

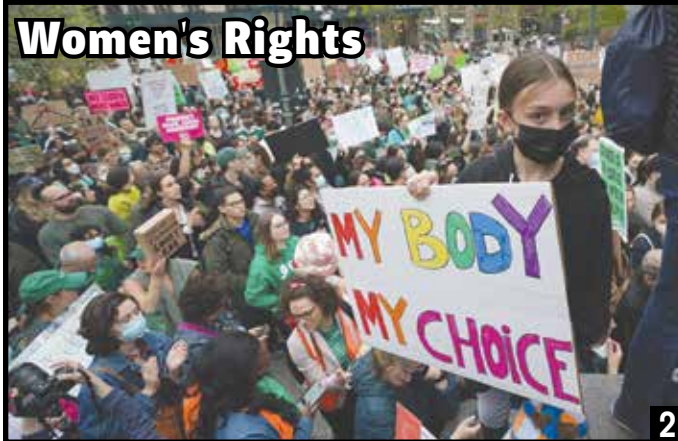
"We are realists...we dream the impossible" - Che

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



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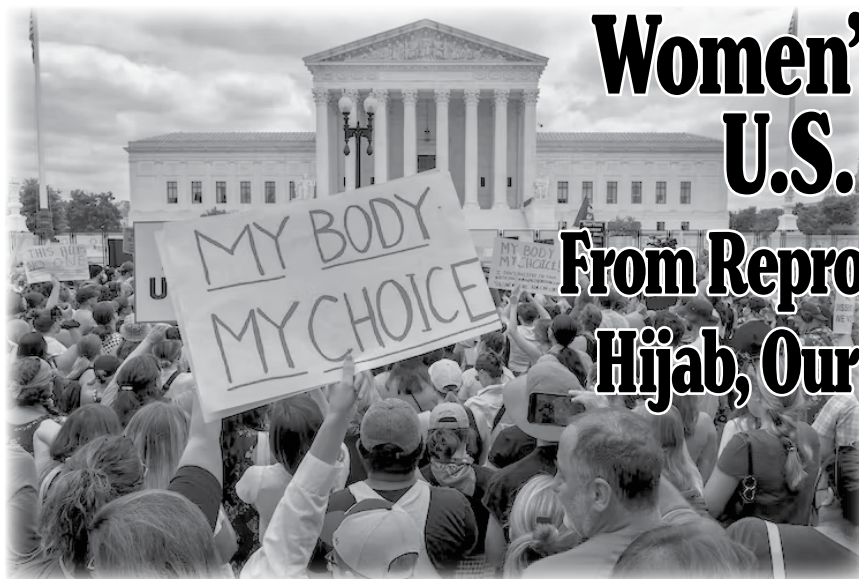
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# Women's Rights in the U.S. & Canada:

## From Reproductive Rights to the Hijab, Our Bodies, Our Choice

*By Alison Bodine & Janine Solanki*

### The Rise and Fall of Roe v. Wade

On January 22, 1973, in the midst of the women's liberation movement, the U.S. Supreme Court made the historic ruling in the case of Roe v. Wade to grant women the constitutional right to have an abortion. Since that time, Roe v. Wade has become synonymous with the right to abortion. However, it has always been a hard won right that continued to face an uphill battle to uphold, chipped away by restrictive state laws and accessibility. As per reports by Planned Parenthood, while Roe v. Wade was still in place, six U.S. states had legislation making the right to choose an abortion virtually impossible.

Nearly 50 years after the Roe v. Wade ruling, the clock has been turned back on women's rights in the United States. Girls, trans and non-binary youth today are coming of age with fewer reproductive rights than their mothers and grandmothers had. On Friday, June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, unleashing a wave of abortion bans and more restrictive abortion laws across U.S. states. As of the writing of these words, 14 states have total or near total abortion bans, and about half of the states are expected to try to enact bans or severe restrictions on abortions. Courtrooms across the U.S. states are battlegrounds as pro-choice advocates are fighting in the courts to block bans and restrictions, state by state.

The attack on abortion rights is not only an attack on those choosing abortion, or even on people who are pregnant – it is an attack from the ruling class, from the state, on the rights of all women, trans and non-binary people's right to bodily autonomy, on the right and authority to chose what is best for one's health, wellbeing and life direction.

### The Women's Struggle for the Right to Choose and Reproductive Justice in the U.S. and Canada

Although abortion is legalized in Canada and parts of the United States, women, trans and non-binary people continue to face significant barriers in accessing abortions even where legal. The struggle for the right and access to abortion, as well as healthcare services, is compounded for poor and marginalized people, as access to these vital services are often dependent on a person's location, immigration status and ability to pay. In the U.S. and Canada, trans and non-binary people also face additional obstacles due to transphobia and discrimination in the medical system. Barriers also disproportionately impact poor, Black, Indigenous, immigrant and undocumented people and people of colour.

For instance, researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder released a 2022 report that found if abortion is banned throughout the United States, the overall number of maternal deaths would rise by 24%. This number is even worse for Black women, whose deaths would rise by 39%. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), Indigenous women are two to three times more likely to die as a result of their pregnancy than white women.

Indigenous people in the U.S. have never had safe and secure access to abortions due to the Hyde Amendment. This amendment prohibits the Indian Health Service, which provides healthcare services to over 2.6 million Indigenous peoples, from using Federal funds for abortion services. The only exemptions are in the case of rape (if reported within 60 days), incest and if the mother's life is at risk. 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 has 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 opened in 2016!).

For those seeking an abortion in remote or rural communities, the costs of travel to an urban center, accommodation, time off work and care for children or elderly dependents can be thousands of dollars. Even in urban centers in Ontario, an "administrative fee" is charged at some clinics ranging from \$50 - \$400. While medical abortion pills have improved access for early term abortions, there are still barriers to access. If seeking the abortion pill while in a province you don't live in, the out-of-pocket cost is \$350 - \$450. In Nunavut, because there's no agreed universal cost coverage for the medical abortion pill, about 15% of the population is not covered by a federal program to cover the cost of the pill.



**Protesters against the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade**





**Red Dress Day event outside Vancouver City Hall to commemorate missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, May 5, 2021.**

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

### **Abortion Rights – the Tip of the Iceberg in the Struggle for Women's Health and Wellbeing**

Besides the right and access to abortion, there are major challenges both in the U.S. and Canada when it comes to access and affordability of health services for reproductive health, contraception (birth control) and pregnancy care.

Ironically made in the name of the “right to life,” attacks on reproductive choice also extend to services essential for a healthy pregnancy in the U.S. For example, in the state of Georgia, where abortion is all but banned, 40% of the counties do not have a gynecologist or a doctor which is fundamental for reproductive health and pregnancy.

Canada, which claims to provide universal health insurance, falls short on coverage and accessibility for many vital healthcare services. Once such shortcoming is access to contraception (birth control). With a patchwork of provincial, private and employer health insurance plans, Canada does not have legislation mandating health plans to cover contraception. As a result, many health plans don't cover contraceptives at all, or only cover limited methods that can be prescribed for a medical condition besides birth control. In December 2020, over 1000 Ontario healthcare providers signed an open letter to Ontario Premier Doug Ford and former Ontario Health Minister Christine Elliot, demanding universal, no-cost contraception coverage in Ontario. This letter went unanswered.

Especially when denied the right or access to abortion, affordable childcare is also a crucial question for many, considering in the United States 1 in 6 children live under the poverty line. In over half of states, full-time care for an infant costs more (and in some cases even double) than college tuition, often between a quarter to over half of the income of a typical single parent, according to Child Care

Aware of America. In Canada, besides long wait lists to even get childcare, families pay over \$10,000 a year for an infant childcare space in 78% of the cities examined in a 2019 study by the CCPA.

Women, trans and non-binary people face an uphill battle on many fronts when it comes to reproductive health and family services, as these few examples show.

### **Reproductive Choice and Indigenous Women in the Context of Settler Colonialism**

The denial of the right to reproductive choice is a fundamental component in the colonization of Indigenous people in the Americas. From first contact, the establishment of capitalism and patriarchy was carried out through the genocide and rape of Indigenous people.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, Indigenous women have continued to be denied the right to bodily autonomy and reproductive choice through forced and coerced sterilizations and the lack of access to abortions and reproductive healthcare. Their rights have been further denied through the residential school system and the foster care system, which are part of the ongoing genocide against Indigenous people, and which has destroyed Indigenous families and communities.

The denial of reproductive rights is also closely tied to the safety of Indigenous women, girls, transgender, gender-diverse, and Two-Spirit people who face an epidemic of violence in Canada. As written in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, “the forced sterilization of women represents directed state violence against Indigenous women and contributes to the dehumanization and objectification of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.”

The National Inquiry also highlights another brutal practice of the Canadian state against Indigenous women – birth alerts, which it describes as “racist and discriminatory and are a gross violation of the rights of the child, the mother, and the community.” Birth alerts enable provincial child and family services agencies to remove infants from Indigenous mothers in the moments just following birth.

As of 2022, birth alerts have been ended in all provinces and territories in Canada, except for Quebec. However, Indigenous people continue to be overrepresented in the foster care system in Canada. According to the

2021 census data, Statistics Canada reports that 53.8% of all children in foster care are Indigenous. Only 7.7% of children in Canada under 14 years of age are Indigenous.

Lack of reproductive choice and other human rights, coupled with racism and discrimination in the healthcare system in Canada, also have a detrimental impact on the health of Indigenous women. According to a report released by a University of British Columbia – Okanagan professor, Dr. Min Hu, Indigenous women have the worst health outcomes of any other person in Canada. As Dr. Min Hu told the UBC Okanagan News, “The statistics are clear. Indigenous males have better health outcomes than Indigenous females.” ... “However, we already know Indigenous people have worse health than many other populations in Canada. And my research finds Indigenous women have the worst of the worst when it comes to health conditions.”

The struggle of Indigenous women for access to abortion, reproductive choice and even basic human rights is undeniably connected to the struggle against colonialism and racism in Canada.

### **Islamophobia and Women's Rights**

“We need to have self-determination and autonomy over our bodies. What we do with our bodies isn't a state's decision. As Muslims, we know that choice is ours alone.”

- Aliza Kazmi, Co-Executive Director of HEART (U.S.-based) organization working to promote sexual health, uproot gendered



**Rally against Quebec's Bill 21 in Chelsea, Quebec, after a teacher was removed from her job because she wears a hijab. Dec. 14, 2021.**

violence and advance reproductive justice by establishing choice and access for the most impacted Muslims)

The right to abortion is one way the ruling class establishes control over women's bodies. This control also includes policing what women wear, how women identify and how they express their beliefs. For Muslim women in Canada, this control has gone as far as provincial legislation restricting their right

*Continued on page 26*

By Bruce Campbell

In response to the brutal inequality of the 1920s and the Great Depression, and under widespread political pressure after World War II, Canadian and other western governments brought in major reductions in income and wealth inequality through tax and transfer policies.

It was an era of full employment, high taxes on the wealthy, universal Medicare, expanded unemployment insurance, Old Age Security and CPP/QPP pension systems, and other transfers, which significantly reduced inequality.

Canadian society, for the most part, shared in the economic prosperity of the era.

That changed in the late-1970s, with the advent of laissez-faire capitalism (neoliberalism), led by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. According to this ideology, the market was no longer in embedded in society, but society became subservient to the whims of the market and its beneficiaries.

Corporations and wealthy elites were back in the driver seat. Over the next four decades, income and wealth inequality skyrocketed.

### **Spiralling inequality over four decades**

Over subsequent decades, the 1971 highest income tax bracket of 80% dropped by more than half, to 29%. Taxes on capital gains were slashed and tax loopholes were created to facilitate tax avoidance and evasion via an archipelago of tax havens.

Corporate tax rates dropped from 40% in 1980 to 15% in the following decades. Median worker earnings stagnated or fell. Labour's share of Canada's GDP declined in relation to capital's share.

For the top 1%, as a whole, average market income doubled between 1982 and 2018. For the top 0.01%, it soared by 189% during

this period. The income of the bottom 50% failed to keep up with inflation.

In the wake of the 2008-09 recession, from 2010 to 2019, only the top 1% increased their share of total wealth, while it fell for everyone else.

The number of Canadian billionaires and their wealth more than doubled. Canada's club of 100 billionaires now has as much wealth as the 12 million poorest Canadians. The Parliamentary Budget Office projects that, in the second quarter of 2021, there

### **Little federal government action to narrow the inequality gap**

Shortly after coming to power in 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, speaking in Germany in 2017, acknowledged the anxiety and resentment of government due to income increasing income and wealth inequality. Yet during the last six years that this federal government has been in power, it has done little to narrow the income and wealth gap.

Budget 2022 is no exception.

It does two things to tax wealthy corporations: (1) It imposes a one-time 15% excess profits tax on taxable income

above \$1 billion for banks and life insurance companies, yet the vast majority of companies in Canada registering that level of profit—in oil and gas, tech and groceries—will not incur new excess profit taxes. The amount of excess profits for the banks is \$16.1 billion and for oil and gas sector it's \$24.2 billion. These excess profits are contributing to current inflation. (2)

The budget also imposes a permanent 1.5% tax increase, to 16.5%, on the same companies for income above \$100 million.

Aside from those two measures, there is still no wealth tax on the super-rich.

No increase in the top income tax bracket, beyond the 33% tax bracket implemented in its 2016 budget.

No general corporate income tax increase.

No elimination of the tax break for capital gains and dividends.

No estate or inheritance tax on assets over \$2 million to limit family dynasties' ability to pass down exorbitant wealth to their descendants.

No minimum 15% effective tax rate on the top 1%, as previously promised.

No surtax on Canadian billionaires profiteering from the pandemic.

## **THE GREAT SIDESTEP: INCOME AND WEALTH INEQUALITY SWELLS WITH LITTLE GOVERNMENT ACTION**



were approximately 161,700 families in the top 1% and they each had a net wealth of at least \$7.3 million.

According to the latest Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives figures, Canada's average top CEO pay was 191 times greater than the earnings of the average worker in 2020.

The Parliamentary Budget Office estimates Canada's top 1% hold almost 26% of the country's total wealth. Its share has jumped by five percentage points over the last two decades. In contrast, the bottom 40% of Canadians hold only 1.2% of total wealth.

The richest 1% hold 15% of national income—almost as much as the bottom 50% of the Canadian population. Since 1981, the gain in income share of Canada's top 1% has been more than 10 times larger than that of the middle 20%.



No significant clamping down on tax avoidance and evasion by corporations and the wealthy via a spider's web of tax havens.

According to the Canada Revenue Agency, some \$3 billion of annual tax revenue is lost from the untaxed investment income that wealthy Canadians have squirrelled away in offshore tax shelters. The budget has not delivered on a General Anti-Avoidance Rule regime to avoid corporate tax dodging via tax havens, but it does commit to a public searchable registry of the beneficial owners of companies and trusts, an important tool in fighting tax avoidance.

Economist Lars Osberg proposed that the federal government increase its top income tax rate to 65%. CCPA Senior Economist David Macdonald estimates that a 45% tax on estates in excess of \$5 million would add over \$2 billion to federal revenue. Eliminating the 50% tax break for capital gains and the 25% tax rate on dividends would, respectively, raise \$11 billion and \$5 billion annually and would exclusively target Canada's richest.

### **What measures has the government brought in on the income transfer/support front—either universal or targeting the low-income groups?**

The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care System now in place across all provinces, implemented in the 2021 budget, is a major accomplishment. Spending for this one initiative is roughly equivalent to total net spending in Budget 2022—\$31 billion. This is in addition to the enhanced Canada Child Benefit implemented in an earlier budget.

The dental care program phased in for children under 12, a pillar of the NDP's supply-and-confidence agreement with the Liberals, begins to fulfill the 60-year-old vision of Canada's universal Medicare founders. What has been dispersed thus far—\$5.3 billion over five years—is a small down payment on what's needed to create a fully functioning program.

Pharmacare, a Liberal promise dating back to the 1990s—another NDP demand in the joint accord—is absent in this budget; delayed until next year or longer. A study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal found that because of the cost of prescription drugs, 730,000 Canadians went without basic needs such as food, 238,000 could not afford to heat their house, and 239,000 couldn't pay for other health care expenses.

One-third of all new spending in this budget—\$10 billion over five years—is allocated to address housing and stratospheric price increases. It has been received with mixed reviews. Consisting of yet-to-be developed, largely market-based initiatives, its ability to provide affordable housing supply is uncertain. There is, however, funding for cooperative housing and for an Indigenous housing strategy.

Finally, the budget contains no funding to increase CPP, OAS and GIS, no funding for promised long-term care, for disability benefits, nor for most of the promised improvements to the Employment Insurance system.

### **Modest steps**

Budget 2022 and its predecessors represent

modest steps to strengthen the social safety net deemed acceptable to the "plutocracy—those at the pinnacle of wealth and power; and their political enablers." It does virtually nothing to narrow the income and wealth gap.

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, in their classic study *The Spirit Level: Why Equality Is Better for Everyone*, compared the level of inequality of disposable household income among the richest OECD nations along a spectrum of social indicators—including average levels of health status, trust, social mobility, infant mortality, educational performance, violence, obesity, and mental illness. They concluded that, along all these dimensions, in countries where there is more income inequality there are also more social problems.

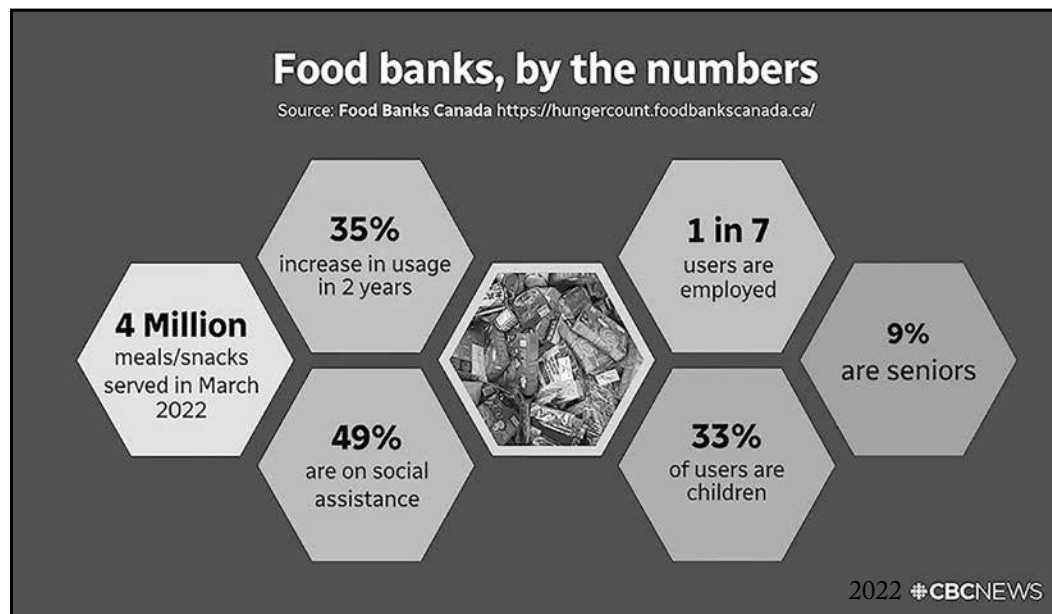
Canada has deteriorated greatly on the income and wealth concentration scale. Half of Canadians tell pollsters they are one or two missed paycheques away from poverty. Economic growth does not much interest the bottom half of the electorate if all of the gains are going to the top half, with the lion's share going to the top 1%.

Unprecedented inequality is a potent threat. It undermines democracy, breeding anger and resentment against corporate and government elites. It also breeds openness to authoritarian solutions.

Unless those at the top of the wealth and power pyramid recognize the priority of reducing inequality, political instability and violent conflict will fester.

*Bruce Campbell (he/him) is a former executive director of the CCPA. He is adjunct professor, York University, Faculty of Environmental Studies; and Senior Fellow, Ryerson University, Centre for Free Expression. He is the author-editor of Corporate Rules: The real world of business regulation in Canada: How government regulators are failing the public interest (James Lorimer & Co. 2022).*

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*By Héctor Igarza Cabrera*  
*Cuban Ambassador to Canada*

Many politicians, intellectuals, pacifists and ideologues have commented these days on the dangers that the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine could lead to a nuclear war, alluding to the missile crisis in the Caribbean that occurred precisely in the month of October 1962.

What is presented as a crisis of several days 60 years ago omits by mistake, ignorance or bad faith, the true causes that originated the worst moment of tension during the so-called Cold War. They point out that the conflict began when the Americans discovered that the Soviets were installing nuclear weapons in Cuba. Mistake.

The October Crisis is part of the historical confrontation between Cuba and the United States whose permanent objective is to completely destroy the Cuban Revolution, which reached its final triumph in 1959 in a long war that began in 1868, first against Spain and then against the United States of America.

The US authorities have never forgiven Cuba for inflicting the first and only major military defeat on the American continent, which was the failed Bay of Pigs invasion (Playa Girón), in which the popular militias needed less than 72 hours to put an end to the aggression.

However, during the October Crisis there was no military confrontation as in Girón, nor were conventional or nuclear weapons used.

Why did the Soviets decide to send missiles to Cuba and the United States responded with a blockade of the Island?

The nuclear missile crisis was the result of the escalation in the aggressions of the United States that, through Operation Mongoose, foresaw new aggressions, a larger invasion, combined with sabotage operations, destruction of economic assets, assassination plans against the leaders of the Revolution, infiltrations, pirate attacks, bombings of the City of Havana and economic and social objectives, among others, accompanied by a strong dose of



**Héctor Igarza Cabrera, Cuban Ambassador to Canada**

propaganda inside and outside the Island. US President Dwight Eisenhower had supported the Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista and was not interested in reaching an understanding with the new Cuba of 1959.

Between 1959 and 1961 Eisenhower did everything possible and imaginary to prevent the new revolutionary power from consolidating itself. For this reason, the first thing he did was to give refuge to the war criminals who had murdered more than 20,000 Cubans and who fled to the United States to later return as mercenaries through Playa Girón.

The CIA and Eisenhower personally came to the conclusion that one way to eliminate the example of the Cuban Revolution was to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro and invade the Island.

The Directorate of the Revolution accepted the installation of strategic weapons based on the principle of the right to national defense and also because of the existing solidarity in the then socialist camp. Therefore, the decision was not only made by Nikita Khrushchev or the Soviet Union, but rather through a Mutual Aid and Military Assistance Agreement.

And it is that the rockets in Cuba meant a dissuasive factor against the intentions of the United States to invade the Island. Its proximity to US territory represented a factor of balance of forces between both contending powers.

That is why the Revolutionary Government reached the conclusion of accepting the installation of the rockets after verifying

## CARIBBEAN MISSILE CRISIS: LEARNING FROM HISTORY



**Fidel talks to students of the National School of Militia Leaders before the mercenary invasion at Bay of Pigs, April 16, 1961.**

*Continued on page 20*



# Crisis De Los Misiles En El Caribe: Aprendiendo De La Historia

**\* En Español \***

*Por Héctor Igarza Cabrera  
Embajador de Cuba en Canadá*

Muchos políticos, intelectuales, pacifistas e ideólogos han comentado estos días los peligros de que el conflicto armado entre Rusia y Ucrania pueda desembocar en una guerra nuclear, aludiendo a la crisis de los misiles en el Caribe ocurrida precisamente en el mes de octubre de 1962.

Lo que se presenta como una crisis de varios días hace 60 años omite por error, ignorancia o mala fe, las verdaderas causas que originaron el peor momento de tensión durante la llamada Guerra Fría. Señalan que el conflicto comenzó cuando los estadounidenses descubrieron que los soviéticos estaban instalando armas nucleares en Cuba. Error.

La Crisis de Octubre forma parte del enfrentamiento histórico entre Cuba y Estados Unidos, cuyo objetivo permanente es destruir por completo la Revolución Cubana, que alcanzó su triunfo final en 1959 en una larga guerra que comenzó en 1868, primero contra España y luego contra los Estados Unidos de América.

Las autoridades estadounidenses nunca han perdonado a Cuba la primera y única gran derrota militar en el continente americano, que fue la fallida invasión de Bahía de Cochinos (Playa Girón), en la que las milicias populares necesitaron menos de 72 horas para poner fin a la agresión.

Sin embargo, durante la Crisis de Octubre no hubo un enfrentamiento militar como en Girón, ni se utilizaron armas convencionales o nucleares.

¿Por qué los soviéticos decidieron enviar misiles a Cuba y Estados Unidos respondió con el bloqueo de la isla?

La crisis de los misiles nucleares fue el resultado de la escalada de agresiones de Estados Unidos que, a través de la

Operación Mangosta, preveía nuevas agresiones, una invasión mayor, combinada con operaciones de sabotaje, destrucción de bienes económicos, planes de asesinato contra los dirigentes de la Revolución, infiltraciones, ataques piratas, bombardeos a la Ciudad de La Habana y objetivos económicos y sociales, entre otros, acompañados de una fuerte dosis de propaganda dentro y fuera de la Isla.

El presidente estadounidense Dwight Eisenhower había apoyado al dictador cubano Fulgencio Batista y no estaba interesado en llegar a un entendimiento con la nueva Cuba de 1959.

Entre 1959 y 1961 Eisenhower hizo todo lo posible e imaginario para evitar que el nuevo poder revolucionario se consolidara.

Por eso, lo primero que hizo fue dar refugio a los criminales de guerra que habían asesinado a más de 20.000 cubanos y que huyeron a Estados Unidos para luego regresar como mercenarios por Playa Girón.

La CIA y Eisenhower personalmente llegaron a la conclusión de que una forma de eliminar el ejemplo de la Revolución Cubana era asesinar al líder cubano Fidel Castro e

invadir la Isla.

La Dirección de la Revolución aceptó la instalación de armas estratégicas basándose en el principio del derecho a la defensa nacional y también por la solidaridad existente en el campo socialista de entonces. Por lo tanto, la decisión no fue tomada sólo por Nikita Jrushchov o la Unión Soviética, sino a través de un Acuerdo de Ayuda Mutua y Asistencia Militar.

Y es que los cohetes en Cuba significaron un factor disuasorio frente a las intenciones de Estados Unidos de invadir la Isla. Su proximidad al territorio estadounidense representaba un factor de equilibrio de fuerzas entre ambas potencias contendientes.

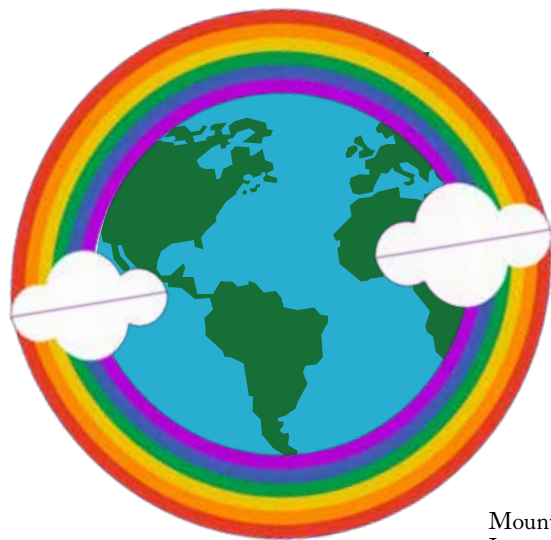
Por esto, el Gobierno Revolucionario llegó a la conclusión de aceptar la instalación de los cohetes tras comprobar un largo historial de agresiones por parte de Estados Unidos que ponía en grave peligro la seguridad nacional cubana.

La administración de John F. Kennedy no cambió su política hacia Cuba. Durante

*continúa en la página 22*



El capitán Jose Ramón Fernández (a la izquierda) con Comandante Fidel Castro al recorrer Playa Girón, el 17 de abril de 1961.



# PEOPLE & PLANET BEFORE PIPELINES & CORPORATE PROFIT! STOP THE TMX PIPELINE!

*By Alison Bodine*

Along Highway 1 from Burnaby to Hope in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, there are indications of Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) project construction. Heavy machinery, stacks of green-coloured pipes, and rows of fencing covered in fabric meant to hide TMX's environmental destruction line the busy road, crossing through neighbourhoods and vital ecosystems. With each day the Trudeau Liberal government pushes ahead with this disastrous project, the costs to taxpayers in Canada is growing.

In 2018, the Trudeau government bought the existing Trans Mountain pipeline and the TMX project for \$4.5 billion in public money. The estimated cost for TMX at the time was \$7.4 billion, which has ballooned more than 70% to \$21.4 billion, according to the Trans Mountain Crown corporation.

By the end of 2023, taxpayers will be on the hook for at least \$17 billion in TMX debt, as exposed in a report released in October 2022 by renowned economist Robyn Allen and West Coast Environmental Law. Part of the report reads:

"Trans Mountain's full financial picture is being hidden from Canadians. Dig into and piece together financial information on Trans

Mountain from the Canada Development Investment Corporation (CDEV) and other sources, and a very different picture emerges than the one presented by the government. These sources tell us that Trans Mountain has not been profitable since Ottawa bought it; Trans Mountain is not commercially viable; and, this lack of profitability and commercial viability means more than \$17 billion in debt owed to Canadians will not be repaid. Debt forgiveness is looming."

When the costs of living are rapidly rising in Canada, and public services such as healthcare, education and social housing are in dire need of funding, spending \$17 billion on a dirty-oil sands pipeline is an outrage. Not to mention the destruction this pipeline will bring to crucial salmon and other wildlife habitats. If completed, TMX will also triple the amount of bitumen (incredibly toxic oil) transported from the Alberta tar sands to Burnaby and increase the number of oil tankers in Burrard inlet by seven times. This dramatically increases the risks of catastrophic oil spills and Burnaby Mountain and Sumas tank farms.

Despite these horrible financial and environmental costs, the Trudeau Liberal government continues pushing the project.

## **Stop the CGL Pipeline!**

The British Columbia provincial government also uses public money to subsidize climate-destroying oil and gas extraction. From tax

breaks to lower electricity costs, the John Horgan NDP government and the Christie Clark Liberal government (2011-17) have thrown \$6 billion at the CGL pipeline and the LNG Canada project that the pipeline will supply if it is completed.

In early October, drilling for the Coastal GasLink (CGL) fracked gas pipeline began under the Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) on Wet'suwet'en territory in Northern B.C. This drilling has already started despite the opposition of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and community members whose unceded land it crosses.

As is explained on the website of the Gidimt'en Checkpoint, "Under 'Anuc niwh'it'en (Wet'suwet'en law) all Hereditary Chiefs of the five clans of the Wet'suwet'en have unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and have not provided free, prior, and informed consent to Coastal Gaslink to drill on unceded and surrendered Wet'suwet'en lands. They are trying to drill under the Wedzin Kwa river, the sacred headwaters that feeds all of Wet'suwet'en territory and gives life to our nation. The pipeline, spanning 670 kilometers, will transport fracked gas to the proposed LNG Canada processing plant, which is the largest single private sector infrastructure project and one of the largest energy investments in Canadian history."

For their peaceful protest against CGL, land defenders from the Wet'suwet'en Nation and their allies continue to face 24-hour surveillance, harassment, intimidation, and brutality from the RCMP and private security forces. Over

Left to Right: Climate Convergence at CarFree Day on Main St. on Sept 18; March & Rally for Stoney Creek on Sept 17; Intersection rally at Production Way Skytrain Station on Oct 20





# "SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE!"



75 people have been arrested, including journalists. From 2019 to 2021, over \$21.3 million has been spent on an RCMP force whose objective is to protect the CGL pipeline and ensure it gets built.

## **Climate Convergence Organizes, Educates and Mobilizes in Defense of Mother Earth!**

In the face of the construction of the TMX and CGL pipelines and the growing climate and ecological crisis worldwide, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver has continued to organize people across the Lower Mainland to fight climate justice.

On Saturday, **September 17**, Protect The Planet, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, Mountain Protectors, and Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder-Morgan Expansion (BROKE) came together to organize a dynamic, united rally to protect Stoney Creek in Burnaby against the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) pipeline. Over 150 people came out to the high-energy and determined action, which drew attention to the ramping-up of TMX construction in the Stoney Creek neighbourhood of Burnaby. The action included a rally which featured: Tim Henry, from the Vuntut Gwitchin and Tlingit Nation, and Kate Tairyan, a senior lecturer at SFU, both of whom were part of the recent struggle to protect the Coquihalla River from TMX near Hope, B.C.; Anjali Appadurai, a leadership candidate for the BC NDP, Jennifer Nathan, a retired high school teacher and researcher against TMX, and Alison Bodine, a central organizer of Climate Convergence, among other insightful and energetic speakers. Dr. Tim Takaro and artist George Rammell also performed a dynamic theatre sketch calling the provincial B.C. government to use "every tool in the toolbox" to stop TMX, as they promised in the last election.

TMX construction runs adjacent to Stoney Creek, a vital salmon spawning creek and

the home of numerous other threatened and endangered animal species. Pipeline construction is a destructive process, and the heavy machinery, drills, bright lights, and massive disturbances to the soil pollute and destabilize the fragile ecosystem. For this reason, since the rally, the Stoney Creek has become an important gathering point for people fighting against the TMX pipeline. On October 21, a watchtower and protest camp were set up near the Stoney Creek construction site to monitor the pipeline construction and help inform residents about the destruction that TMX is bringing.

**On October 20**, Climate Convergence organized a "No TMX and CGL Pipelines!" Intersection action at Lougheed Highway and Production Way in Burnaby, near the Production Way-University Skytrain Station. Over 25 people came together, despite the smoky skies caused by nearby wildfires, to hold large banners and signs against both the TMX and CGL pipelines. People passing by the busy transit station and people stuck in rush-hour traffic gave their support by taking a flyer or honking as they drove by. Local artist George Rammell also joined the action with his newest sculpture, which illustrates how the TMX and CGL pipelines and the Bay du Nord offshore oil drilling project in Atlantic Canada are projects that are contributing to irreversible, catastrophic climate change, and bringing our planet "over the tipping point."

In September, Car Free Days were an important way to talk to thousands of people about getting involved in the struggle against the CGL and TMX pipelines and for climate justice. Climate Convergence had an information table at the Commercial Drive festival on **September 10** and the

Main Street festival on **September 18**. The table was constantly busy at each festival for the full seven hours. People passing by stopped to sign a postcard against TMX addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau and Environment Minister Guilbeault, picked up newsletters and leaflets with more information, and often stayed for a conversation on how to get involved in fighting against the climate and ecological crisis.

Throughout the early fall season, Climate Convergence has also supported actions in the Vancouver area organized by our allies in the struggle for climate justice. On **September 23**, Climate Convergence supported a #PeopleNotProfit march and block party organized by the youth-led climate justice organization the Sustainabiliteens.

Climate Convergence organizers have also been supporting the Decolonial Solidarity campaign, inviting people to "adopt-a-branch," and organizing regular tabling actions outside of branches of the RBC bank to bring attention to the demand that RBC divests from the CGL and TMX pipelines.

## **We Fight, We Will Win!**

At every mobilization for climate justice, someone new hasn't heard about the Trans Mountain expansion pipeline or isn't aware

*Continued on page 27*



## **Burnaby Mountain Festive Hug**

**December 11, 2022 | 11am-3pm PT**

**Forest Grove Park,  
Burnaby 200 Soccer Field  
Burnaby, BC**



Creating earth friendly crafts, we will bring wonder and beauty to the trees as we stand in unity against the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion (TMX) project.

For more information and to sign-up, visit [www.hugthemountain.ca](http://www.hugthemountain.ca)

# ALEX SAAB & JULIAN ASSANGE: HOW U.S. IMPERIALISM VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAW

*By Geraldina Colotti*

Julian Assange and Alex Saab, a journalist and a diplomat. The first, awaiting extradition to the United States, the other kidnapped and held in a Florida prison, with contempt for international law. Two examples of the imperialist arrogance of the United States supported, in the case of Assange, by the British government, while in the case of Saab the kidnapping it occurred with the complicity of a dependent country, Cape Verde, incapable of saying “no” to the United States.

Assange is “guilty” of having disseminated documents that highlight the true nature of the wars “for democracy”, led by the American gendarme. The “crime” of Saab, plenipotentiary ambassador of Venezuela, is that of having tried to break the siege imposed on the Venezuelan people to force them to turn against their own government. When he was kidnapped by the CIA, he was actually carrying out a humanitarian operation to bring food, medicine and fuel to the Bolivarian Republic.

Julian Assange, founder of the Wikileaks site, has been held for three years in Belmarsh maximum security prison, known as the “Guantanamo of London”. He has now also tested positive for covid and is in solitary confinement, at serious risk for his already precarious health conditions. Even Saab’s health, a stomach cancer survivor, is seriously weakened, especially after the torture he suffered and the conditions of deprivation in which he was held in Cape Verde, despite several

pronouncements by international bodies. Now, the U.S. courts continue to postpone the hearing on his diplomatic immunity, while the international mobilization through the Free Alex Saab Movement, coordinated by lawyer Laila Tajeldine, is growing.

The mobilization for the release of Julian Assange, on the other hand, has already reached a high level of diffusion and has involved people belonging to various sectors of society in many countries. Last Saturday, in front of the London Parliament, an important demonstration took place in which, despite the controls and impediments, more than 5,000 people participated.



**Protest for the freedom of Julian Assange on October 23, 2021 in London, England.**

A long human chain in which the former Labour Party Secretary Jeremy Corbyn was also in attendance, along with well-known faces from cinema and international politics such as former Greek Minister Yanis Varoufakis. In the front row, Stella Moris Assange, a 38-year-old South African lawyer, wife



of the Australian journalist since last March. Even the young wife of diplomat Alex Saab, Italian Camilla Fabri, is always at the forefront of the initiatives for the release of her husband, while supporting Assange’s fight.

Assange’s lawyers filed a final appeal in the High Court in London against the extradition order in the U.S., authorized on June 17 by British Home Secretary Priti Patel. In the United States, the founder of Wikileaks faces a sentence of 176 years in prison in all practicality, a death sentence. He could not even appeal to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free profession thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.”

Against Assange, an old law from 1917 was applied, the Espionage Act, a mechanism used, in the name of national security, to prosecute those responsible for leaks and officials who denounce the failures of the system, accusing them of treason and espionage. Former President Donald Trump has also used it. Saab has also been charged with “conspiracy”...

As of July 2010, the Wikileaks site has published 250,000 files revealing conversations between Washington and its diplomacies (about 270 embassies and consulates around the world) in the previous three years. In October 2010, 400,000 military reports on Iraq between 2004 and 2009 and more than 800 diplomatic reports on the Guantanamo base were made public. An explosive case that will bear the name of Cablegate.



The one who passed the news to Assange was the soldier Bradley Manning who gave him confidential documents of the American diplomacy, rejected, until then, by all the important newspapers. Manning, a computer analyst, was a soldier in Iraq and had access to the databases, from which he extracted information for 8 months. He saved them on a CD masked with a Lady Gaga cover and then transferred them to a pen-drive destined for Assange.

In April 2010, Manning was arrested and in August 2013 a court martial sentenced him to 35 years. On that occasion, the former soldier declared that he had disclosed the documents to publicize the abuses committed by the U.S. government in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also revealed that he had always wanted to be a woman and that he wanted to be called Chelsea. Today she got her wish, but always refused to accuse Assange in exchange for benefits.

Alex Saab has also refused benefits proposed by the U.S. government in exchange for treason and false accusations against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

Assange was pursued by an arrest warrant from Swedish authorities since 2010, including in Europe. In December of that

the British Supreme Court decided to extradite him to Sweden in May 2012, he fled to the Ecuadorian embassy in London and was granted political asylum by Correa on August 15.

Ecuador thus rejected the threats of Great Britain, in line with the attitude adopted by the socialist countries of Latin America in the face of revelations of U.S. interference. A situation that worsened even more with the arrival of another source – Edward Snowden – and another big scandal, Datagate, which broke out in the summer of 2013 and which has also united in the rejection of interference,

Latin American countries, Brazil and Argentina. Snowden, now a Russian citizen, showed the extent of illegal spying by U.S. security agencies, in violation of both privacy and sovereignty of states.

Not in vain, Assange's lawyers then denounced the CIA for spying on conversations with their client when he was a refugee in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. According to the complaint, a private security company, UC Global, had recorded the meetings and delivered the material to the US spy agency, then headed by Mike Pompeo.

Trampling on the immunity of a diplomat, accredited as Venezuela's ambassador

plenipotentiary to Africa, is not exactly an ordinary act. Closing the mouth of a journalist, or imposing censorship in the name of "national security", on the other hand, is now a common occurrence in capitalist countries, which also abound in redundant

proclamations about "freedom of the press" and "pluralism of information".

These are two cases that serve to raise the bar of illegality and oppression of those who, waving the rhetoric of rights and democracy, consider themselves exempt from the duty to respect them. The task of those who recognize themselves with principles and human ethics, on the other hand, is to raise this bar.

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<https://resumen-english.org>*

## "By Any Means Necessary..."



### MALCOLM X SPEAKS

And they do this very skillfully to keep us trapped. They know that as long as they keep us undereducated, or with an inferior education, it's impossible for us to compete with them for job openings. And as long as we can't compete with them and get a decent job, we're trapped. We are low-wage earners. We have to live in a run-down neighborhood, which means our children go to inferior schools. They get inferior education. And when they grow up, they fall right into the same cycle again.

This is the American way. This is the American democracy that she tries to sell to the whole world as being that which will solve the problems of other people too. It's the worst form of hypocrisy that has ever been practiced by any government or society anywhere on this earth, since the beginning of time.

February 11, 1965 – London School of Economics



year, he surrendered to Scotland Yard and was released after posting bail 9 days later. In February 2011, the British judiciary decided to extradite him. Assange appealed. In April 2011, following the Wikileaks revelations, the government of Ecuador, then presided by Rafael Correa, expelled the U.S. ambassador, Heather Hodges.

Assange, during his 500 days of house arrest in London, interviewed President Rafael Correa on his radio program broadcast on Russia Today. And, when

# STOP SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA! FREE ALEX SAAB!

*By Janine Solanki*

U.S. wars bring certain images to mind – G.I. Joe soldiers with machine guns, fighter jets screaming through the air and bombs exploding on so-called “enemy” territory. There is also a more insidious way the U.S. is quietly waging war on oppressed nations worldwide – sanctions. U.S. sanctions affect a third of humanity, with more than 8,000 measures impacting more than 40 countries. One of the countries facing some of the harshest sanctions is Venezuela, imposed by the U.S. government along with their allies, including Canada. These sanctions continue to deny people in Venezuela access to food, medicines, and basic necessities and are responsible for at least 40,000 deaths from 2017 to 2018, reported by the Center for Economic and Policy Research. What did Venezuela do to deserve this treatment? Since 1999 under the leadership of former President Hugo Chavez and now President Nicolas Maduro, the Bolivarian revolution started building a Venezuela to serve its people instead of profit.

Around the world, supporters and defenders of Venezuela are demanding an end to U.S. sanctions on Venezuela and an end to threats, coup attempts and meddling in Venezuela's affairs. In Canada, monthly online picket actions are organized by Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, and Just Peace Advocates with the support of Venezuela solidarity organizations and individuals across Canada.

## **September 22 Picket Action Demands Free Alex Saab!**

A main demand in the Venezuela solidarity movement is for the freedom of Alex Saab. In June 2022, Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab was en route to Iran to negotiate a deal to alleviate the effects of the sanctions, enabling Venezuela to receive more fuel, food, and medical supplies. Alex Saab was abducted at the command of the U.S. government, arbitrarily imprisoned and tortured and is currently unjustly held in U.S. prisons.

On September 22, the 19th consecutive monthly picket action featured special guest Camila Saab, wife of Alex Saab. Camila Saab

gave updates on Alex Saab's case and gave a very moving speech about the conditions her husband faces and the resolve to keep fighting for his freedom. Camila Saab also shared a letter that Alex Saab had written in response



**Protest for the freedom of Alex Saab in Caracas Venezuela.**

to Alison Bodine, coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, who was also chairing the picket action. (Reprinted on page 23).

The September 22 picket also included speakers: Cikiah Thomas, International Ambassador for the Global African Congress and executive member of the Canadian Network on Cuba; Luisa Martinez, Portland-based Chilean union and community organizer, steering committee member of Democratic Socialists of America International Committee and founding member of Hands Off Venezuela! - Portland; and greetings from Professor Luis Acuña, Charge d'Affaires of the Venezuela Embassy in Canada, speaking from Venezuela. Participants also heard greetings from groups and individuals in solidarity with Venezuela from across Canada and Quebec.

## **October 18 Picket Action – Hands Off Venezuela!**

October 18, 2022, marked the 20th online picket action demanding Hands Off Venezuela. Participants at this action heard from Indhriana Parada, a Venezuelan lawyer, human rights expert and member of the Movement for the Liberation of Alex

Saab, who spoke from Venezuela. She gave updates on Alex Saab's case and stressed the importance of international solidarity while his trial is set to start in December 2022 in Florida. Participants also heard from John Philpot, a Montreal-based international human rights lawyer who is on the board of directors of Just Peace Advocates and Cassia Laham, an antiwar organizer in South Florida with the People's Opposition to War, Imperialism, and Racism (POWIR) and the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC). Participants again heard updates direct from Venezuela from Professor Luis Acuña, as well as greetings from Venezuela solidarity groups and activists across Canada and Quebec.

At every online picket, after hearing from inspiring speakers, the participants turn on their videos for a customary picket group photo! Venezuela supporters and activists across Canada, the U.S. and beyond join to chant together, hold picket signs and Venezuelan flags and demand Canada/U.S. Hands Off Venezuela! No Sanctions on Venezuela! Free Alex Saab!

To learn more about events in defense of Venezuela visit [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net) or follow on Facebook @firethistimemovement, on Twitter @FTT\_NP and on Instagram @firethistime and @FTTVenezuela .

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @JanineSolanki*

## FREE ALEX SAAB NOW!

## NO TO SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA!

## U.S./CANADA: HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

★ SEPTEMBER 22 2022, MONTHLY ONLINE PICKET IN SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA ★

Join the next virtual picket October 18!

Register to join on Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla>





## Alex Saab Letter to Fire This Time

*This letter was written by Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab who is unjustly held in U.S. jail. Camilla Saab, wife of Alex Saab, presented this letter to Fire This Time at the "U.S./Canada: Hands Off Venezuela!" Monthly Virtual Picket on September 22, 2022.*



## Carta de Alex Saab por Fire This Time

*Esta carta fue escrita por el diplomático venezolano Alex Saab detenido injustamente en una cárcel estadounidense. Camilla Saab, esposa de Alex Saab, presentó esta carta a Fire This Time en el evento "E.E. UU./Canadá: ¡Manos fuera de Venezuela!" Piquete Virtual Mensual el 22 de septiembre de 2022.*

Movement for social justice "Fire This Time"  
Alison Bodine

Greetings Alison to you and all members of the movement!

It was a great joy for me to receive your letter and to learn of the support that you have been giving me, my family and the people of Venezuela.

Unilateral coercive measures are the cruelest forms of violence with which a nation can be subjected.

Venezuela loves peace, the people of Venezuela are noble fighters. The mission of a few will not be above the will of a people.

We have resisted and we will continue so that all of us will emerge successful and stronger as a nation and as human beings from this blockade. Social justice must prevail if we want a better world.

I am infinitely grateful for the support provided by the "Fire This Time" movement for me, my family and our beloved Venezuela. I hope to receive you together in my house with my wife and children!

A strong hug!

Alex Saab

Movimiento para la justicia social "Fire This Time"  
Alison Bodine

¡Saludos Alison para ti y todos los miembros del movimiento!

Fue una gran alegría para mí recibir tu carta y conocer del apoyo que su han estado brindando a mí, mi familia y al pueblo de Venezuela.

Las medidas coercitivas unilaterales son las formas más crueles de violencia con la que puede ser sometida una nación.

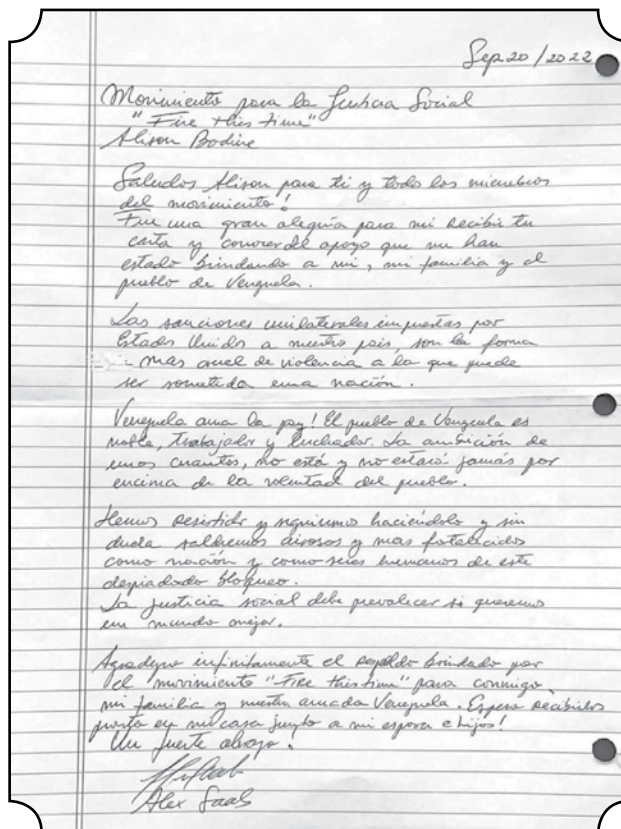
Venezuela ama la paz, el pueblo de Venezuela es noble y luchador. La misión de unos cuantos no estará por encima de la voluntad de un pueblo.

Hemos resistido y seguimos haciéndolo en todas saldremos airoso y más fortalecidos como nación y como seres humanos de este bloqueo. La justicia social debe prevalecer si queremos un mundo mejor.

Agradezco infinitamente el respaldo brindado por el movimiento "Fire This Time" para conmigo, mi familia y nuestra amada Venezuela. ¡Espero recibirlos junto en mi casa junto a mi esposa e hijos!

Un fuerte abrazo!

Alex Saab



Original handwritten letter by Alex Saab  
Carta original de Alex Saab



*By Janine Solanki*

Around the world, oppressed nations are subjected to destructive imperialist wars, occupations, sanctions, military interventions and imperialist backed coups. Although the United States may have the most powerful (and most destructive) military in the world, the scope of all of this warmongering is beyond any one government or military. In the drive to control global markets and plunder resources, a coordinated network of imperialist countries and their vast military resources are required, and that is the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This military alliance's history clearly shows that it only serves imperialist countries. Afghanistan became NATO's most extended military mission, where with the U.S., NATO was in charge for much of the 20-year occupation, and NATO as the U.S. arm also had boots on the ground in the war on Iraq. Today NATO is responsible for the current war in Ukraine, after years of provocations at Russia's borders and now as NATO members funnel hundreds of billions of dollars of weapons into Ukraine. Let us not forget the last NATO war in Europe, where NATO destroyed Yugoslavia, an independent and sovereign country by dropping 14,000 bombs, including depleted uranium bombs and cluster munitions.

While imperialist forces coordinate their attacks on oppressed nations, peace-loving people and antiwar organizations also need to coordinate the antiwar movement to effectively resist imperialist wars, occupations, and interventions. In 2020, the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network formed with 45 peace groups across Canada and have since worked together on days of actions and campaigns, including to demand that Canada stop arming Saudi Arabia, to oppose the US-backed Saudi-led war on Yemen, and protest NATO and demand Canada leave NATO.

**International Day of Peace**

September 21 marked the United Nations International Day of Peace. The member groups of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network held events and actions throughout the week. To mark this day Vancouver-area members of the Peace and Justice Network and supporters came together to hold a Rally for Just Peace. The action reached out beyond Vancouver and was held outside the Burnaby Public Library, organized by Just Peace Committee, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, International League of People's Struggles (ILPS), Global Alliance for Peace - Surrey Society, Vancouver Peace Poppies, World Beyond War, Socialist Action, and Vancouver Peace Council. During the action, protesters handed out antiwar literature to passersby, and organizers spoke from the microphone, including Azza Rojbi on behalf of Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Janine Solanki from Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), Barbara Waldern from the Just Peace Committee and Niovi Patsicakis from Global Peace Alliance BC.

Also marking International Peace Day, on October 1, the Global Peace Alliance (GPA) BC Society held their annual festival with the theme "End Racism, Build Peace" in Surrey. This family-friendly event included speakers, music, dance and a peace-themed art exhibit. The festival also had tables from social justice organizations, and Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO), an endorser of the festival, also had a table at the event and spoke to festival goers about antiwar issues throughout the day.

#### **#FundPeaceNotWar Week of Action**

From October 15-23, the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network joined the call to action issued by the U.S.-based United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC). Actions, including rallies, pickets, community events and teach-ins, were held in Vancouver, Toronto,

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Ottawa, Hamilton, Calgary, Waterloo and South Georgian Bay, alongside actions across the United States and worldwide.

Again Vancouver-area organizers took the action to a less common protest location, to the downtown of the neighbouring city New Westminster. This action was organized by Just Peace Committee, Mobilization Against War and Occupation, Global Peace Alliance - BC, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, World Beyond War, and ILPS in BC. The rally caught the interest of many walking by, who stopped to take information and sign antiwar petitions. Alongside speakers from all organizations, two passersby who stopped to join the rally were also motivated to speak from the microphone. These new supporters included a man from former Yugoslavia who spoke about how NATO destroyed his homeland and the necessity of working together against NATO wars. The rally was also joined by an Indigenous man who spoke about the horrors of war and the war at home against Indigenous Nations.

In response to the recent imperialist actions against Haiti, protesters held picket signs demanding "No New Occupation of Haiti" and "Canada/US/UN Out of Haiti" and handed out a new MAWO statement in support of Haiti. (see page 17 to read statement). Protesters also handed out the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network statement for the #FundPeaceNotWar days of action, which was well received by those passing by. (see page 28 to read statement).

In Greater Vancouver and across Canada, activists and organizations are coming together to educate, organize and mobilize against this new era of war and occupation. To keep updated on Vancouver area events, visit [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org) and for actions across Canada visit <http://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/>.

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*



# LETTER FROM... YEMEN: 'SEVEN YEARS ON, I'M MAKING LESS ART AS THE WORLD BECOMES BORED BY THE WAR'

By Ahmed Jahaf

*Ahmed Jahaf is Yemeni artist that uses his art to raise awareness about the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and to speak up against the over 7 years long war on his country led by Saudi Arabia and backed and armed by the United States and other western countries including Canada. According to the United Nations, Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis with millions of people displaced and living in dire conditions. In this article Ahmed reflects on the war in his home country and the media and world silence to the suffering of the Yemeni people.*

My name is Ahmed Jahaf. I am a graphic designer and artist living in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a. Almost five years ago I spoke out in The Art Newspaper about my country's "forgotten war". In 2015 a coalition of countries led by Saudi Arabia began bombing and imposing a blockade on Yemen with the support of the US and UK governments. Then, as now, we are facing a food-security crisis with more than 17 million starving civilians.

The war in Yemen between the government and Houthis rebels is still going on today, seven years after it started; there is still war, siege and famine, and the world watches and knows this. I'm still angry because the US and the UK are supporting the governmental Saudi-led

coalition and are still selling arms to Saudi Arabia. The war is not forgotten, though. The war in Yemen is ignored because the US and its allies are responsible for the majority of the suffering, and they benefit from this war and participate in it directly or indirectly.

The United Nations announced a truce



in April, which was extended in June for another two months and again on 3 August. On the ground, there is nothing. It is true that the military battles have stopped to a degree, but the siege of cities continues and the war goes on. Citizens are still suffering and have not seen any benefits or results from this truce.

I spend my days watching the news and recording events such as air raids on social media. I continue to make works at night, using Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Premiere and Photoshop. I've also shown prints at the Art the Arms Fair in London (2017 and 2019).



Recently, I published a PDF book entitled *Art of War*, which featured my most important designs and works. In one of the works, I criticise the UK government's role in providing weapons to Saudi Arabia used in airstrikes on Yemen. In another work, I tried to convey an image of World War III by transplanting a symbol of a huge explosion on to the flags of major countries and organisations. Another image shows the dove of peace impaled with a sword, and the question: "Is there hope for peace in Yemen?"

In the book preface I say: "I dedicate to you these artistic works that I designed during the Saudi aggression and war in Yemen... [this is] a message to the world which watches and participates in silence about this aggression. I started making works of art from the very first day of the war in Yemen under bombings, sieges and suffering."

But I'm not making as many works as before because those who were interested in Yemen are bored or preoccupied with other events and conflicts. There are other issues in the world that people care about. After all, we're only Yemenis, and this is still the ignored war.

First printed in: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/08/05/letter-from-yemen-seven-years-on-im-making-less-art-as-people-become-bored-with-the-war>

To see Ahmed's art visit: [www.ajahaf.com](http://www.ajahaf.com) and follow him on twitter @A7medJa7af

Say no to Canada's arms sells to Saudi Arabia! Email your member of parliament to voice your opposition: [www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/emailyourmp](http://www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/emailyourmp)

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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.





# Open Letter: Union of BC Indian Chiefs Urges Mayor Elect Sim and Vancouver City Council to not Adopt IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Dear Mayor-Elect Sim and Incoming Vancouver City Council,

We are writing to express our grave concerns regarding the ABC campaign promise to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, and ask you to not proceed.

UBCIC staunchly opposes antisemitism and is ardently committed to combatting all forms of racism, prejudice, and violence. We cannot support the IHRA definition and accompanying list of illustrative examples of antisemitism; the vague IHRA definition conflates criticism of the state of Israel with antisemitism and thereby limits freedom of expression and Canadians' right to public protest, including against Israeli state policies, violations of international law, and violent oppression of Indigenous Palestinians. Should Vancouver City Council adopt the IHRA definition, human rights advocates standing against such injustice could be falsely denounced for antisemitism.

We do not condone protecting Israel from criticism in relation to its settler colonial policies and mistreatment of Palestinians. We call on you Mayor-Elect Sim and incoming Vancouver City Council members, to live up to Vancouver's commitment to the UN declaration, its recent adoption of a ground-breaking UNDRIP Strategy and Task Force, and its designation as a City of Reconciliation. Adoption of the IHRA definition stands in direct opposition



to these commitments.

Many other organizations are on record in opposition to the IHRA definition of antisemitism including the BC Civil Liberties Association, the Canadian Association of University Teachers, 40 faculty associations across the country as well as 40 international Jewish organizations which issued the following statement:

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which is increasingly being adopted or considered by western governments, is worded in such a way as to be easily adopted or considered by western governments to intentionally equate legitimate criticisms of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism, as a means to suppress the former.

This conflation undermines both the Palestinian

struggle for freedom, justice and equality and the global struggle against antisemitism. It also serves to shield Israel from being held accountable to universal standards of human rights and international law (Jewish Voice for Peace)

Adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism is in direct contravention of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration). Articles 2, 3, 4, 26, and 33 of the UN Declaration in particular uphold Indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and self-governance, freedom from discrimination, and rights to lands, territories, and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied, used or acquired and determine that states shall establish and implement, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process to recognize and adjudicate the rights of indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used.

We urge you to consider your position as elected leaders of a democratic government to uphold the right to public discourse, expression of condemnation and dissent against colonization, oppression and violence without fear of censorship or false accusation of antisemitism, and to stand for the rights of Indigenous peoples.

We look forward to your response.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip President  
Chief Don Tom Vice-president  
Chief Judy Wilson Secretary-Treasurer





# Canada, U.S. & UN Hands off Haiti!

## No New Occupation of Haiti!

"Today, Canadian and U.S. military aircraft arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to transfer vital Haitian government-purchased security equipment, including tactical and armoured vehicles, and supplies to the Director General of the Haitian National Police (HNP)," explained a Global Affairs Canada statement on October 15, 2022.

The next day, Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau tweeted, "This equipment will assist the police in their fight against criminal gangs and help improve security. [...] Our two countries [Canada and the U.S.] remain committed to supporting the Haitian National Police's work of protecting and serving the people of Haiti."

**But what kind of government is Canada sending weapons to? What kind of government is Trudeau propping up in Haiti?**

With the above announcement, the government of Canada is announcing that it is backing and arming Haiti's de-facto Prime Minister, Ariel Henry. Henry took power, without an election, after the assassination of former president, Jovenel Moise in July 2021. Henry has been implicated in the murder of the former president. Henry's rule has been highly contested and protested by Haitians, now Canada is sending him weapons and helping to arm his police force.

Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) role in all of this is still developing. There may be plans to send so-called 'UN peacekeepers.' However, these forces are not welcome in Haiti. A Global News article explains, "Haiti's last cholera outbreak was in 2010 as a result of United Nations peacekeepers introducing the bacteria into the country's largest river by sewage.



Haitian demonstrators carry a coffin covered with American, Canadian & French flags at a protest on Jean-Jacques Dessalines Day in Port-au-Prince, October 17, 2022.

### Statement by Mobilization Against War and Occupation — MAWO

Nearly 10,000 people died and more than 850,000 were sickened." Today, cholera is once again on the rise in Haiti. Foreign intervention is not the solution. In an interview with Global News, Haitian-Canadian activist Jean Saint-Vil said, "Haiti needs reparations, not invasion," from the United Nations.

Foreign military intervention, whether it's the U.S., Canada, or United Nations 'peace-keepers' has always meant further devastation for Haiti. These forces arrive with their own political interests and imperialist motives; they are not going to help poor and working people in Haiti. An important example of this happened in 2004 when the U.S., Canada, France and the United Nations occupied Haiti after the forcible removal of the democratically elected Haitian president, Jean Bertrand Aristide. The occupation force — first U.S.-led and then United Nations-led- suppressed the will of the Haitian people in favour of opening the doors to North American corporate interests and upholding an illegitimate de-facto government.

Imperialist forces hope to repeat this brutal history, but the people of Haiti are resilient and standing up for their right to self-determination. On October 17 protests took place across Haiti,

with thousands demanding the prime minister's resignation and 'no to foreign intervention'. Samuel Jean Venel, a salesman from Haiti who attended the protests, is quoted by the Associated Press saying, "We don't need a foreign force. It's not going to solve anything. [...] As you can see, there is no result. There is more poverty, more insecurity."

Peace-loving people across Canada must call out the Trudeau government for its support and arming of an unelected, illegitimate leader in Haiti. Haitians are demanding their right to self-determination, to decide their own future, and we must stand with them!

**Get involved in Mobilization Against War and Occupation — MAWO as we demand: Canada, U.S. and UN Hands Off Haiti! No New Occupation of Haiti!**

*We also encourage everyone to sign onto the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute letter, "No to Canadian Military Intervention in Haiti" here:*

*h t t p s : / /  
actionnetwork.  
org/letters/  
no-canadian-  
m i l i t a r y -  
intervention-in-  
haiti/*



Mr. President;

Delegates;

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed, as never before, the true essence of the current unjust and unsustainable world order.

Never before has humanity had such a scientific and technological potential or this extraordinary capacity for generating wealth and wellbeing. However, never before had the world been so unequal or the inequality so deep.

A total of 828 million people -10 per cent of the world's population- are starving, while some 50 million boys and girls suffer from emaciation, the deadliest form of malnutrition.

Unemployment shall affect 207 million people by 2022 -21 million more as compared to 2019. In the middle of the fourth industrial revolution, 773 million of human beings cannot read or write.

Around 6.5 million people have died as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccines for combating the infection are inaccessible to 1 billion persons living in low-income countries. In 2021, pharmaceutical transnationals earned 84.588 billion dollars.

The foreign debt has been paid for several times, but is multiplying. Paradoxically, the world's military expenditure grows swiftly and for the first time in history has exceeded the figure of 2 trillion dollars.

There is nothing that can justify the fact that humanity continues to be threatened by the existence of almost 13,000 nuclear weapons. We advocate for the universality of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

How much more could we do if those resources would be destined to promote health and development?

How many COVID-19 deaths could have been avoided?

How many boys and girls would be saved from starvation and preventable or curable diseases?

Mr. President;

Greenhouse gases reached record concentrations in 2021, and we are headed in the same direction in 2022. Average sea levels have risen to a new maximum. The last seven years have been the warmest on record.



# "CUBA WILL CONTINUE TO RAISE ITS VOICE TO REJECT DOMINATION & HEGEMONISM"



For over six decades, we have resisted a ruthless, unilateral, economic, commercial and financial blockade, extremely intensified to unprecedented levels since 2019 and during the pandemic.

Three decades since the first resolution of this Assembly against the blockade, Washington continues to ignore the demands of the international community to put an end to this cruel, illegal policy towards Cuba.

We cannot go on ignoring the warning signs alerting us to the imminent climatic disaster. We have but one Earth, the only home to all. Action is needed now, without more delays.

The "philosophy of war and pillage" and capitalism's irrational patterns of production and consumption, denounced by President Fidel Castro, will lead us to catastrophe.

International relations are treading a highly dangerous path. Washington's offensive aimed at subjugating States by threat and economic and political or diplomatic coercion, so as to subject them to an order based on its capricious rules, combined with the expansion of NATO and the development of an aggressive doctrine and the fifth-generation unconventional warfare, inevitably leads to a climate of tension and conflict, whose outcomes are unpredictable.

Mr. President;

Cuba, a small island developing State, has paid a high price for defending its legitimate right to exist as a sovereign, independent nation.

There are ongoing attempts to cause shortages of materials; scarcities; to sow despair, dissatisfaction and harm the Cuban people.

The US government has put additional pressures on governments, banks and business people worldwide, interested in relations with Cuba. All our sources of revenue and the inflow of foreign currency are being obsessively persecuted with the aim of provoking economic collapse.

As a result, the Cuban economy has come under huge pressures affecting industry; the provision of services; creating shortages of food and medicines and undermining consumption and the general wellbeing of the population.

The human damage to all the Cuban families this policy has generated, impossible to quantify, is stark, real and significant.

The blockade is an act of economic war in times of peace.

The current US administration has continued to enforce the most aggressive pressure measures against our country adopted by



President Trump's administration.

Cuba continues to face the unwarranted inclusion in the arbitrary and unilateral State Department's list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism.

This slanderous designation stigmatizes our institutions and organizations and hugely complicates financial and commercial operations and the arrangements for payments and credits.

Cuba, which has been a victim of State terrorism, does not, nor will ever promote terrorism. On the contrary, we condemn it in all its forms and guises.

The US government willfully manipulates highly sensitive topics such as terrorism, religion, democracy, human rights, justice, corruption and human rights.

Double standards, inconsistency, selectivity and political manipulation are harmful to the human rights cause.

The previous speech delivered by the Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, who did not dare to mention the crime of the blockade against Cuba, is a sad example of this.

We have unequivocally advised the US government that the reasons that incite irregular migration and cause the loss of human lives must be addressed, such as the US non-compliance, since 2017, of its obligation, under the bilateral agreements in force, of granting no less than 20 000 immigrant visas every year; the existence of the Cuban Adjustment Act; the politically motivated privileged treatment; the restrictive pressures on countries of irregular transit; and the tightened economic blockade.

The announcement that the immigrant visa processing will return to the US embassy in Havana is a positive step.

Cuba reiterates its willingness to progress towards a better understanding with the US government, develop civilized relations and even cooperation between our two countries, on the basis of mutual respect and without detriment to our independence and sovereignty, despite the profound differences.

We highlight the valuable commitment as well as the recent expressions from Cubans and Cuban descendants in many parts of the world; as well as the expressions of respect for the sovereign rights of our country and against the ruthless US aggression, particularly the economic blockade.

Likewise, I deeply appreciate the statements made by Heads of State and Government in this General Debate, the historical support of this Assembly and the expressions of solidarity towards Cuba by governments,

celebrities, political organizations and solidarity, social and popular movements the world over.

Today, such solidarity and support continue to be indispensable.

Mr. President;

Despite the enormous challenges, the Cuban people and government have not faltered in their commitment to progress in the building of a more just, democratic, prosperous and sustainable socialist society.

We defeated COVID-19 with our own vaccines and the soundness of our public health and scientific system. We were able to modestly cooperate with 42 countries and territories by sending out 58 medical brigades during the worst moments of the pandemic.

We are working to recover the economic and social life of the country; support the transformation of our communities and preserve and expand social programs.

We continue to improve our legal system to ensure full enjoyment of human rights by all Cubans of both sexes; and enrich the system of social justice that has been enjoyed by several generations.

On September 25, following an extensive process of popular consultation and participation, we will be holding a referendum on an innovative and inclusive Family Code. This will be an exercise of genuine and direct democracy and effective power of the Cuban people.

Mr. President;

The "unity amidst diversity" proposed by the then President Raúl Castro Ruz among the countries of the South is possible. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is going from strength to strength and creates the conditions so that our region moves towards higher forms of integration and cooperation, based on the postulates of the Proclamation of Latin America & the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace.

We appreciate the principled stance taken by various countries of our region in relation to the arbitrary exclusion from hemispheric forums.

We renew our support for and solidarity with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its constitutional president, Nicolás Maduro Moros, and the civic and military



**A girl getting the Cuban made Soberana-02 vaccine for COVID-19 in Havana, Cuba. Aug. 24, 2021.**

unity of its people, in view of the attempts to destabilize and subvert the internal order of this sister nation. We oppose the application of unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela.

We condemn the imperialist attempts to destabilize Nicaragua's Government of Reconciliation and National Unity. We reaffirm our solid support for the brother people of Nicaragua and its president, Daniel Ortega.

We confirm our solidarity with the sister nations of the Caribbean and support their legitimate claim for reparations for the damaging effects of colonialism and slavery. They need and deserve fair, special and differentiated treatment.

We reiterate our historical commitment to free determination and independence of the people of Puerto Rico.

Haiti needs a special contribution from the international community, for the country's reconstruction and development. Humanity has a debt with that foundational Republic.

We support the legitimate claim by President Alberto Fernández and his people for the Argentinean Republic's sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding territorial waters.

We convey our full solidarity to the Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who is a victim of an unfair and unfounded harassment by the legal authorities and the media and was recently the target of a despicable assassination attempt.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment

*Continued on page 31*

a long history of aggression by the United States that seriously endangered Cuban national security.

The John F. Kennedy administration did not change its policy toward Cuba. During his campaign he had already demanded the support of Cuban mercenaries to carry out the invasion plans that he had inherited from Eisenhower. That is why it was not difficult for the CIA to convince Kennedy that the Bay of Pigs invasion was necessary.

The year 1961 began with a deterioration of consular relations between the two countries. On January 3, the US government broke off relations with Cuba, thus fulfilling a manifest aspiration of President Eisenhower.

When John F. Kennedy assumed the presidency on January 20, 1961, he maintained his aggressive policy towards the island. In his first press conference, he reported that he had no plans to re-establish relations with Cuba. On March 31, he did eliminate the quota of Cuban sugar in the North American market for the rest of the year 1961.

The days of Playa Girón arrived, preceded by sabotage of civilian economic targets and the bombing of Cuban airports on April 15, the latter with the aim of destroying the incipient air force of the Rebel Army.

The projected plan for the invasion was very clear to those who formulated it: take a beachhead, hold on to it and implant a puppet government that they had prepared in Florida. They would then request recognition from the United States and its allies in the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as asking for help from the US military.

Playa Girón was not only a defeat for the Empire, but also for the Kennedy brothers on an intimate personal level, which is why Cuba has since acquired a special connotation for the administration, particularly for the President, who from then on swore revenge for the humiliation suffered.

The Bay of Pigs disaster explains why Kennedy's decision to invade Cuba, but now with the US Army, which led to the created environment that provides the conditions for the beginning of the October Crisis.

Only ten days after the end of the Bay of Pigs invasion, the President, his General Staff and the CIA review a contingency plan for the deployment of US troops in Cuba and calculated that to obtain complete control of the island in eight days they would need 60 thousand soldiers.

The invasion of Cuba would take place in the final days of October 1962 and for this Kennedy met with a group of Cuban exiles,

On October 5, 1962, Memorandum 100 of National Security Action was presented, entitled "Emergency Plan for Cuba", through which the Department of State was directed, "... to assess the potential avenues of action open to the United States if Castro should be removed from the Cuban scene, and prepare an emerging plan with the Department of Defense for military intervention, if necessary".

With the criminal sabotage of the La Coubre steamer on March 4, 1960, the CIA had already given more than enough evidence of how far it was willing to go in order to prevent Cuba from acquiring defensive capacity.

Along with the preparations for the invasion, the Kennedy administration unleashed a campaign of harassment against Cuba, both in the OAS and with the support of some Latin American governments.

The issues of preparation for military aggression continued, and even before the October Crisis, the Mongoose Plan was already operating with relative independence, led at the highest level of the administration by Robert Kennedy, all based on a sole and supreme objective, to

overthrow the Revolutionary Government using all necessary means.

The creation, organization, financing and direction of the bands of mercenaries infiltrated in Cuba to create terror among the civilian population, reactivated after Playa Girón, had as its main political objective to make world public opinion believe, in particular in the hemisphere, that in Cuba there was a civil war between supporters of the government and an organized opposition, all with the purpose of giving legitimacy to the internal armed counterrevolution.

As in the moments preceding the Bay of Pigs invasion, Cuba developed a campaign of denunciation in Latin America and in the United Nations, where the actions against the Island, by the Kennedy administration, had the precise objective of presenting it as a pariah of the international



Members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament march against U.S. threats against Cuba during the missile crisis, in London, England on October 28, 1962.

headed by José Miró Cardona, president of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, the same one that they had planned as President for Cuba if the Bay of Pigs invasion would have succeeded.

Unlike what had happened with the mercenary invasion at Playa Girón, the Pentagon came to the fore in relation to the plans against Cuba.

While the preparations for an invasion of Cuba continued, the Island also continued to enhance its relations with the socialist countries, especially with the USSR, which had long been a permanent concern of the United States.

In September 1962, a second agreement was signed with the Soviet Union through which Cuba received a supply of conventional weapons for an amount of 149 million 500 thousand dollars.



relations and as a nation incompatible with the rules of coexistence within the hemisphere imposed by the United States.

These are the fundamental reasons that allow us to understand why the crisis did not begin with the installation of the rockets in Cuba, but much earlier.

The October Crisis did not last thirteen days either. It lasted from October 14-16, when Kennedy was officially and verified aware of the existence of nuclear rockets in Cuba, until November 30, when the positions regarding the final agreements of the crisis were set.

To concentrate the crisis in the thirteen days has been to understand it only from the perspective of the time that the missiles remained in Cuba. Another way of saying that it was the presence of the missiles in Cuba that determined the crisis.

The crisis also had several beginnings. For Cuba, it began since Eisenhower started his campaign of hostility against the Island. For the United States administration, since it had verified knowledge of the existence of the rockets in Cuba. While for the world and the people of the United States and the USSR, it began when President Kennedy made his address to the nation on October 22, proposing the first response measures.

The measures announced by President Kennedy were the ones that really endangered world peace, due to their warlike and highly aggressive nature. Kennedy did not commit himself to anything formally, or to anything that he could not advantageously commit to.

Everything remained in words and dead letters. Only the withdrawal of the Jupiter

rockets from Turkey was achieved, although replacing them then with the Polaris mounted on the submarines. The promise not to invade Cuba was even more relative, since the United States continued to harass it, invading it on a small scale and continually subjecting it to all kinds of aggressions, which have forced the island to bear the cost of national security, always endangered.

In reality, the United States, during these more than 60 years, has not invaded Cuba on a large scale, not because it cares about the 1962 agreement, but because the political and even military cost that it would have would be practically unpayable. Also, because as never before, there are today many reasonable people, institutions and politicians in the United States, who would strongly oppose a madness like that.

Only the brave and intransigent position of the Cuban Directorate, of not allowing itself to be inspected, demanding respect, taking action against low flights and preventing at all costs from being coerced, together with the brave and determined attitude of the people, was what saved the prestige of the Revolution in the face of such events.

The United States could not impose its conditions on Cuba, at least as far as its will depended, and such a show of ethical-political strength cannot be forgotten.

Khrushchev's actions affected his personal prestige and that of the USSR in Cuba, as well as before the rest of the world. It also seriously affected relations between the two countries, which had a particularly critical moment when Commander

in Chief Fidel Castro, during his visit to Moscow between April and May 1963, discovered that Khrushchev had negotiated with Kennedy, behind the backs of the Cuban leadership, exchange Cuban rockets for those of Turkey.

Cuba offered examples of strength and self-determination by confronting the downing of the US U-2 spy plane, not allowing overflights within range of its anti-aircraft batteries, not allowing itself to be inspected, raising its demands through the famous five points of sovereignty and denouncing in the United Nations the aggressive and manipulative nature of US policy.

An experience derived from the crisis is that the continued and even increased hostility of the United States against Cuba and the actions of that power, aimed at trying to impose a political-social regime of its liking, are phenomena that keep tense relations between the two countries.

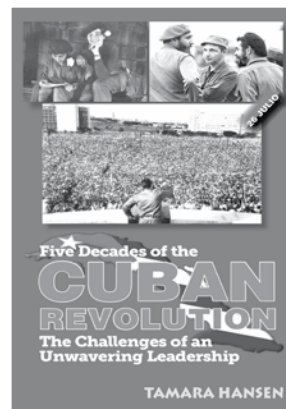
In light of the most recent manifestations of the aggressive arrogance of the United States and its willingness, even to the preventive use of nuclear weapons, the experience of the October Crisis can serve the world today as an invaluable wake-up call.



Fidel Castro jumping from a tank during Bay of Pigs Invasion, April 17, 1961.

## *Battle of Ideas Press*

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



By Tamara Hansen

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

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su campaña ya había exigido el apoyo de mercenarios cubanos para llevar a cabo los planes de invasión que había heredado de Eisenhower. Por eso no fue difícil para la CIA convencer a Kennedy de que la invasión de Bahía de Cochinos era necesaria.

El año 1961 comenzó con un deterioro de las relaciones consulares entre ambos países. El 3 de enero, el gobierno estadounidense rompió las relaciones con Cuba, cumpliendo así una aspiración manifiesta del presidente Eisenhower.

Cuando John F. Kennedy asumió la presidencia el 20 de enero de 1961, mantuvo su política agresiva hacia la isla. En su primera conferencia de prensa, informó que no tenía planes de restablecer las relaciones con Cuba. El 31 de marzo, eliminó la cuota de azúcar cubana en el mercado norteamericano para el resto del año 1961.

Llegaron los días de Playa Girón, precedidos por el sabotaje de objetivos económicos civiles y el bombardeo de los aeropuertos cubanos el 15 de abril, este último con el objetivo de destruir la incipiente fuerza aérea del Ejército Rebelde.

El plan previsto para la invasión estaba muy claro para quienes lo formularon: tomar una cabeza de playa, mantenerla e implantar un gobierno títere que habían preparado en Florida. Luego solicitarían el reconocimiento de Estados Unidos y de sus aliados en la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), además de



**El artículo se basa en un discurso pronunciado por el Embajador de Cuba en Canadá, Héctor Igarza Cabrera, en un webinar del 17 de octubre de 2022.**

pedir ayuda al ejército estadounidense.

Playa Girón no sólo fue una derrota para el Imperio, sino también para los hermanos Kennedy en un plano personal íntimo, por lo que Cuba ha adquirido desde entonces una connotación especial para la administración, en particular para el presidente, que desde entonces juró vengarse de la humillación sufrida.

El desastre de Bahía de Cochinos explica el porqué de la decisión de Kennedy de invadir Cuba, pero ahora con el ejército estadounidense, lo que llevó a crear el ambiente que proporciona las condiciones para el inicio de la Crisis de Octubre.

Sólo diez días después del final de la invasión de Bahía de Cochinos, el presidente, su Estado Mayor y la CIA revisan un plan de contingencia para el despliegue de tropas estadounidenses en Cuba y calculan que para obtener el control total de la isla en ocho días necesitarían 60 mil soldados.

La invasión de

Cuba se produciría en los últimos días de octubre de 1962 y para ello Kennedy se reunió con un grupo de exiliados cubanos, encabezados por José Miró Cardona, presidente del Consejo Revolucionario Cubano, el mismo que tenían previsto como presidente para Cuba si la invasión de Bahía de Cochinos hubiera tenido éxito.

A diferencia de lo que había ocurrido con la invasión mercenaria de Playa Girón, el Pentágono pasó a primer plano en relación con los planes contra Cuba.

Mientras proseguían los preparativos para una invasión de Cuba, la isla también seguía potenciando sus relaciones con los países socialistas, especialmente con la URSS, que desde hacía tiempo era una preocupación permanente de Estados Unidos.

En septiembre de 1962 se firmó un segundo acuerdo con la Unión Soviética por el que Cuba recibió un suministro de armas convencionales por un importe de 149 millones 500 mil dólares.

El 5 de octubre de 1962, se presentó el Memorando 100 de Acción de Seguridad Nacional, titulado "Plan de Emergencia para Cuba", mediante el cual se ordenó al Departamento de Estado, "... evaluar las posibles vías de acción abiertas a los Estados Unidos si Castro fuera retirado de la escena cubana, y preparar un plan emergente con el Departamento de Defensa para la intervención militar, si fuera necesario".

Con el criminal sabotaje del vapor La Coubre el 4 de marzo de 1960, la CIA ya había dado pruebas más que suficientes de hasta dónde estaba dispuesta a llegar para impedir que Cuba adquiriera capacidad defensiva.

Junto con los preparativos de la invasión, la administración Kennedy desató una campaña de acoso contra Cuba, tanto en la OEA como con el apoyo de algunos gobiernos latinoamericanos.

Los temas de preparación para la agresión militar continuaron, e incluso antes de la Crisis de Octubre, el Plan Mangosta ya estaba operando con relativa independencia, dirigido al más alto nivel de la administración por Robert Kennedy, todo ello basado en un único y supremo objetivo, derrocar al Gobierno Revolucionario utilizando todos los medios necesarios.

La creación, organización, financiación y dirección de las bandas de mercenarios infiltradas en Cuba para crear terror entre



**Como Primer Ministro de Cuba, Comandante Fidel Castro, pronunciando un discurso por radio y televisión el 22 de octubre de 1962.**





**Cubanos celebran después de la victoria en Playa Girón.**

la población civil, reactivadas después de Playa Girón, tenían como principal objetivo político hacer creer a la opinión pública mundial, en particular hemisférica, que en Cuba existía una guerra civil entre partidarios del gobierno y una oposición organizada, todo ello con el fin de dar legitimidad a la contrarrevolución armada interna.

Al igual que en los momentos previos a la invasión de Bahía de Cochinos, Cuba desarrolló una campaña de denuncia en América Latina y en las Naciones Unidas, donde las acciones contra la Isla, por parte de la administración Kennedy, tenían el objetivo preciso de presentarla como un paria de las relaciones internacionales y como una nación incompatible con las normas de convivencia dentro del hemisferio impuestas por Estados Unidos.

Estas son las razones fundamentales que permiten comprender por qué la crisis no comenzó con la instalación de los cohetes en Cuba, sino mucho antes.

La Crisis de Octubre tampoco duró trece días. Duró desde el 14 al 16 de octubre, cuando Kennedy tuvo conocimiento oficial y verificado de la existencia de cohetes nucleares en Cuba, hasta el 30 de noviembre, cuando se fijaron las posiciones respecto a los acuerdos finales de la crisis.

Concentrar la crisis en los trece días ha sido entenderla sólo desde la perspectiva del tiempo que los misiles permanecieron en Cuba. Otra forma de decir que fue la presencia de los misiles en Cuba lo que determinó la crisis.

La crisis también tuvo varios inicios. Para

Cuba, comenzó desde que Eisenhower inició su campaña de hostilidad contra la Isla. Para la administración de Estados Unidos, desde que tuvo conocimiento comprobado de la existencia de los cohetes en Cuba. Mientras que para el mundo y los pueblos de Estados Unidos y la URSS, comenzó cuando el presidente Kennedy pronunció su discurso a la nación el 22 de octubre, proponiendo las primeras medidas de respuesta.

Las medidas anunciadas por el presidente Kennedy fueron las que realmente pusieron en peligro la paz mundial, debido a su naturaleza bélica y altamente agresiva. Kennedy no se comprometió a nada formalmente, o a algo que no pudiera comprometerse ventajosamente.

Todo quedó en palabras y letra muerta. Sólo se consiguió la retirada de los cohetes Júpiter de Turquía, aunque sustituyéndolos entonces por los Polaris montados en los submarinos. La promesa de no invadir Cuba fue aún más relativa, pues Estados Unidos continuó hostigándola, invadiéndola a pequeña escala y sometiendo continuamente a todo tipo de agresiones, que han obligado a la isla a soportar el costo de la seguridad nacional, siempre en peligro.

En realidad, Estados Unidos, durante estos más de 60 años, no ha invadido Cuba a gran escala, no porque le importe el acuerdo de 1962, sino porque el costo político y hasta militar que tendría sería prácticamente impagable. También, porque como nunca antes, hay hoy muchas personas, instituciones y políticos razonables en Estados Unidos, que se

opondrían firmemente a una locura como esa.

Sólo la valiente e intransigente posición del Directorio cubano, de no dejarse inspeccionar, exigir respeto, actuar contra los vuelos rasantes e impedir a toda costa que se le coaccionara, junto a la valiente y decidida actitud del pueblo, fue lo que salvó el prestigio de la Revolución ante tales hechos.

Estados Unidos no pudo imponer sus condiciones a Cuba, al menos en lo que respecta a su voluntad, y tal muestra de fuerza ético-política no puede ser olvidada.

La actuación de Jrushchov afectó a su prestigio personal y al de la URSS en Cuba, así como ante el resto del mundo. También afectó seriamente las relaciones entre ambos países, que tuvieron un momento especialmente crítico cuando el Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro, durante su visita a Moscú entre abril y mayo de 1963, descubrió que Jrushchov había negociado con Kennedy, a espaldas de los dirigentes cubanos, el intercambio de cohetes cubanos por los de Turquía.

Cuba ofreció ejemplos de fuerza y autodeterminación al enfrentarse al derribo del avión espía U-2 de Estados Unidos, no permitir sobrevuelos dentro del alcance de sus baterías antiaéreas, no dejarse inspeccionar, plantear sus demandas a través de los famosos cinco puntos de soberanía y denunciar en Naciones Unidas el carácter agresivo y manipulador de la política estadounidense.

Una experiencia derivada de la crisis es que la continua e incluso creciente hostilidad de Estados Unidos contra Cuba y las acciones de esa potencia, encaminadas a tratar de imponer un régimen político-social de su agrado, son fenómenos que mantienen tensas las relaciones entre ambos países.

A la luz de las más recientes manifestaciones de la agresiva arrogancia de Estados Unidos y su disposición, incluso al uso preventivo de armas nucleares, la experiencia de la Crisis de Octubre puede servir al mundo de hoy como una inestimable llamada de atención.



# Solidarity with Cuba is a Working Class Cause!

*By Janine Solanki*

Cuba today is not only under the immense strain of over 60 years of a U.S. blockade, itself layer upon layer of cruel laws and sanctions designed to make everyday life difficult for the Cuban people. Cuba is also still living under the destructive legacy that former U.S. president Trump unleashed on Cuba, and which current U.S. President Biden is continuing. This includes the 243 new measures that Trump imposed, making the blockade the tightest it's ever been.

As the last blow in the final days of the Trump administration, Cuba was added to the infamous U.S. State Department "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list. Besides this list being the epitome of hypocrisy, as the U.S. government itself is the most destructive terrorist state in the world, being on this list further reinforces the U.S. blockade. The "state sponsors of terrorism" list reinforces the

extraterritorial nature of the U.S. blockade on Cuba, with the U.S. government fining major foreign banks and non-U.S. corporations for doing business with Cuba. This means Cuba is not only facing a U.S. blockade, but is met with restrictions in making international financial transactions, trading on the world market and importing food, fuel, medicines and other essential goods.

In Vancouver, activists with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB-Vancouver) have been organizing locally, nationally and internationally to defend Cuba against the U.S. blockade and to act in solidarity with Cuba.

## Festive Cuba!

Summertime saw Cuba represented at festival season across the Vancouver region, and Cuba solidarity activists were out for the final days of the season to talk about Cuba with festival-goers! On September 3, the annual Vancouver Corn Festival was held in East Vancouver, organized by the El Salvadorian community to celebrate Latin American culture through music, dance and food! Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) had a table at the event with books and newsletters about Cuba, a petition against the U.S. blockade on Cuba, and information about how to get involved in the Cuba solidarity movement.

On September 10, the annual Car Free Festival

was held on Commercial Drive in East Vancouver, and on September 18, the festival also took over Vancouver's Main Street. This massive street festival sees thousands of people come out, many of whom stopped to pick up information at the VCSC and FCAB-Vancouver table, to talk with organizers and, in the case of kids, to take part in a drawing activity with pictures of Fidel and Che!

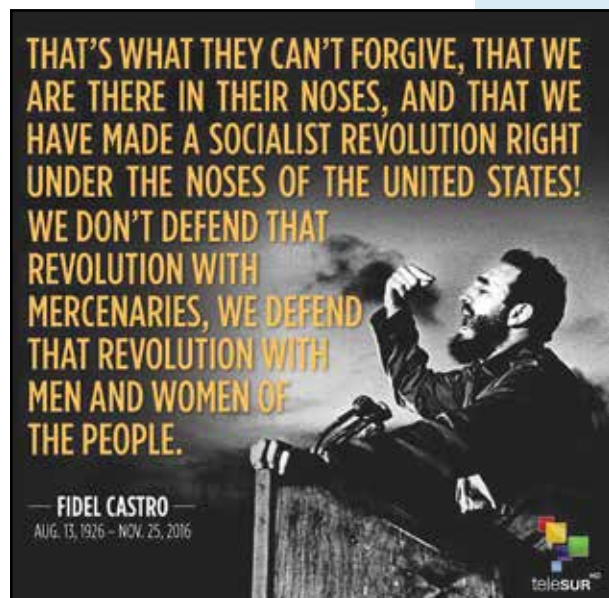
On September 1, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) joined the 21st Vancouver Latin American Film Festival to sponsor the Cuban film "Omara", a documentary about Afro-Cuban music icon Omara Portuondo. As part of VCSC's sponsorship, VCSC ran a social media contest to give away free tickets to this excellent film!



**Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba tabling at Car Free Day Festival.**

## Monthly Virtual Pickets demand Lift the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!

Each month, the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) holds a virtual picket action against the U.S. blockade of Cuba, bringing together CNC member groups across Canada, solidarity activists from Quebec and Cuba supporters around the world. The September 17 virtual action countered Cuban democracy to U.S. oppression, with guest speaker Deborah Santana from the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico. Deborah spoke about a recent campaign of harassment towards Cuba solidarity activists in Puerto Rico by the U.S. government and FBI. CNC member





group Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba published a statement in solidarity with the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico, which can be read at [https://medium.com/@VanCuba\\_VCSC/vancouver-communities-in-solidarity-with-cuba-vcsc-stands-in-solidarity-with-the-cuba-solidarity-2f3db32c8fa1](https://medium.com/@VanCuba_VCSC/vancouver-communities-in-solidarity-with-cuba-vcsc-stands-in-solidarity-with-the-cuba-solidarity-2f3db32c8fa1)

The next monthly virtual picket on October 17 focused on "Lessons of October '62" referencing the 60 year anniversary of the October Crisis (Cuban Missile Crisis). One of the featured speakers was His Excellency Héctor Igarza Cabrera, Cuban Ambassador to Canada, and his speech from this event is printed in this issue of Fire This Time, page 6 for the English version and page 7 for the Spanish one.

These virtual pickets also give time to CNC member groups to share greetings, and at these two actions Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Azza Rojbi, coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver, both spoke to share greetings and report on Cuba solidarity actions from Vancouver.

### **Car Caravans Continue to Protest U.S. Blockade on Cuba!**

The Car Caravans Against the U.S. Blockade on Cuba began in 2020 in Miami, Florida headed by Carlos Lazo, a Cuban-American, and the Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) organization. This creative initiative was started during the first year of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic where traditional forms of protest became difficult and unsafe.

Car Caravans against the U.S. blockade on Cuba have since taken off around the world, including in Vancouver, where FCAB-Vancouver and VCSC organize the monthly action in coordination with the Miami and worldwide car caravan. On September 25, the Vancouver Car Caravan enjoyed the final days of summer, driving through Vancouver's sunny streets and catching the attention of pedestrians and drivers alike! The October 30 Vancouver Car Caravan featured more Vancouver typical rainy weather, but Cuba supporters were ready to take to the streets rain or shine and still attracted thumbs-ups and honks of support while driving through

Vancouver!

### **Join in solidarity with Cuba!**

One of the ways the blockade hits hardest is in the face of disaster when urgently needed extra resources, and reconstruction supplies are in short supply due to the U.S. blockade. Hurricane Ian left a path of destruction through Cuba in late September, especially affecting Cuba's electrical grid. The Canadian Network on Cuba launched a Hurricane Relief Campaign to assist Cuba in its reconstruction, and locally in Vancouver, VCSC and FCAB-Vancouver have been fundraising towards these efforts. If you would like to donate, please visit [www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/](http://www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/).

Another way to support Cuba is with the 1 Cent for Cuba Campaign! Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba is supporting this important campaign, which is an initiative from Rock Around the Blockade (Britain),

Cuba Support Group Ireland and Cubanismo (Belgium) to challenge British and European banks which have been holding or rejecting transactions related to Cuba. Learn more about how to participate at [www.1c4cuba.eu](http://www.1c4cuba.eu).

There are many events in the Vancouver area and beyond, as well as online! Check out the next event at [www.vancubasolidarity.com](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com) or follow Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba on Facebook @vancubasolidarity and Twitter and Instagram @VanCuba\_VCSC .

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*

### **Vancouver car caravans against the U.S. blockade.**



to express their religious or cultural beliefs through wearing the hijab, which is justified through racism and Islamophobia.

Islamophobia is a divisive state policy and has a particular purpose, in which imperialist governments paint the narrative that Muslim people are terrorists and dangerous, are "others" to be feared and suspected. In this way, imperialist ruling classes put Muslims and non-Muslims against each other. Islamophobia is a powerful tool used by the governments of the U.S., Canada and their imperialist allies to justify their wars abroad and the devastating so-called war on terror, itself a war OF terror against Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East and North Africa.

Muslim women who chose to cover their hair or face with a hijab, headscarf, niqab or burka are a particular target of Islamophobia, as they are visibly Muslim. In recent years racist laws in some European countries, as well as in Quebec, and Canada, are targeting Muslim women and their choice to wear a head covering.

In Quebec, Bill 21 was enacted in 2019, which bans people working as teachers, lawyers, police officers, and more from wearing religious symbols such as crosses, hijabs, turbans and yarmulkes. This bill also resurrects Bill 62, which was enacted in 2017 and suspended in 2018, which singles out those wearing non-medical face coverings, directly targeting women who wear the niqab.

As outlined by the Women's Legal Education & Action Fund (LEAF), Bill 62 "denies niqab-wearing women access to employment in the public service, an area of the workforce in which they may be most likely to find employment. They will also be denied state services. Again, this explicitly and directly targets women, who we know experience higher rates of poverty and are, therefore, more likely to utilize public services such as public transportation and social services. Finally, women are particularly impacted by the requirement that an individual must show their face in order to access daycare. Women continue to be the primary caregivers in many families, and therefore have a disproportionate need for childcare services. Feminists have long pointed out the relationship between women's equality, access to the workforce, and access to childcare."

Besides other faith groups who fall under discrimination from Bill 21, this draconian law particularly targets Muslim women. So far in Quebec, Muslim women who wear the hijab are the only people who have lost jobs or been denied employment due to Bill 21.

A woman choosing to wear a hijab or any type of head or face covering doesn't keep her from exercising her rights, moving freely in society, holding a job, or speaking her mind. What

does restrict all these things is Islamophobia, discrimination, racism, sexism and state control over women's bodies - everything that Bill 21 is.

Bill 21, and with it increased Islamophobia, is also a danger to the physical safety of Muslim women. 66% of Muslim women in Quebec reported yes when asked if they have been a victim and/or a witness of a hate incident or a hate crime, as per a study by the Association for Canadian Studies on the impact of Bill 21. The report documented widespread accounts of Muslim women being told to remove their headscarf in public or having it forcibly torn off, being spat on, being subjected to racial slurs, and facing death threats and physical attacks.

Even before Bill 21 and Bill 62, the climate of Islamophobia has been a danger and restriction to Muslim women. In 2015 a Montreal judge didn't allow Rania



El-Alloul, a single mother wearing a hijab, to speak in court. In 2014 a Moroccan woman visiting her son in Montreal was held by police at gunpoint, without being read her rights or told why detained. In the presence of male police officers and onlookers, police removed her abaya (robe worn over clothing) and headscarf and exposed her bare stomach and bra.

Islamophobic attacks, especially against Muslim women, extend across Canada too. In a horrific attack in London, Ontario, on June 6, 2021, a driver intentionally drove into a Muslim family on a sidewalk, killing a mother and grandmother, father and 15-year-old daughter, and sending the 9-year-old son to the hospital. In Calgary, police have seen a 44% jump in reports of hate-motivated incidents in 2021, including an incident where two Muslim teenage girls had racist slurs hurled against them, and one was punched, kicked and had her hijab torn off by the attacker. In Vancouver in the spring of 2020, a 17-year-old boarded a bus and was verbally and physically attacked by another passenger, who punched the teen in the head and pulled off her headscarf.

While Canada likes to portray a vision of tolerance and multiculturalism on the world stage, the truth is that Islamophobia is running rampant. A 2021 report from the National

## OUR HERITAGE



### AUDRE LORDE

(1934-1992)

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

"Raising Black children -female and male- in mouth of a racist, sexist, suicidal dragon is perilous and chancy. If they cannot love and resist at the same time, they will probably not survive. And in order to survive they must let go. This is what mothers teach -love, survival- that is, self-definition and letting go. For each of these, the ability to feel strongly and to recognize those feelings is central: how to feel love, how to neither discount fear nor be overwhelmed by it, how to enjoy feeling deeply.

I wish to raise a Black man who will not be destroyed by. nor settle for, those corruptions called power by the white fathers who mean his destruction as surely as they mean mine. I wish to raise a Black man who will recognize that the legitimate objects of his hostility are not women, but the particulars of a structure that programs him to fear and despise women as well as his own Black self.

For me, this task begins with teaching my son that I do not exist to do his feeling for him.

Men who are afraid to feel must keep women around to do their feeling for them while dismissing us for the same supposedly "inferior" capacity to feel deeply. But in this way also, men deny themselves their own essential humanity, becoming trapped in dependency and fear."

*Excerpt from Audre Lorde's "Man Child: A Black Lesbian Feminists' Response" in Sister Outsider (Penguin Random House, 1984).*



Council of Canadian Muslims found that in the past five years, more Muslims have been killed in targeted hate attacks in Canada than in any other G7 country.

Since it was enacted in 2019, Bill 21 has been fought in the courts by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), the National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) and Ichrak Nourel Hak, a Muslim woman and teacher in Montreal, who is restricted in pursuing her profession due to Bill 21. Most recently, on November 16, 2022, the final day of hearings against Bill 21 wrapped up at the Court of Appeals of Quebec. It could be several months before the panel of judges decides whether to uphold or strike down all or part of Bill 21. Depending on the results, a further appeal could go to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Muslim women in Quebec are being unjustly discriminated against and denied their livelihoods and access to essential services and public spaces, due to a law that dictates what they can wear. This boils down to women's right to control their own bodies – a right that extends from what to wear to whether or not to have a child. The ruling class of the U.S. and Canada have no right to police women's bodies. The struggle against these discriminatory and dangerous laws targeting women are made stronger as all women, trans, non-binary people and allies come together and defend the right to bodily autonomy!

### **Build an Inclusive Movement for the Right to Choice!**

There are many 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, Islamophobia, 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.

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 struggle is not just 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, the deeply harmful ideology and values that capitalist patriarchy forces on humanity not only debase and demean women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, but they also debase and demean all people.

Throughout history, the rights of women and 2SLGBTQIA+ people have been won with unity and struggle. After a terrible step backward for women's rights with the repeal of Roe v. Wade in the United States, it is now clearer than ever before that what is needed is a strong women's movement. We must build the women's rights and pro-choice movement as a united front inclusive of Indigenous women, Muslim women and women of all faiths, and all oppressed women to build a strong and effective women's rights movement.

There have been many victories for women, trans and non-binary people for reproductive rights in the past few years. Through mass mobilization on the streets, the anti-abortion legislation was reversed in Argentina and Ireland. In 2022, women in Poland have led rallies of hundreds of thousands of people against a near-total ban on abortion. The law eventually passed, but women in Poland continue to mobilize.

The right to bodily autonomy and reproductive choice are fundamental human rights, and essential to the struggle for all women's equality and liberation. This is not only a women's struggle, but a struggle for all humanity, and it will take the unity of all poor, working, and oppressed people to win!

*Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette  
Follow Janine on Twitter: @JanineSolanki*

*Continued from page 9*

that Canada is planning to produce more oil and gas in 2050 than they do today. People are eager to learn more and understand the devastating floods in Pakistan and the droughts in British Columbia are directly related to our warming planet.

Now is not the time for despair. Yes, we are facing a climate and ecological crisis that threatens the future of humanity on this planet. Yes, people in developing countries around the world are already confronted with some of the most horrible impacts of extreme weather events and rising oceans.

But the cause of this devastation is not a mystery. The capitalist system, which puts the interests of profit above all else and is fueled by the never ending exploitation of people and the planet, is responsible for the climate catastrophe. This is why we must join together to fight for system change, not climate change, to stop the climate and ecological crisis.

The government of Canada will continue lining the pockets of their billionaire bosses in the oil and gas industry until we build a movement for climate justice and Indigenous rights that is capable of stopping them. We must work together to build a better, just, sustainable world that we know is possible.

Climate Convergence meets twice a month on Zoom, and people interested in joining the struggle for climate justice are encouraged to join. Information about how to join meetings and upcoming actions and events can be found at [www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca), on Instagram @climateconvergence or Facebook/Twitter @climate604.

Climate Convergence demands money for housing, healthcare, education, and social justice! Not pipelines!

People and Planet Before Profit and Pipelines!  
No TMX and CGL Pipelines!  
System Change, Not Climate Change!

*Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette*



## **Cuba is Not a Sponsor of Terror!**

**Sign the petition to the White House calling for Cuba to be removed from the the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.**

**Visit: [www.codepink.org/cuba-no-terror](http://www.codepink.org/cuba-no-terror)  
or Scan the QR code**



# #FundPeaceNotWar

## Statement by the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network

Across Canada, the U.S. and around the world, peace activists will be on the streets from October 15th to 23th, demanding an end to imperialist wars, occupations, sanctions and military interventions. This call to action was initiated by the United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) in the U.S. and has been taken up by the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network, a coalition of 45 peace groups across Canada.

### No to imperialist wars

For over 30 years, we have witnessed the acceleration of brutal imperial wars

become war zones, refugees are subjected to harrowing and dangerous journeys and met with racism and discrimination in the very countries responsible for the destruction of the refugees' original homes.

From October 15th-23rd, activists will be saying **NO** to imperialist wars, occupations, economic sanctions, and military interventions, and **YES** to self-determination!

### Stop arming Saudi Arabia

Today, the United Nations deems Yemen

From October 15 to 23rd, activists will be calling for an end to the Saudi-led war on Yemen and demanding that Canada Stop Arming Saudi Arabia!

### Fund human needs, not destruction

While Canada is gaining ill-repute as an arms dealer to the world's most despicable war-mongering governments, the Trudeau Government is also bolstering its own arsenal. Since 2014, Canadian military spending has increased by 70%. Last year, the Canadian government spent \$33 billion on the military, which is 15 times more than it spent on environment and climate change. Defence Minister Anand announced military spending will increase by another 70% over the next five years on big-ticket items such as F-35 fighter jets, (lifetime cost: \$77 billion), warships (lifetime cost: \$350 billion), and armed drones (lifetime cost: \$5 billion).

From October 15 to 23rd, activists will be demanding **NO** new fighter jets, warships, or drones! We need billions for housing, health care, jobs and climate, **NOT** for war profiteering!

### Canada out of NATO

The Canada-wide Peace and Justice Network opposes the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a U.S.- led military alliance of 30 countries, which undermines global peace and human security and is responsible for the deadly and destructive interventions in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Libya. For years, NATO has

been provoking conflict with Russia. NATO's expansion to Russia's border and its training and arming of Ukrainian security forces have contributed to growing tensions in the region. NATO's demand that allies buy new interoperable weapons is leading to a costly arms race. Carbon-intensive weapons systems like



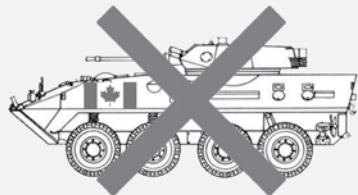
by the U.S. and their allies, including Canada, against the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Haiti, and other countries. These wars have killed millions, turned tens of millions into refugees, laid waste to infrastructure, impoverished citizens through sanctions, and overthrown governments. With the full support of the governments of the U.S. and Canada, the Zionist Israeli regime has continued to occupy Palestine, brutally kill and imprison Palestinian people, including children and journalists, demolish Palestinian homes and routinely bomb Gaza.

When fleeing homelands that have

the world's worst humanitarian crisis, after seven years of Saudi-led, U.S.-backed and Canadian-armed war. This war has killed over a quarter of a million people, and has displaced an additional four million people. The Saudi-led coalition has bombed Yemeni markets, hospitals, and civilians, and yet Canada has exported over \$8 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia since 2015, the year the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen began. The Trudeau Government continues to profit from its controversial \$15 billion arms deal for armoured vehicles-killing machines which have been used against people in Yemen and in Saudi Arabia.



# CANADA STOP ARMING SAUDI ARABIA!



#YemenCantWait

## Canada, US and UN Hands off Haiti!

Canadian and U.S. warplanes have landed in Haiti in the midst of widespread protests for access to food, fuel, and basic necessities and against the country's imperialist-backed government. Imperialists are planning to occupy Haiti under the auspice of the United Nations. The U.S. has drafted a United Nations Security Council resolution for the "deployment of a rapid action force to Haiti immediately". This is a very dangerous move by Canada, the U.S., and their allies and will have devastating results for the people of Haiti. As anti-war and peace activists in Canada, we must strongly stand against military intervention in Haiti.

fighter jets, tanks, drones, and warships are exacerbating the climate crisis. Canada is complicit in U.S. wars and is pursuing an imperialist agenda.

From October 15 to 23rd, activists will be demanding that Canada adopt an independent foreign policy free of all military alliances, including NATO.

## Stop Provoking China

NATO's provocative war exercises and extension into the Asia-Pacific region are raising tensions with China and destabilizing the region. As if that weren't bad enough, the governments of the U.S. and Canada are further inflaming diplomatic relations with China. For example, Nancy Pelosi, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, recently visited Taiwan, soon to be followed by a Canadian delegation led by MP Judy Sgro. These belligerent moves contradict the U.S. and Canada's previous respectful and neutral stance regarding the Chinese position that Taiwan is an integral part of China.

From October 15 to 23rd, activists will be demanding that Washington and Ottawa stop provoking war with Russia and China, and asking that MP Judy Sgro cancel her planned trip to Taiwan!

As we take the streets across the country this week for our #FundPeaceNotWar actions, we must stand up against military intervention in Haiti and Canada's complicity against the people of Haiti. Canada, US and UN out of Haiti! No to New Occupation of Haiti!

## Take action!

The Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network encourages peace-loving people across Canada to join demonstrations and activities across Canada for the Week of Action from October 15-23 or to organize your own actions.

To view actions in the U.S. and around the world visit [www.unacpeace.org](http://www.unacpeace.org).

**Together, let's end imperialist wars and build a loving and peaceful world!**

## MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES

### Indigenous struggle against colonialism



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

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

"Indians and Métis will need to fight for independence and self-determination like other Third World peoples. We have to recognize that our rights are what we take, that it requires power to take rights and preserve these rights after they have been taken. Freedom will never be freely given. As soon as our struggle begins to gain momentum, ruling authorities declare that natives are racist and violent. However, it is impossible for minorities to practice racism effectively because they do not exercise any influence on the society that determines the ideology and attitudes of that nation. Under radical nationalism the masses are the leaders and not the Uncle Tom- hawks, or the self-appointed representatives, or the elites. Liberation demands are based on obtaining autonomy in native communities and throwing off the domination of government bureaucrats.

Under the colonial society that has imprisoned native people, practically all creativity and intellectual development have been smothered. Radical nationalism provides opportunities for exploring and expanding creatively because the excitement and potential of an awakening nation generates rich, flourishing ideas. Red nationalism revives those native cultural traditions that give stability and security to the nation and discards those that oppress the people."

*Excerpt from "Decolonization and Nationalism" in Prison of Grass: Canada from a Native Point of View (Fifth House Publishers, 1989)*



Scan for more information on the  
Canada-Wide Peace and Justice  
Network or visit:

[www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca](http://www.peaceandjusticenetwork.ca)



# Fire This Time Remembers



## Garry Owens

October 31, 1944 - September 30, 2022

*"Maybe the true essence of our humanity is to deeply feel something and then strive for it however you can, and then take people along with you so you're not doing it in isolation."* - Garry Owens

Garry Owens grew up in Seattle, Washington State. He joined the struggle against racism as a high school senior with the Seattle chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). While in college at the University of Washington, he joined the Black Panther Party. He was a member of the Party from 1968-1972. His involvement with the Black Panther Party impacted his lifelong involvement in the movement to build a better, more just world.

In recent years Garry stood out as a leader and board member of LELO, Legacy of Equality, Leadership and Organizing.

Fire This Time was honoured to work with Garry Owens in Cuba solidarity and anti-racist work. Garry visited Vancouver to speak at a Fire This Time forum in February 2016, where he spoke passionately about, "A Revolutionary Perspective from the Civil Rights Movement to the African Liberation Movement, to Black Lives Matter."

Garry Owens was warm, friendly, and embraced life while knowing what it means to work hard and fight back. Fire This Time sends our deepest condolences to Garry's family and friends, especially his partner of 30 years, Cindy Domingo.

¡Garry Owens Presente!



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

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

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*Continued from page 19*

to peace in Colombia. The clearly peace-loving stance of the current President, Gustavo Petro, and the parties concerned, deserve to count on the support of the region and the international community.

The resources needed to support the African Union's Agenda 2063, a road map for the development of this brother continent, should be contributed.

We advocate the search for a peaceful, negotiated solution to the situation imposed on Syria and call for an end to foreign interference and full respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We support a just, wide-ranging and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict, which guarantees the real exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to build their own State within the pre-1967 borders, with its capital in East Jerusalem, and the end to Israeli occupation of the occupied Palestinian territories.

We reaffirm our unwavering solidarity with the Saharan people.

We oppose the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We denounce the imposition of unjust, unilateral, economic measures on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the foreign interference in its internal

affairs.

We oppose the interference in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Belarus.

We reiterate our opposition to the imposition of unilateral sanctions on the Russian Federation.

We condemn the unfounded campaigns aimed at discrediting the People's Republic of China and the attempts to breach its territorial integrity and sovereignty. We reaffirm our steadfast support for the "One China" principle.

We call for a serious, constructive and realistic diplomatic solution of the present crisis in Ukraine, by peaceful means and unreserved observance of the rules of International Law that guarantee security and sovereignty for all.

Mr. President,

Cuba will continue to raise its voice to reject domination and hegemonism, unilateral coercive measures, genocidal blockades and the attempts to impose a single culture and



**Caravan against the U.S. blockade on Cuba in Havana, Cuba.  
Mar. 28, 2021.**

a single model on the world.

We will never renounce the defense of the independence, sovereignty and free determination of the peoples, without foreign interference or intervention.

For our glorious past, for the present and the future of the new generations of Cubans, under the leadership of President Miguel Díaz-Canel, we will resist in a creative way and we will struggle tirelessly until we realize our aspirations of peace and development with equity and social justice for Cuba and the world.

Many thanks.



## 1 CENT 4 CUBA CAMPAIGN

### How does the campaign work?

We want to mobilise large numbers of bank customers to send small transactions – as little as 1 cent/1 pence – from UK or European bank accounts, using reference words or destinations that are likely to trigger the banks' sanctions mechanisms against Cuba.

Each small transaction, and subsequent complaint process, can create a burden of (costly) administrative work for the bank at minimal cost to the customer.

Multiple coordinated transactions have the potential to create an unmanageable quantity of work for the banks and so make the US blockade of Cuba too costly to enforce.

### What are we campaigning against?

Banks in Britain and Europe illegally enforce the US blockade of Cuba despite UK and EU laws to prevent this.

Financial transactions which either

engage with Cuba or refer to Cuba have been stopped. For example, HSBC 'inhibited' the account of Cubanos en UK, a community association raising funds to send medical equipment to Cuba. After this was denounced publicly and protests were called, HSBC unblocked the account, but Cuba remains on the bank's sanctions list.

Simply sending a bank transaction to an account in another country with the reference 'CUBA' can alert the internal review systems of banks so they are required to check the purpose of the transaction, and may block the payment.

Through testing, we have found that some banks will actually reject international payments to third countries if they have any suspicion that the transaction is associated with Cuba.

This behaviour is open to customer complaints and legal challenges.

**Learn more at <https://1c4cuba.eu>**

### Who is 1C4Cuba?

The #1c4Cuba campaign was launched by a group of Cuba solidarity organisations in Britain and Europe including Cuba Support Group Ireland, Rock around the Blockade and Cubanismo.

Other organisations are welcomed and encouraged to take part and help develop the campaign internationally.



**U.S./CANADA: HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!  
NO TO SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA!  
FREE ALEX SAAB!**

MONTHLY VIRTUAL PICKET

**TUESDAY  
NOV. 22 2022**

4PM PT (VANCOUVER)  
7PM ET / 6PM CT  
8PM (CARACAS)

REGISTER FOR ZOOM  
SCAN QR OR VISIT:



[TINYURL.COM/HANDSOFFVZLA](https://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla)



**LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!  
STOP SANCTIONING CUBAN FAMILIES!**

**VANCOUVER MONTHLY  
CAR CARAVAN**  
FOR LOCATION CALL  
604.780.4029

#PUENTESDEAMOR  
#BYEBYEBLOCKADE

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27  
12PM**

**FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE - VANCOUVER**  
[WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG](http://WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG) / @NOBLOCKEOVAN

**PEOPLE & PLANET BEFORE  
PROFIT & PIPELINES!**



**Stop the TMX & CGL Pipelines!**

Intersection Action + Light Display

**WEDNESDAY  
5PM - November 16<sup>2022</sup>**

49th Avenue + Fraser Street - Vancouver

604-518-7361 | [climateconvergence604@gmail.com](mailto:climateconvergence604@gmail.com)

[www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca)

**INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION**

OCT 27-NOV 3, 2022

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

- TAKE CUBA OFF  
WASHINGTON'S LIST OF  
STATE-SPONSORS OF  
TERRORISM!

- END ALL US ANTI-CUBA  
ECONOMIC AND TRAVEL  
SANCTIONS!



**NYC MARCH & RALLY  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2022  
GATHER IN TIMES SQUARE AT 12PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [UNVOTE4CUBA@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UNVOTE4CUBA@GMAIL.COM)  
[WWW.UNVOTE4CUBA.ORG](http://WWW.UNVOTE4CUBA.ORG)