Bernard Arnault, Bill Gates and Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. According to Oxfam, the money hoarded by these potentates would be enough to prevent people from falling into poverty due to the effects of the virus and would also guarantee a vaccine for everyone on the planet.

SUNSHINE OF THE MORAL WORLD

Among so much inequity and indifference, a small archipelago in the Caribbean, called Cuba, has been able to send thousands of doctors and nurses, in some 50 brigades of the “Henry Reeve” Internationalist Contingent, to more than thirty countries in



Some 66.33 million doses of vaccine against Covid-19 have been administered to date, 93% of which were delivered to just 15 countries according to the data analysis platform Our World in Data, based on figures from Oxford University January 25, 2021.

Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, to collaborate in the fight against the deadly disease.

Thousands of lives saved or recovered in a scenario of total complexity are the fruit of their solidarity work. The human and professional quality of these sons and daughters of the Cuban people overcomes the most diverse obstacles. It leaves a mark of affection, gratitude and example that is recognized by all those with whom they have shared and whom they have cared for.

That same country, with scarce economic resources but abundant in trained and educated talent, has been able to build an advanced biopharmaceutical industry, which is now preparing to produce 100 million doses of Soberana 02, one of the 4 vaccines on which its scientists are working. This would make it possible to immunize the entire Cuban population (it would be one of the first countries to achieve this) and to have more than 70 million doses available for other peoples of the South. There are already countries interested in acquiring it, such as Vietnam, Iran and Venezuela, Pakistan and India, the Director General of the Finlay Vaccine Institute recently announced.

Researchers from that institution are working with countries such as Italy and Canada to test the impact of the Soberana 01 vaccine on people who have already had COVID-19 and are convalescing, but are at risk of reinfection.

“We are not a multinational where (financial) return is the number one reason. We work the other way around, creating more health and return is a consequence,

it is never going to be the priority,” Dr. Vicente Verez, leader of the main vaccine research center in Cuba, explained to the press last week.

“Our world can only beat this virus one way: united,” the UN Secretary-General recently emphasized. Unfortunately, the vaccines of solidarity and justice have not been able to be applied in the rich world that dominates.

Randy Alonso Falcón is a Cuban journalist, Director of Cubadebate, and host of the Cuban Television program "Round Table". Winner of the Juan Gualberto Gómez National Journalism Award for TV in 2018.

Follow Randy on Twitter: @RandyAlonsoFalc

*A CubaNews translation. Edited by
Walter Lippmann.
www.walterlippmann.com*



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VACUNARSE CONTRA EL EGOÍSMO Y LA DESIGUALDAD

*** EN ESPAÑOL ***

Por Randy Alonso Falcón

“No será un orden mundial agotado y caduco lo que pueda salvar a la humanidad y crear las condiciones naturales indispensables para una vida digna y decorosa en el planeta. (...) No se trata de una cuestión ideológica; es ya una cuestión de vida o muerte para la especie humana”.

Fidel Castro Ruz (Discurso en la Tribuna Abierta de la Revolución, efectuada en San José de las Lajas, 27 de Enero de 2001)

La Solidaridad y la Justicia siguen siendo palabras en desuso aun cuando la catástrofe nos compete a todos, como un gran Titanic universal. Un minúsculo y pegajoso virus ha movido los miedos, estremecido sociedades y sistemas de salud, provocado sinnúmero de reflexiones sobre el hoy y el futuro, pero no ha logrado que prosperen la equidad y el amor al prójimo.

Esta semana se llegará a los 100 millones de personas contagiados en el mundo con la COVID-19 y ya son más de 2 millones los fallecidos.

“Cada día aumenta la brecha entre los que tienen y los que no tienen. La pandemia nos ha recordado que la salud y la economía están relacionadas y que estamos todos en el mismo barco. La pandemia no terminará hasta que no finalice en todas partes”, ha dicho este lunes el Director General de la Organización

Mundial de la Salud Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Los números dan fe incontrastable de la valoración del experto.

LA CURA PRIVILEGIADA

Pese a los numerosos llamados de la ONU y diversos líderes mundiales para buscar una respuesta global a la pandemia y facilitar y compartir el acceso a la cura de la enfermedad, predominan las visiones estrechas y los oídos sordos.

“La ciencia está teniendo éxito, pero la solidaridad está fallando”, apuntó el pasado 15 de enero el Secretario General de la ONU António Guterres. Varias vacunas están ya disponibles en el mundo para enfrentar al virus SARS-CoV-2, pero el acceso a ellas es profundamente desigual como el mundo que habitamos.

En toda África Subsahariana apenas se habían podido administrar 25 dosis de vacunas en Guinea. Países populosos como Nigeria, con 200 millones de habitantes, están esperando la primera dosis.

La misma rebatía que se vivió a inicios de la pandemia con los ventiladores pulmonares, las mascarillas y los trajes de protección, se está escenificando ahora con las vacunas: acaparamiento, sobrepuestos y especulación. “Una carrera inmoral hacia el abismo”, como la catalogó el principal directivo de la OMS.

El fondo COVAX, creado como suerte de empeño global para hacer accesibles las vacunas a las naciones más pobres o de recursos limitados, anunció que en febrero empezará a entregar las primeras dosis (primero se había dicho que en enero), pero reconoce que se ha visto limitado por los lucrativos acuerdos de diversas naciones individuales con las firmas farmacéuticas productoras de las vacunas antiCOVID.

Otro hándicap ha sido el alto costo de las vacunas que tienen mayor aprobación internacional hasta ahora. Como señaló a The Guardian el experto noruego John-Arne Rottingen, “La dificultad es que realmente sólo tenemos una aprobación internacional generalizada para la comercialización de dos vacunas: las dos vacunas de ARNm. El

desafío es que una, la vacuna Moderna es muy cara, y la otra, la vacuna Pfizer / BioNTech, que estuvo disponible primero y ahora se está aplicando en Europa, es moderadamente cara en comparación con otras, y requiere una cadena de super frío. El precio y la cadena de frío hace que no sean las vacunas ideales para una vacuna mundial”

Mientras naciones como India y Sudáfrica piden a la OMS una campaña para que las farmacéuticas



Estudiantes de medicina van puerta a puerta en busca de personas con síntomas del coronavirus (COVID-19), en el centro de La Habana, Cuba, el 11 de mayo de 2020.



renuncien a los derechos de propiedad intelectual de las vacunas y tratamientos de la COVID-19, que permitiría que otros fabricantes calificados en el Sur puedan expandir la producción de esos antídotos; países como EE.UU, Reino Unido y Canadá se han opuesto a la iniciativa. Esas tres ricas naciones han comprado o reservado suficientes dosis para inocular a sus poblaciones al menos cuatro veces.

Los países de altos ingresos representan el 16% de la población mundial, pero poseen más del 60% de las vacunas compradas hasta ahora.

“El mundo está al borde de un catastrófico fracaso moral y el precio de este fracaso se pagará con vidas y medios de subsistencia en los países más pobres del mundo”, sentenció con pesar el Dr. Tedros.

EL VIRUS DE LA DESIGUALDAD

El “nacionalismo de las vacunas” es el reflejo exacto de un mundo desigual e injusto en el que unos pocos siguen siendo los grandes beneficiarios de la riqueza, para lo que miles de millones deben contentarse con las sobras.

Es el “virus de la desigualdad” que OXFAM denuncia en su más reciente informe, en el cual evidencia que el fallido sistema económico actual “permite que una élite super rica continúe acumulando riqueza en medio de la mayor crisis económica desde la Gran Depresión, mientras miles de millones de personas se enfrentan a grandes dificultades para salir adelante.”

Mientras los multimillonarios vieron incrementar sus fortunas entre marzo y diciembre de 2020 en un volumen total de 3,9 millones de millones de dólares –para amasar la inimaginable cifra de 11.95 billones–, los más pobres del planeta necesitarán “más de una década para recuperarse de los impactos económicos de la crisis” acentuados por la pandemia de COVID-19.

Las diferencias raciales también se han profundizado. En Estados Unidos, la nación más poderosa del planeta, si las tasas de mortalidad fueran iguales a las de la población blanca, cerca de 22.000 latinos y negros no hubieran fallecido por el brote

del coronavirus. En Brasil, las personas afrodescendientes tienen un 40% más de probabilidades de morir a causa de la COVID que las personas blancas.

Una de las conclusiones del informe de Oxfam es que “es probable que la pandemia aumente la desigualdad de una manera nunca antes vista”. El Banco Mundial ha alertado que, en el contexto actual, más de 100 millones de personas podrían llegar a la pobreza extrema.

Los 10 hombres más ricos del mundo vieron aumentar su patrimonio neto en

y profesional de estos hijos del pueblo cubano supera los obstáculos más diversos y deja una huella de afecto, de gratitud y de ejemplo que es reconocida por todos con los que han compartido y a quienes han atendido.

Ese mismo país, de escasos recursos económicos pero abundante en talento formado y educado, ha sido capaz de erigir una industria biofarmacéutica de avanzada, que ahora se dispone a producir 100 millones de dosis de la Soberana 02, una de las 4 vacunas en las que trabajan sus científicos. Ello permitiría inmunizar a toda

la población cubana (sería uno de los primeros países en lograrlo) y disponer de más de 70 millones de dosis para otros pueblos del Sur. Ya hay países interesados en adquirirla, como Vietnam, Irán y Venezuela, Pakistán y la India, anunció recientemente el Director General del Instituto Finlay de Vacunas.

Investigadores de esa institución trabajan con países como Italia y Canadá para comprobar el impacto de la vacuna Soberana 01 en las personas que ya tuvieron COVID-19 y son convalecientes, pero están en

riesgo de una reinfección.

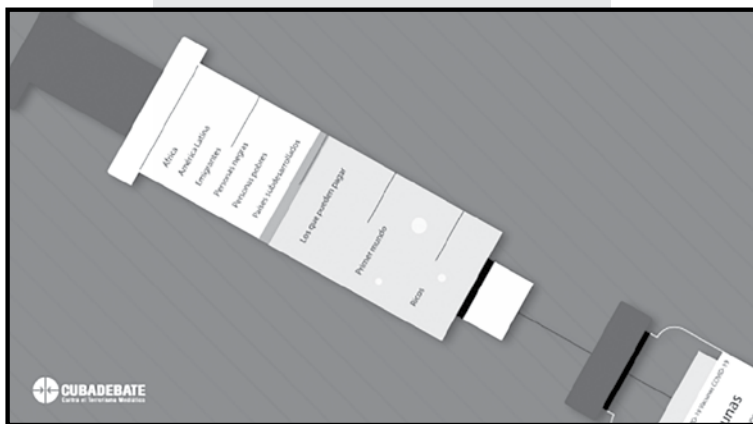
“Nosotros no somos una multinacional donde el retorno (financiero) es la razón número uno. Funcionamos al revés, crear más salud y el retorno es una consecuencia, nunca va a ser la prioridad”, explicó a la prensa la pasada semana el Dr. Vicente Várez, líder del centro principal de investigaciones de vacunas en Cuba.

“Nuestro mundo sólo puede ganarle a este virus de una manera: unido”, enfatizó recientemente el Secretario General de la ONU. Lamentablemente, las vacunas de la solidaridad y la justicia no han podido ser aplicadas en el mundo rico que domina.

Randy Alonso Falcón es un periodista cubano, Director de Cubadebate, Presentador del programa de la televisión Cubana "Mesa Redonda". Ganador del premio Nacional de Periodismo Juan Gualberto Gómez en TV en 2018.

*Sigue Randy por Twitter:
@RandyAlonsoFalc*

Desde: cubadebate.cu



La aguja muestra, los que no tienen vacuna "Africa, America Latina, Emigrantes, Personas negras, personas pobres, países subdesarrollados" y los que tienen vacuna "los que pueden pagar, primer mundo, y ricos"

540.000 millones de dólares en el período de pandemia 2020. Esa lista la encabezan Jeff Bezos y Elon Musk. También incluye al director ejecutivo del grupo de lujo LVMH, Bernard Arnault; a Bill Gates y al director ejecutivo de Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg. Según Oxfam, el dinero que atesoran estos potentados sería suficiente para evitar que las personas cayeran en la pobreza por los efectos del virus y además garantizaría una vacuna para todas las personas del planeta.

SOL DEL MUNDO MORAL

Entre tanta inequidad e indiferencia, un pequeño archipiélago en el Caribe, llamado Cuba, ha sido capaz de enviar a miles de médicos y enfermeros, en unas 50 brigadas del Contingente Internacionalista “Henry Reeve”, a más de una treintena de países de América Latina y el Caribe, Europa, África y Medio Oriente, para colaborar en el combate a la mortal enfermedad.

Miles de vidas salvadas o recuperadas en un escenario de total complejidad son el fruto de su solidaria labor. La calidad humana

ACTIVISTS: END THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!



By Janine Solanki

The new year has come with a new message from Cuba solidarity activists around the world. With resolute hope and conviction, the message is, “Let’s make 2021 the year to end the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!”

Throughout 2020, the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) embraced the new digital reality caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, holding webinars, fundraising campaigns and virtual monthly picket actions against the unjust U.S. blockade. The CNC got 2021 off to a great start with three online Cuba solidarity events in January.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cuba solidarity groups in Vancouver, Ottawa, and Montreal, Canada and Kiev, Ukraine, organized monthly actions against the U.S. blockade on Cuba in front of U.S. consulates and embassies. For most of 2020, the CNC hosted monthly virtual pickets that have brought together CNC member groups and activists and supporters across Canada, the U.S., and around the world. **On January 17**, the CNC held the first monthly virtual picket action of 2021! This month’s action was chaired by CNC executive members Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), and Isaac Saney, CNC co-chair and professor at Dalhousie University. The program included speakers from across Canada, Quebec, and internationally from Argentina, Dominican Republic, Ukraine, and Australia. CNC member groups shared their greetings before wrapping up the action with the now customary group photo. Participants turned on their video and held up protest signs, and chanted, “lift the blockade on Cuba now!”

In the last year under the pandemic and many years prior, Cuba has shown the world its exemplary medical solidarity, especially by sending medical brigades of health care workers abroad. However, the U.S. blockade on Cuba has made accessing medical supplies extremely difficult and costly. **On January 23**, the CNC held a webinar to launch new

fundraising to send medical supplies to Cuba. This 3-month campaign aims to raise \$50,000 to fill and ship a container with the critical supplies that Cuba needs. Tamara Hansen chaired this webinar alongside Elizabeth Hill, CNC co-chair and President of the Canadian Cuban Friendship Association – Toronto. The event had an insightful program of speakers, including Cuban Ambassador to Canada Josefina Vidal; Dr. John Kirk, Cuba Researcher and Professor at Dalhousie University; Professor Keith Ellis, coordinator of the CNC Medical Supplies Fundraising Campaign; Conner Gorry, Senior Editor for MEDICC Review based in Havana, Cuba; Teresita Keosseuian, Asociacion de Cubanos Residentes en Canadá “Juan Gualberto Gomez”; Sean O’Donoghue, Secretary of la Table de Concertation de Solidarité Québec-Cuba; and Dr. Isaac Saney; and Janine Solanki, National Coordinator of the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade. The Medical Supplies Fundraising Campaign is still ongoing, and more information on how to contribute is at <https://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca>

One of the main projects of the CNC is the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, which has been travelling to Cuba annually since 1993. Due to the pandemic, the Che Brigade was postponed in 2020 and looks forward to returning to Cuba later in 2021 for the 27th Che Guevara Brigade. Until then, the Che Brigade has been bringing a bit of Cuba to people in Canada through webinars! **On January 31**, the Che Brigade held the online event “José Martí: Revolutionary, Visionary, Leader,” marking the 168th anniversary of the birth of the Cuban

Legendary Cuban musician Gerardo Alfonso performing for the January 31, 2021 Che Guevara Brigade webinar from Havana, Cuba



Left: Her Excellency Cuban Ambassador to Canada Josefina Vidal, speaking at January 23 webinar.

Middle: Virtual picket action against the US Blockade on Cuba, January 17.

Right: Speakers and performers at the January 31 Che Brigade webinar

independence hero. The program included Ambassador Josefina Vidal, who spoke to José Martí in history and today, and Yamil Martínez Marrero from the Canada Desk of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), which hosts the Che Brigade in Cuba. To give another view into the life and ideas of José Martí, his beautiful poetry was read by Claudia Peralta, coordinator of the Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association – Calgary and organizer with the Calixto Garcia Brigade. Participants heard exciting anecdotes and testimonials from former brigadistas James Plewak, an Anishinaabe leader and former chief of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation in Manitoba, and Azza Rojbi, coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver. Janine Solanki, the Che Guevara Brigade’s National Coordinator, took participants through the “day in the life” of a brigadista and encouraged participants to join the next Che Guevara Brigade. Throughout the program, the audience was treated to musical performances by legendary Cuban musician Gerardo Alfonso and the passionate musical duo Sangre Morena. The discussion period that followed was a good indication that many people are excited to join the next Che Brigade to Cuba!

As we go forward into 2021, it is with love and solidarity for Cuba, and a commitment to the struggle to end the inhuman U.S. blockade on Cuba! For more information of CNC events and actions, check www.CanadianNetworkonCuba.ca or follow on Facebook @CanadianNetworkOnCuba and on Twitter and Instagram at @cdntwrkconcuba

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO PROTEST & ORGANIZE AGAINST POLICE BRUTALITY! DROP ALL THE CHARGES ON THE DENVER PROTEST LEADERS! STOP THE ASSAULT ON THE MOVEMENT AND FREE SPEECH!

On September 17, Denver police violently arrested six leading organizers in the campaign for justice for Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old black man murdered by the Aurora police in 2019. Four of the people detained in this vicious coordinated police assault are members of the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL).

Activists Lillian House, Joel Northam, Eliza Lucero, and Terrance Roberts now face numerous felony and misdemeanor charges that could put them in prison for as many as 60 years for daring to challenge the impunity of the police and authorities. The only people charged over the police killing of Elijah McClain are the Denver community activists who organized peaceful mass demonstrations last summer calling for justice - not the police officers. It is no coincidence that the District Attorney, Dave Young, that ordered the arrests and is pressing these against the anti-racist organizers is the same District Attorney that has refused to arrest or press charges against the three police officers that murdered Elijah McClain.



unjust charges

The attack on these anti-police brutality organizers in Denver, Colorado, is an attack on the fundamental civil and democratic rights of all of us, which include freedom of expression and the right to organize and demonstrate without violence and intimidation.

**The above information is from the National Committee for Justice in Denver*



Join the Medical Supplies for Cuba Campaign!

The Canadian Network on Cuba is proud to initiate a vibrant fundraising campaign across Canada to raise \$50,000 for greatly needed medical supplies for Cuba. This will be a 3-month campaign to fill and ship a container with the critical supplies that Cuba needs.

www.CanadianNetworkonCuba.ca



How to Donate via cheque or e-transfer:

1) Make cheque payable to CNC and write on Memo line: medical supplies.

Mail to: CNC c/o Sharon Skup 56 Riverwood Terrace Bolton ON L7E 1S4

2) Send e-transfer to: donate@canadiannetworkoncuba.ca Mention "medical supplies" in message.

IMPORTANT: and also send an email or phone (905.951.8499 a local call from Toronto) to Sharon with the exact spelling of your secret password/answer and your name so she can then open your e-transfer.

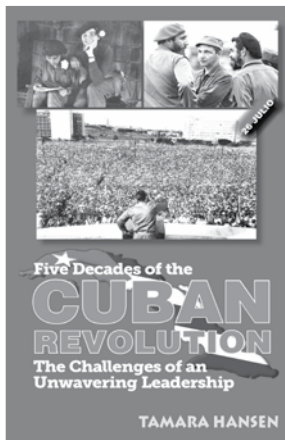
Who is the National Committee for Justice in Denver, and How Can you Help?

The National Committee for Justice in Denver is a new initiative composed of constitutional rights lawyers, legal scholars, trade unionists, educators, journalists, clergy, human rights activists, and others in social justice movements from all over the United States. They have all come together in defense of free speech rights and in opposition to the dangerous campaign to criminalize dissent by charging peaceful protest leaders in Denver with serious crimes

that could send them to prison for decades. Fire This Time encourages working people, community activists, and all human-loving groups and individuals in Canada to support this campaign by sending letters and messages to Denver District Attorney Dave Young to demand to drop the charges immediately. The attack on these four organizers and Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) is not an isolated or local attack. This is an attack on all working-class rights from Denver, across the U.S., to Canada, and around the world to all working and oppressed people. Supporting these four social justice organizers is to defend the position of working and oppressed people in their struggle for liberation against capitalism and imperialism everywhere. You'll find all the needed information on this page to show your support and get involved.

Battle of Ideas Press

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



By Tamara Hansen

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

April 2010, paperback, \$10.00

314 pages, illustrated,

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**#DropTheChargesCO
#JusticeForElijahMcClain**

Continued from page 8

against the multi-billion-dollar arms deal with Saudi Arabia since it was first signed, and has frequently highlighted the risks associated with the use of LAVs within Saudi Arabia in the context of broader human rights concerns, as well as in the Yemen conflict, including the risk of weapons proliferation to Houthi forces.

In March 2019, August 2019, April 2020 and September 2020 you received letters in which dozens of organizations representing millions of people across Canada repeatedly raised concerns about the serious ethical, legal, human rights and humanitarian implications of Canada's ongoing arms exports to Saudi Arabia. We regret that, to date, no response to these concerns has been received from you or relevant Cabinet ministers. Two Canada-wide days of action were held on June 11, 2020 and September 21, 2020. These demanded that the government end arms sales to Saudi Arabia and included demonstrations outside MP offices across the country, the GDLS-C factory in London, Ontario, where LAVs sold to Saudi Arabia are made, and GDLS-C's headquarters in Ottawa.

On September 28, 2020, the UN Human Rights Council named Canada as one of the parties fuelling the ongoing war in Yemen by continuing arms sales to Saudi Arabia. It is unacceptable that Canada is involved in this trade and disgraceful that Canada is the second-largest supplier

of arms to the entire Middle East region. According to the Export of Military Goods report for 2019, Canada exported approximately \$3.8 billion to countries other than the U.S. \$2.7 billion of this was to Saudi Arabia.

In Human Rights Watch's scathing 2021 World Report on Yemen, Canada is noted as one of the countries that continues to supply arms to Saudi Arabia despite documented evidence of continuing violations of laws of war by the coalition, and documentation of the use of Canadian weapons in the war.

UN agencies and humanitarian organizations have repeatedly

documented that there is no military solution possible in the current conflict in Yemen. The constant supply of arms

“

On September 28, 2020, the UN Human Rights Council named Canada as one of the parties fuelling the ongoing war in Yemen by continuing arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

It is unacceptable that Canada is involved in this trade and disgraceful that Canada is the second-largest supplier of arms to the entire Middle East.

Canada must #StopArmingSaudi #YemenCantWait



CANADIAN LAV

to Saudi Arabia only prolongs hostilities, and increases the suffering and numbers of the dead.

Many Canadian companies are profiting from arming the worst humanitarian situation on the planet. Some key companies involved in the arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries that are part of the coalition involved in the war in Yemen are:

- ▶ General Dynamics Land Systems
- ▶ Streit Group
- ▶ PGW Defense Technologies
- ▶ Terradyne
- ▶ IAG Guardian
- ▶ Wescam
- ▶ CAE
- ▶ Bombardier
- ▶ Pratt-Whitney Canada
- ▶ Provincial Aerospace
- ▶ Bell Helicopters Textron
- ▶ Aeryon Labs
- ▶ CMC Electronics
- ▶ Newcon Optik
- ▶ Robotics Centre
- ▶ Viking Air

Some of the GDLS sub-contractors in the LAV supply chain include:

- ▶ Armatec (Dorchester, ON)
- ▶ Attica Manufacturing inc. (London, ON)
- ▶ Battlefield International (Cayuga, ON)
- ▶ DEW Engineering (Miramichi, NB & Ottawa)
- ▶ FPH Group (London, ON)
- ▶ General Kinetics (Brampton, ON)
- ▶ PRO Metal Industries (SK)

▶ SED Systems (SK)

Some companies in Canada involved in the transport of arms en route to Saudi Arabia are:

- ▶ Port of Saint John, New Brunswick (port of call of Saudi national shipping company)
- ▶ Port of Montreal (entry point for LAV cannons and turrets imported from Belgium by General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada)
- ▶ CN Rail (transports LAVs on rail)
- ▶ Paddock Transport International (truck transportation of LAVs)

Canada acceded to the international Arms Trade Treaty in September 2019. We ask the Canadian government to now ensure compliance with all the articles and principles of the Treaty.

Canada must end all arms exports to Saudi Arabia immediately and expand humanitarian aid for the people of Yemen.

We recognize that the end of Canadian arms exports to Saudi Arabia will impact workers in the arms industry. We therefore urge the government to work with trade unions representing workers in the arms industry to develop a plan that secures the livelihoods of those who would be impacted by the suspension of arms exports to Saudi Arabia. Such a plan would include providing government support for the conversion of arms manufacturing facilities from arms production to peaceful, green production. This can be done in a phased manner so jobs are not lost, but the transformation must start now. We envision Canada taking on a role as a peaceful nation that promotes positive peace and human rights and that does not arm other countries, least of all those involved in war crimes and ongoing human rights abuses.

Sincerely,
Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

On March 1st, the above letter was delivered to Prime Minister Trudeau's office in Ottawa condemning the Canadian government and Canadian companies' ongoing profiteering off of arming Saudi Arabia. The letter was also delivered to some companies and government officials named across Canada.

Fire This Time added its name to the list of signers. For the full list of signers and to share the letter visit: www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/stoparmingsaudi



UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE WEBINARS



MONDAY MARCH 8, 2021

Webinar: Women in the Trenches/Mujeres en las Trincheras

3pm Pacific Time / 6pm Eastern Time

Event online: <https://www.facebook.com/events/475313883601084>

Organized by: ALBA Social Movements Canada Ottawa Chapter

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2021

TMX Pipeline OUT NOW! Protest Action 11am

Holmes Creek Camp

North Road and Delstre Ave. Coquitlam

Organized by: Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver

MONDAY MARCH 14, 2021

Webinar: Feminist Solidarity! Celebrating International Womens Day

and the Advancement of Cuban Women

2pm Pacific Time / 5pm Eastern Time

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/865dpxn>

Sponsors:

US Women and Cuba Collaboration
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

US-Cuba-Canada Normalization Conference Coalition

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2021

Virtual Picket Action to End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba Now!

4pm Pacific Time / 7pm Eastern Time

Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC)
www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

THURSDAY MARCH 25, 2021

Vancouver Car Caravan - Marking Six Years of War on Yemen

5pm

For more information call or text
604-518-7361 or email info@mawovancouver.org

Action hosted by Mobilization Against Way and Occupation (MAWO), Yemeni Community Association of Canada, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice

FRIDAY MARCH 26, 2021

Webinar: Six Years of War on Yemen

4pm Pacific Time / 7pm Eastern Time

Register at: tinyurl.com/Yemen6Years

Webinar hosted by Yemeni community, antiwar and peace organizations in the U.S.

SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021

Vancouver joins worldwide car caravans to End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!

12pm

Meet up place: parking lot at Killarney & E. 48th Ave. Vancouver

Organized by Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade Vancouver & Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba

FRIDAY APRIL 9, 2021

US/Canada Hands Off Venezuela Monthly Virtual Picket Action!

4pm Pacific Time / 7pm Eastern Time

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla>

For more information visit: <https://nosanctions.org/>

SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021

Virtual Picket Action to End the U.S. Blockade on Cuba Now!

4pm Pacific Time / 7pm Eastern Time

Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC)
www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Cuba's Successful Literacy Campaign!

4pm Pacific Time / 7pm Eastern Time

Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade
www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca

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

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

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By Alison Bodine and Thomas Davies

On December 31, 2020, a dear friend and co-fighter in defense of mother earth, Marta Robertson-Smyth, passed away. She was surrounded by family and died peacefully after battling a very aggressive cancer.

Marta's imprint on the work of the climate and social justice movements in Vancouver is immense. It would be practically impossible to attend a public action in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland without the striking presence of a beautiful banner, sign or art project either painted by Marta or created in her studio. Her patience and determination were endless, and many whose lives she touched found themselves creating things that they had previously considered impossible following her encouraging words and guidance at an "Art Build" hosted in her East Vancouver studio.

While Marta created beauty in her art, she also organized and fought for it to become a reality in a world filled with injustice. As a central organizer with Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, she contributed her exceptional capabilities as an artist and participated fully in many other aspects of organizing and mobilizing people as well. For Marta, art was one of the many important ways to build and expand actions and events in defense of mother earth and future generations. To achieve this, she created art and designed banners that were thoughtfully and diligently created to draw people into the climate justice movement.

In April 2018, Marta was one of the dozens arrested for blocking the Trans Mountain Tank Farm's gates on Burnaby Mountain, standing against the Trans Mountain TMX pipeline expansion project. When she passed away, she was still in the process of appealing

Celebrating the Life of Marta Robertson- Smyth



her unjust conviction for this peaceful action. During the court case, she closed her official statement with this quote from David Mitchell's book *Cloud Atlas*:

"If we believe that humanity may transcend tooth and claw...if we believe leaders must be just, violence muzzled, power accountable and the riches of the Earth and its Oceans shared equitably, such a world will come to pass. I am not deceived. It is the hardest of worlds to make real...but a life spent shaping a world I want my grandchildren to inherit, not one I fear my grandchildren will inherit, this strikes me as a life worth the living..."

On Wednesday, February 3, Climate Convergence organized an online celebration of Marta's life, a life well worth living. On this day, members of her family and the climate justice movement in Vancouver came together to share the profound ways she touched so many lives through compassion, encouragement, and a stubborn objection to the status quo.

We will honour Marta with keeping fighting for the better and just world that she stood for and that we fought for together.



OUR HERITAGE



AUDRE LORDE
(1934-1992)

In her own words, Audre Lorde was a "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet."

"I think that black women are very aware of sexism. I think they are terribly, tragically aware of sexism because I think that we probably, you know, are destroyed by it as much as and sometimes even more. I mean that not only do we have our own men, not only do we have black men, right, sitting on us, but we've got a whole white male establishment. So, I think that we are very aware of sexism. I think what is operative here is that we're also aware of racism and the ways in which those two things mesh.

And this is the point I was trying to make in the poem, "Who Said It Was Simple?" that racism and sexism fed each other, that if we removed sexism tomorrow, I have no reason to believe that the white female establishment would be any less racist than the white male establishment. And this is why I think it's absolutely necessary for women, black and white women, to get together and to begin to recognize some of the ways in which liberation is sucked away from us all, that we cannot separate the struggles for liberation because it is, eventually, all human liberation. And until we come into that concept, until we broaden our viewpoints so that liberation doesn't remain the private province of any one particular group, until we do that, we're going to be working against each other, and working against ourselves."

From Conversations with Audre Lorde (University Press of Mississippi, 2004) - Interview with Margaret Kaminski (1975)

By Ali Yerevani & Janine Solanki

On February 20, 2021, our friend and co-fighter David Whittlesey passed away peacefully, with his family by his side. David is dearly remembered and missed by his family, friends, and fellow social justice activists.

David remains an inspiration - for his energy, humour, enthusiasm and tireless commitment to peace and social justice activism. David had a long history of standing up for just causes throughout his life, including as an organizer in the U.S. civil rights movement and the Vietnam anti-war movement. In the last 16 years of his life, David took up the cause again and was active in antiwar activism, Cuba solidarity, and even travelled to Cuba for the Che Guevara volunteer work brigade. David always had a story to share from social justice struggles in the past and quickly connected his experience and knowledge to the current situation and causes.

David was a devoted catholic, but politically without any doubt, he was a leftist and

expect from a devoted fighter for human causes. David Whittlesey was a genuine human-loving advocate. David strongly believed in Indigenous rights. David was

against injustice - there was no exception in his belief for any noble cause.

David was born in New York on October 3, 1934 and grew up in New York and nearby Jersey Shore and Westchester County. David was an active organizer in the U.S. civil rights movement and the Vietnam antiwar movement. He married his wife Jennifer in 1970, and in 1972 they moved north to a farm in Prince Edward Island (PEI), where they became homesteaders, growing their own food. They lived in PEI for about 20 years, where they raised their children Josie, Adam, and Ian, before moving to the capital of PEI, Charlottetown, for six years, and then to the West Coast to live on Salt Spring Island for a few years. They moved to Vancouver in 2005.

We met David for the first time about a week after moving to Vancouver. David saw a MAWO antiwar poster on a street pole, came to a MAWO event, and soon became a co-organizer and co-fighter in Mobilization Against War and Occupation! From that day and that first meeting, David became an integral and inseparable part of our struggle for humanity and a better world.



David speaking at a MAWO picket against the war on Afghanistan



David celebrating the freedom of all the Cuban 5 Heroes



David with Cuban 5 hero Gerardo Hernández



David handing out brochures at MAWO anti-war rally

humanist. He was involved and very active with all the political campaigns Fire This Time has been organizing. He worked with Mobilization Against War & Occupation - MAWO in campaigning against war, occupation, and sanctions. He was an active organizer with our campaigns against the war in Yemen, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Iran, Palestine, and Afghanistan. He was an organizer with the Free the Cuban 5 Committee Vancouver in defence of five Cuban heroes jailed in the United States. David's love for humanity made him a staunch anti-imperialist activist. David was against the blockade of Cuba and spoke many times at rallies or forums about it. David was part of the campaign against U.S. aggression against Venezuela. He spoke very strongly in public meetings and rallies against sanctions and the blockade of Venezuela. He did everything that one can



October 3, 1934 - February 20, 2021

For sixteen years, we enjoyed working with him. He was important not only because he was an active organizer and a leader, but because his presence gave our team a sense of continuity and devotion, considering that most of our organizers and activists are one-third of his age.

David was a man with a vision for peace, joy, and love. He was an active human being with a strong desire to change the world. His character was full of humour and confidence. Once Ali Yerevani, the editor of Fire This Time newspaper, who is Iranian with a big smile, asked him, "What could an American like you and an Iranian like me have in common?" David laughed loudly and said, "We are both against the U.S. government. That's a good start, my friend!"

David was our co-fighter. That great man, a deeply devoted Catholic, was our comrade.

DAVID WHITTLESEY PRESENTE!
Fire This Time remembers a tireless fighter, leader, co-organizer and friend

LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!



- REMOVE CUBA FROM THE SO-CALLED "STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM" LIST!
- AWARD CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL BRIGADE WITH THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE!

A LIVE VIRTUAL PICKET ACTION

FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM ACROSS CANADA, U.S., & AROUND THE WORLD!

SUNDAY APRIL 17, 2021

7pm
EASTERN TIME
4PM PACIFIC TIME
6PM CENTRAL TIME
8PM ATLANTIC TIME



SCAN OR VISIT
WEBSITE
TO REGISTER

WWW.CANADIANNETWORKONCUBA.CA



CAR CARAVAN TO LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!

**Vancouver, BC
MARCH 28**

12pm

Meeting in the Parking Lot
at Killarney & E. 48th Ave



Organized by:
Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver
WWW.VANCUBAUSBLOCKADE.ORG | @noblockeovan
Endorsed by: Vancouver Community in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSG)

U.S./CANADA: HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

End Sanctions on Venezuela Now!



Marking 19 years since the failed coup attempt
against Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías

2nd Monthly Online Picket Action
FRIDAY APRIL 9, 2021
7pm Eastern Time
6pm Central Time
4pm Pacific Time

REGISTER FOR ZOOM:
<https://tinyurl.com/handsoffve>

www.NoSanctions.org



Watch the document at:
www.bellyofthebeastcuba.com

BELLY OF THE BEAST
PRESENTS

THE WAR ON CUBA

Inside the economic war waged on the Cuban people by the U.S. government

Executive produced by Oliver Stone and Danny Glover



**THURSDAY
FEB. 25th**

7:00 PM (EST)



The Cuban Economy Today:

**Cuba Confronts US Blockade, COVID-19
Pandemic, New Economic Challenges
and Policies**



Speakers

- **Juan Miguel González**, First Secretary of the Cuban Mission to United Nations
- **Alejandro Martínez**, Third Secretary of the Cuban Mission to United Nations
- **Helen Yaffe** - Professor - University of Glasgow who has done important research and published on Cuba's amazing medical advances and internationalism (and is the author of *Cher Guinevere: The Economics of Revolution and the Arts Cuba: How a Revolutionary People Have Survived in a Post-Soviet World*, Yale University Press)
- **Emily Morris** - a research fellow at UCL-London's Global University and a Development Economist specializing in Latin America and the Caribbean. Her most recent teaching includes Latin American Economics: Beyond Neoliberalism and The Transformation of Cuba

Chairs

- **Azra Rojbi** - North African social justice and anti-racism activist, author of the book "U.S. & Saudi War on the People of Yemen" and coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade. As well Azza is a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper.
- **Isaac Saney** - Director & University Teaching Fellow, Transition Year Program at Dalhousie University in Halifax who is also the co-chair of the Canadian Network on Cuba.

For more information:

Tel: 907-897-8710

Email: info@us-cubanormalization.org

Register for Zoom Webinar at
Us-Cubanormalization.org

DAYS OF ACTION TO END WAR ON YEMEN!

Marking 6 years of
**U.S.-backed, Saudi-led
war on Yemen**



The world demands
END THE WAR ON YEMEN!



- Stop Bombing Yemen!
- Canada:
- Stop Arming Saudi Arabia!
- Stop U.S./Saudi War on Yemen!
- Saudi/UAE:
- Lift the Blockade on Yemen!

VANCOUVER, BC - CAR CARAVAN

THURSDAY March 25
5pm PT

For more info call or text 604-518-7361
or email info@maowancouver.org
WWW.MAOWVANCOUVER.ORG

Organized by: Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), Yemeni Community Association of Canada, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice

HAMILTON, ONTARIO - CAR CAVALCADE

THURSDAY March 25
11am ET

For more information call or text:
289-382-9006 or email hcsu@cogeco.ca
WWW.HAMILTONCOALITIONTOSTOPTHEWAR.CA

Organized by: The Hamilton Coalition To Stop The War