

"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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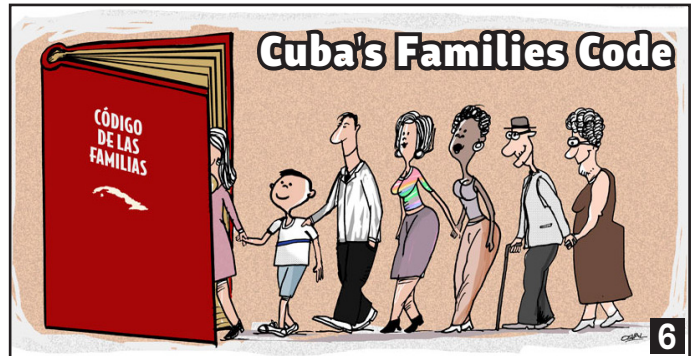
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THE POPE'S APOLOGY & THE ONGOING LEGACY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN CANADA



By Tamara Hansen

Pope Francis is making a 6-day “pilgrimage of penance” across Canada from July 24-29, 2022. The focus of his visit to Canada is clearly to apologize to Indigenous people for the Catholic church’s involvement in the residential school system in Canada. During his apology speech, the Pope expressed, “I am deeply sorry. Sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonizing mentality of the powers that oppressed the Indigenous Peoples. I am sorry. I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the church and of religious communities co-operated, not least through their indifference, in projects of cultural destruction and forced assimilation promoted by the governments of that time, which culminated in the system of residential schools.”

This apology has been received by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people across Canada – both residential school survivors and their kin – in many different ways. One area that many have questioned is what will happen next. The Pope seemingly addressed this explaining,

“many of you and your representatives have stated that begging pardon is not the end of the matter. I fully agree: that is only the first step, the starting point.”

However, many Indigenous people wonder about this ‘starting point,’ as many important issues were not addressed by the Pope in his formal apology. For example, he did not condemn the “doctrine of discovery,” a papal decree which attempted to legitimize the colonization of the Americas. Furthermore, the speech did not include a promise to release documents and historical records or a promise for reparations and compensation.

The hypocrisy of the government’s inaction has been highlighted by the Pope’s visit to Canada

According to a CTV news article, “The federal government is spending more than \$35 million for the papal visit. Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations are spending \$30.5 million for



Cancel Canada Day march to Parliament Hill in Ottawa. July 1, 2021

community-led activities, ceremonies and assisting with travel costs for survivors. Another \$3 million is being spent to support Indigenous communities in the three regions the Pope is visiting. In comparison, \$2 million is being spent to interpret the events and comments from Pope Francis into Indigenous languages. The Alberta government is also spending up to \$20 million for the visit. Much of this money goes towards road and infrastructure improvements in Lac Ste. Anne and Maskwacis.” Other articles claim Canada will also foot the bill for the Pope’s security, which is not included in these numbers.

First, this money was announced less than two weeks before the Pope arrived in Canada, which left Indigenous communities scrambling ahead of the visit. Second, there is a glaring contradiction and hypocrisy between the government funding infrastructure and Indigenous community-led activities and ceremonies for the Pope’s visit. Because when Indigenous communities need funds for everything from clean drinking water to community-based healthcare initiatives, they are told funds are unavailable.



A ceremony to remember the 215 children that lost their lives at the Kamloops residential school. May 23, 2022



Cancel Canada Day action at the Vancouver Art Gallery, July 1, 2022

Children in unmarked graves: a reminder of Canada Settler Colonialism's ongoing legacy of genocide against Indigenous people

The Pope's visit to Canada and this apology come after a year of serious reckoning in Canada. May 27, 2022, marks the first anniversary of the announcement by the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc of 215 unmarked graves of Indigenous children on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia.

After the Tkemlúps te Secwépemc announcement, Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, spoke to parliament, "Saying sorry for the tragedies of the past is not enough. It is not enough for the children who died, for the families or the survivors and communities. Only with our actions can we choose a better path."

On June 3, 2021, Inuk MP Mumilaag Qaqqaq responded powerfully to Trudeau's remarks in Parliament. She said, "the Prime Minister said that the remains of 215 children are from a dark and shameful chapter of our country's history, but Indigenous peoples know that colonization is not just in the past. It is an ongoing reality."

Qaqqaq continued, "More than 50% of children in foster care are Indigenous, but account for less than 8% of the child population; more than 30% of inmates in prison are Indigenous, and Inuit in Nunavut die by suicide at nine times the rate of non-Indigenous Canadians. Colonization is not a dark chapter in Canadian history. It is a book that the federal institution continues to write. We are tired of living in someone else's story and refuse to continue to have it written

for us. We have written and will continue to write new chapters and will not ask for permission to live lives full of dignity and respect. We will demand it."

In the past year, other First Nations communities have conducted their research into unmarked graves surrounding former residential school sites, uncovering hundreds of further gravesites. While many non-Indigenous people have been shocked and disturbed by the recent disclosures, many Indigenous people are not.

In 2015, Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recognized that many residential school sites had forgotten cemeteries and unmarked graves where Indigenous children who died had been laid to rest. Over 150,000 Indigenous children

attended residential schools, and the TRC report explains that with 6,000 recorded student deaths, 1 student in every 25 died. Even this number is considered a low estimate by many experts.

Deaths in residential schools were not a secret from the very beginning. Deputy superintendent of Canada's Department of Indian Affairs (1913-1932), Duncan Campbell Scott, wrote, "Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by habituating so closely in the residential schools and [...] they die at a much higher rate than in their villages." Despite the knowledge that these schools were leading to higher rates of illness and death, Scott continued, "But this does not justify a change in the policy of this Department which is geared towards a final solution of our Indian Problem." The 'solution' that Scott was proposing was to make residential schools mandatory for all Indigenous children in Canada. This deeper historical understanding of the architects of the residential school system hopefully clarifies why the Pope's apology has received a mixed reception and why many Indigenous people believe it is not enough.

Apologies require action

In 2019, the Supplementary Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was more direct, writing, "It is time to call it as it is: Canada's past and current

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NATO and Imperialism, Two Sides of the Same Coin



By Janine Solanki

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is sold to the public as a defense organization made up of western democracies ensuring safety and security around the world. Until recently, some also viewed NATO as just a Cold War relic and didn't give it a second thought. However, NATO is neither of these things – NATO is a military alliance that is moving pieces around an imperialist battleground that is our entire world. With NATO, imperialist countries, with the United States at the helm, are conducting a division of labour for the new era of war and occupation that started with the 2001 invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and continues today.

It is important to ask why the U.S. and NATO are pushing for the expansion of NATO. Undoubtedly, to respond to the deepening capitalist financial and market crisis. The U.S. government and their imperial allies see no solution to their broken capitalist-imperialist system other than to gain control of new resources and people to exploit around the world. Another is the rapid polarization in the distribution of power around the globe, and the unfolding of a new cold war, which the U.S., NATO and all imperialists are pushing and imposing on China and Russia. After all, the tremendous global hegemony that enabled the U.S. to easily could bully the world thirty, forty, and fifty years ago is now too big a task for the United States alone. This immense and far-reaching imperialist military

machine needs an infrastructure to work. The overt and covert wars, coups, occupations and military operations are impossible without NATO and, with it, a global network of foreign military bases. According to the U.S. Department of Defense website, the U.S. military operates in more than 160 countries, on all seven continents, with approximately 4,800 defense sites and at least 1000 U.S. foreign military bases. As you can quickly see by looking at where NATO and U.S. bases are most active, they are encircling and provoking both Russia and China, who are part of the new “Cold War 2”, and key competitors and blocks to U.S. imperialist expansion.

In the last 30 years, NATO has become a dangerous military force and killing machine behind many bloody imperialist atrocities committed under the auspices of the “international community.” From the Middle East to Africa, Asia to Latin America, and as we see now in Europe, we live in a new era of war and occupation. This new era began with the U.S./NATO invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, which continued with 20 years of brutal occupation and NATO's most extended military mission. At its height, NATO had 130,000 troops in Afghanistan, which was a division of labour that allowed the U.S. to focus on their war on Iraq. NATO was also engaged in the war on Iraq on training missions. Under the banner of NATO, Canada has had over 200 Special Forces in Iraq, at least that we know of, for “train, advise and assist”

missions which were sold to the public as “non-combat” missions. These were proven time and time again to involve more of the “assist” in combat zones and just a continuation of war and occupation.

It's important not to forget NATO's debut as a military force started in the 1990s, when NATO intervened in Yugoslavia with numerous military missions, culminating in a 78-day bombing campaign in 1999. The brutal and indiscriminate bombing by NATO members devastated Yugoslavia with 14,000 bombs, including depleted uranium bombs and cluster munitions which have had long-lasting destructive impacts. This so-called “humanitarian intervention” resulted in over 2,000 civilians killed, thousands more injured, and over 200,000 people displaced and forced to leave their homes. Canada also had a role and deployed 18 of their CF-18 fighter jets, responsible for 10% of all bombs dropped on Yugoslavia. While recently mainstream news is crying crocodile tears for Ukraine, making very racist claims about not being used to war in Europe, saying this is the first time war has struck so-called “civilized” Europe since World War 2, they were quick to forget the people of Yugoslavia, and the brutal war carried out by the very same NATO that has provoked a war with Russia in Ukraine and is drawing this war out instead of negotiating its end.

In the Ukraine crisis today, we have to unequivocally reject the imperialist media imposed question of who the “bad

guy” is -of course, they finger at Russia- and who “first” started the war because it is all about covering the real reason for war and crisis in Ukraine. For working people and oppressed people to take a correct position, the question comes to, what is the cause of this crisis and what is the history of this crisis? We must remember that this war did not start in February 2022. Between 1990 and 1991, the U.S. made repeated assurances to the former Soviet Union that NATO would not expand eastward. However, NATO has been aggressively expanding, even beyond the North Atlantic, and now has 30 member-states and formal agreements with another 42 countries through various agreements and partnerships. In 2008, NATO announced plans to extend membership to Ukraine and Georgia, in addition to the Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, which joined NATO in 2004. Russia opposed this continued expansion of NATO with legitimate security concerns, as NATO’s imperialist forces further encircle Russia. In 2014 the U.S. government intervened in a mass popular movement for reform and was able to direct and lead it to a staged right-wing coup, placing Ukraine’s puppet government firmly in the pocket of the U.S. government and also covertly funding and supporting ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi forces. Since then, a rarely reported war has been raging in Ukraine’s

ethnically-Russian Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, with ultra-right-wing militias and the Ukrainian army attacking the region leading to the deaths of over 14,000 people.

The June 29-30 NATO summit in Madrid, Spain, was at a critical time as NATO’s war machine was reaching unprecedented new levels. This was met with events and a demonstration with thousands of protesters in Madrid and across Europe and other parts of the world.

For the Canada-wide days of action, groups united on the demands “Stop the weapons, Stop the war, Stop NATO!” Protests were held at federal and legislative buildings, MP offices, City Halls, CBC news offices, busy downtown centers and importantly, at the offices of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Defence Anita Anand, the Prime Minister’s office and the U.S. Embassy. We have been protesting up until today at cities including Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Regina, Winnipeg, Collingwood, Hamilton, Montreal, Calgary, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Waterloo, Oakville and Ottawa, cities small and large! A new campaign to demand Canada out of NATO is launched from these important actions.

Peace-loving people around the world must work to build a stronger united front and global movement against NATO’s war machine. Imperialist countries are united in NATO and know no borders. The war institutions like NATO have shattered our peace, our human rights, and our lives. We must work together in unity to dismantle NATO, close all U.S./NATO military bases around the world, and stop the deadly imperialist war machine in its tracks. We need a



Antiwar Action in Winnipeg for Canada Out of NATO, No To NATO. June 29, 2022.

world without war. We need a world without poverty and misery. NATO is an imperialist tool for oppression and exploitation. Here in Canada, this starts with a campaign for “Canada Out of NATO” and “No to NATO.” A better world is indeed possible.

That’s all I wanted to share with you today, I’m thrilled and honoured to be speaking alongside a beautiful panel of speakers, and I look forward to hearing from them. Thank you!

Speech by Janine Solanki, Mobilization Against War & Occupation Executive at June 30 “NATO and Global Empire” Webinar by the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute.

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki



Antiwar Action in Vancouver for Canada Out of NATO, No To NATO. June 25, 2022.

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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.



CUBA'S NEW FAMILIES CODE: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!



A talk by Aileen Carmenaty Sanchez

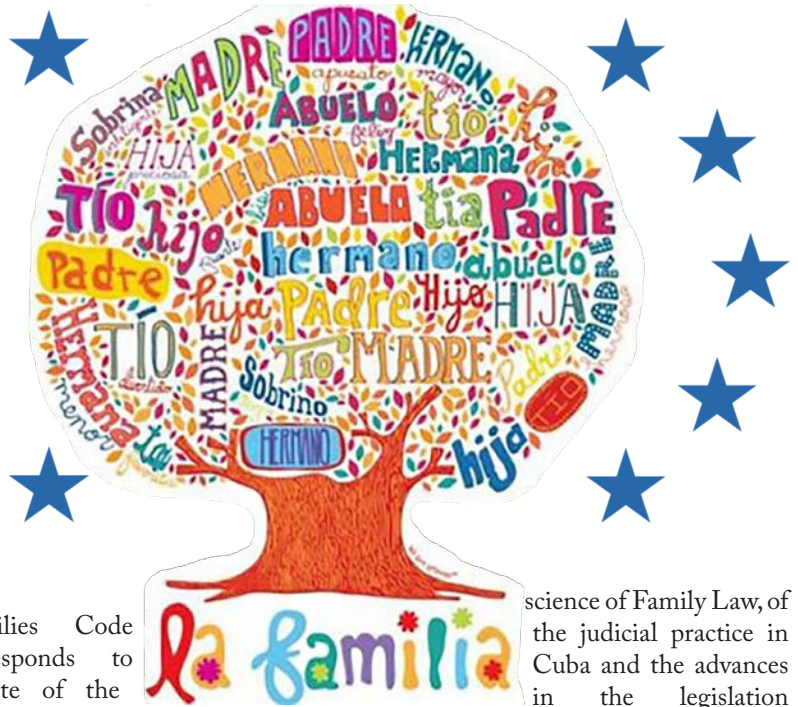
The Cuban family, according to the 2019 Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, is constituted by legal or de facto ties, of an emotional/affective nature, and is based on equal rights, duties, and opportunities of its members, all of which – both in rights as well as obligations – are included in the Families Code.

The Families Code represents a fundamental norm of Family Rights in Cuba. A legal body in Cuba that regulates all institutions related to the family: marriage, divorce, parent-child relationships, the obligation to provide food, adoption, and guardianship. It was enacted in 1975.

In this sense, 47 years after the creation of the current Families Code, it is essential to introduce modifications that reflect the ongoing experiences learned through its application. This means responding to family matters that require immediate solutions and specialized legal measures, to perfect and extend legal measures that arise from real situations, based on relationships of equality, based on both biological and emotional relationships, on the inseparable solidarity of this social group and on human dignity as the supreme value that supports the recognition, rights, and duties enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, as well as international treaties and

this Code.

The Families Code project responds to the mandate of the Constitution of the Republic in its Eleventh Provision. It is consistent with Cuba's legal system and social experiences; and constitutes an expression of the high importance that the State gives to the family as an institution. Including the need to transform the current legislation that no longer responds to the diversity of families within Cuban society. Furthermore, it does not offer options to solve the innumerable existing conflicts that do not find protections under the current law. The Families Code project consists of 11 Titles, 42 Chapters, 51 Sections, 471 Articles, 5 Transitory Provisions, and 41 Final Provisions. The various legal entities within family institutions are developed, such as kinship, the obligation to provide food, affiliation whatever its origin, parental relationships, other guardianship and protection institutions, marriage and de facto/common law unions. It is consistent with the constitutional text and develops rights in its precepts 1, 13, 15, 40, 42, 43 and from 81 to 89 related to the humanistic character of Cuba's revolutionary process, the results of the



science of Family Law, of the judicial practice in Cuba and the advances in the legislation of other countries.

Similarly, its content is compatible with international treaties on this matter ratified by the Republic of Cuba.

The protection of all expressions of family and familial diversity, as well as the right of each person to form a family in accordance with the Constitution and its principles of equality, non-discrimination and human dignity, the strengthening of family responsibility from the emotional, educational, training and economic point of view and love as the central axis of family relationships are included among the main aspects of the project.

The new Families Code project was made available to the Cuban people in digital format and in the Official newspaper of the Republic of Cuba, making it possible for all Cubans in every corner of the planet to access the text of this document.

Through the Nation and Emigration website, a section was set up to collect opinions from Cubans residing abroad through a form, where the number of

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NUEVO CODIGO DE LAS FAMILIAS DE CUBA: DEMOCRACIA EN ACCION!

* En Español *

*Discurso de
Aileen Carmenaty Sanchez*

La familia cubana, de acuerdo con la Constitución de la República de Cuba de 2019, se constituye por vínculos jurídicos o de hecho, de naturaleza afectiva, y se basan en la igualdad de derechos, deberes y oportunidades de sus integrantes, todo lo cual tanto en derechos como

promulgó en 1975.

En este sentido, a 47 años de la promulgación del Código de Familia vigente, se hace imprescindible introducir las modificaciones que integren las experiencias obtenidas en su aplicación, solucione los asuntos familiares que requieren de medidas jurídicas inmediatas y especializadas, perfeccione y amplíe figuras jurídicas a partir de situaciones reales que se presentan, tomando como base relaciones de igualdad, fundamentadas tanto en el aspecto biológico como afectivo, en la solidaridad consustancial a este grupo social y en la dignidad humana como valor supremo que sustenta el reconocimiento y ejercicio de los derechos y deberes consagrados en la Constitución de la República de Cuba, los tratados internacionales y el presente Código.

El Proyecto de Código de las Familias responde al mandato de la Constitución de la República en su Disposición Transitoria Decimoprimerá; guarda coherencia con nuestro ordenamiento jurídico y nuestra realidad social; y constituye expresión de la alta importancia que el

Estado brinda a la institución familiar y a la necesidad de transformar la legislación vigente en esta materia que ya no responde a la diversidad familiar de la sociedad cubana, ni brinda opciones para solucionar los innumerables conflictos existentes que no encuentran amparo en el Derecho. El Proyecto de Código de las Familias consta de 11 Títulos, 42 Capítulos, 51 Secciones, 471 Artículos,

5 Disposiciones Transitorias y 41 Disposiciones Finales. Se desarrollan las diversas instituciones jurídico-familiares, tales como el parentesco, la obligación de dar alimentos, la filiación cualquiera sea



su origen, las relaciones parentales, otras instituciones de guarda y protección, el matrimonio y la unión de hecho. Es coherente con el texto constitucional y desarrolla los derechos relacionados en sus preceptos 1, 13, 15, 40, 42, 43 y del 81 al 89 en correspondencia con el carácter humanista de nuestro proceso revolucionario, los resultados de la ciencia del Derecho de Familia, de la práctica judicial en Cuba y los avances en la legislación de otros países. De igual forma, su contenido es compatible con los tratados internacionales en esta materia ratificados por la República de Cuba.

La protección de todas las expresiones de la diversidad familiar y el derecho de cada persona a constituir una familia en coherencia con la Constitución y sus principios de igualdad, no discriminación y dignidad humana, el fortalecimiento de la responsabilidad familiar desde el punto de vista emocional, educacional, formativo y económico y el amor como eje central de las relaciones familiares se incluyen entre los principales aspectos del proyecto.

continúa en la página 8



Conga contra la homofobia y la transfobia, La Habana, Cuba.

obligaciones aparecen incluidos en el Código de la Familia.

El Código de Familia representa una norma sustantiva del Derecho de Familia en Cuba. Cuerpo legal cubano que regula todas las instituciones relativas a la familia: el matrimonio, el divorcio, las relaciones paternofiliales, la obligación de dar alimentos, la adopción y la tutela. Se

El proyecto de Código de Familias se puso a disposición del pueblo cubano en formato digital y en la Gaceta Oficial de la República de Cuba, posibilitando el acceso a todos los cubanos en cada rincón del planeta al texto de este documento.

A través del sitio web Nación y Emigración se habilitó una sección para recoger opiniones de los cubanos residentes en el exterior mediante una planilla, donde no se limitaría la cantidad de veces que la persona pudiera acceder al sitio y plasmar su criterio, y tampoco se tendría en cuenta su estatus migratorio.

Más de seis millones de ciudadanos participaron en el proceso de consulta popular del proyecto de Código de las Familias, desarrollado entre febrero y abril de 2022. Para organizar estos intercambios se constituyeron comisiones electorales de circunscripción y especiales.

Durante el proceso se registraron 336 595 intervenciones de los electores, y fueron recogidas 434 000 propuestas. El matrimonio, la responsabilidad parental, la adopción, la gestación solidaria, la discriminación y violencia en el ámbito familiar, el derecho de la infancia y la adolescencia en el ámbito familiar y la filiación asistida fueron los temas que generaron la mayor cantidad de propuestas.

En la consulta popular, cuyos resultados se conocieron el pasado 15 de mayo, participaron 6 481 207 cubanos (75.93%), el 61.96% de los cuales se manifestó a favor del texto.



Continued from page 6

times that the person could access the site and express their opinion was not limited, and it did not take into account the immigration status of these Cubans living abroad.

More than six million citizens participated in the popular consultation process of the new Families Code project, between February and April 2022. To organize these exchanges, special electoral commissions were set up.

During the process, 336,595 interventions by voters were registered, and 434,000 proposals were collected. Marriage, parental responsibility, adoption, surrogacy, discrimination and violence in the family, the right of children and adolescents in the family, and sperm donors or surrogates were the topics that generated the largest number of proposals.

In the popular consultation, whose results were known on May 15, 6,481,207 Cubans participated (75.93% of the eligible population), 61.96% of whom expressed themselves to be in

favor of the text.

As a result of this process, 47.93% of the general text and 49.15% of the total articles were modified.

As part of the legislative schedule according to the Constitution, the National Assembly of People's Power of Cuba approved the new Family Code, which will be submitted to a popular referendum on Sunday, September 25, 2022.

Updated from a talk given by, Aileen Carmenaty, Press and Cultural Attaché of the Cuban Embassy in Canada, in charge of academic, sports and solidarity exchanges at a webinar on May 20, 2022 organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)



Como resultado de ese proceso, fueron modificados el 47.93% del texto general y el 49.15% del total de sus artículos.

Como parte del cronograma legislativo derivado de la Constitución, la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de Cuba aprobó el nuevo Código de las Familias, que será sometido a referendo popular el

domingo 25 de septiembre del 2022.

Actualización de una charla impartida por, Aileen Carmenaty, Agregada de Prensa y Cultura de la Embajada de Cuba en Canadá, a cargo de los intercambios académicos, deportivos y solidarios en un webinar del 20 de mayo de 2022 organizado por Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)



Camaguey Consulta Popular del Nuevo Código de las Familias 2 de febrero, 2022.

colonial policies, actions and inactions towards Indigenous Peoples is genocide." This means that both government actions and inactions are, in fact, killing Indigenous people. If the government of Canada does not work actively towards empowerment and self-determination for Indigenous nations, Canada will continue along its genocidal path.

The residential school system in Canada did not happen by accident. It was designed to cement the theft of Indigenous lands and resources to enrich a blossoming capitalist class in Canada, which continues today. In April 2022, professor Bruce Campbell wrote for the Monitor Magazine, "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." In these times of economic 'downturn' and rising inflation, the ruling elite continues to increase their profits and, with it, wealth inequality. This wealth is accumulated off the backs and lands of Indigenous nations in Canada and off the backs of all working people in Canada and around the world in the exploitation of so-called 'third-world' countries.

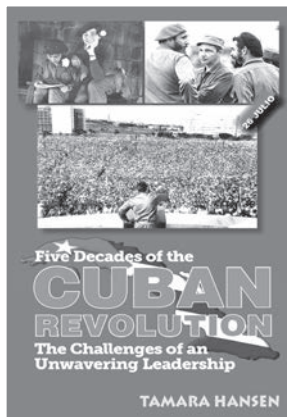
Unfortunately, the Catholic church and other religious institutions worked hand-in-hand with the government of Canada, playing a major role in the theft of Indigenous lands, culture, and children. While the Pope's apology was seen by many as an important step, apologies to Indigenous people and nations need to be followed by actions, accountability, compensation, and reparations. Indigenous nations deserve to have their right to self-determination respected and their lands returned.

The more people in Canada become aware of these historic and ongoing crimes, the more we must organize and mobilize both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to demand justice and self-determination for Indigenous nations in Canada.

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01

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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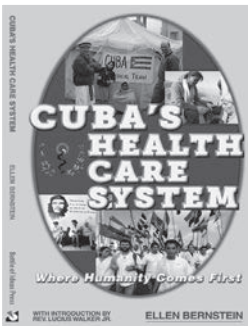
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CUBA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WHERE HUMANITY COMES FIRST

BY ELLEN BERNSTEIN

"The unfailing dedication of Cuban health care professionals has led to dramatic improvements in quality of life, for millions of people who previously had no other hope of receiving decent medical care. IFCO/Pastors for Peace is pleased to honor the diligent health care professionals of the Cuban health care system. We especially pay tribute to Cuba's national leadership, whose vision of universal health care as a right of every citizen sets an example for the world."

Ellen Bernstein has served as Associate Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) since 2003. She has been a key staff member of IFCO's project Pastors for Peace, and has been deeply and integrally involved in IFCO's historic work with Cuba.



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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.

In the struggle for liberation, the native people are asked to put their confidence in the good intentions of the colonizers. While it is true that certain decolonialization is taking place, it is false to pretend that it is the result of the changing nature of man and state. The optimism that prevails today for liberation is not based on the fact that capitalism is becoming more humane or that colonialism is becoming more just. It is simply that the advanced liberal corporate state is able to co-opt native nationalism and revolutionary consciousness. Even our own revolutionary rhetoric has become an integral part of advanced capitalism.

We are told that the enemy, colonialism, is the historical oppressor. But we make no mistake that our oppression is in the forms and institutions of colonialism, and its manifestations, such as racial stereotypes, Indian bureaucracies, welfare, prisons, etc. Only by transforming the objective conditions can we put a final end to colonialism.

From: Prison of Grass (1989)

THE PROVOCATIONS BEHIND THE 'UNPROVOKED' WAR

By Phil Wilayto

Back in 1949, the United States, Canada and 10 Western European countries formed a military alliance called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. Washington had decided that the Soviet Union, its wartime ally — the one that had broken the back of the Nazi war machine — now was its peacetime enemy.

By 1990, the Soviet Union and most of its socialist allies were collapsing, the result of internal contradictions and outside pressures. The U.S. was promoting the reunification of Germany — a move opposed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who still remembered how his country had lost 20 million people to the Nazi invasion and was not real excited about the prospect of a revitalized Germany.

So U.S. Secretary of State James Baker offered a deal: If Gorbachev agreed to a united Germany, NATO — which, by that time, had grown from its original 12 members to 16 — would promise not to advance one inch eastward. Gorbachev agreed.

Today, each of the 14 new NATO member countries has been to the east. Of the seven countries bordering Russia's western flank, Estonia, Latvia, and Norway already are NATO members. Finland, Georgia and Ukraine have asked to join.

Once that process is completed, Russia's only western border ally would be Belarus. Every other bordering country would be committed by Article 5 of the NATO Charter to come to each other's defense in the event of a military confrontation.

And this should worry Russia, why?

In 1999, NATO carried out a 78-day air campaign in Yugoslavia that involved 400 aircraft, 5,000 personnel and the use of cancer-causing depleted uranium munitions.

From 2003 to 2014, NATO led the Western military effort in the U.S. war in Afghanistan, a disaster for both the U.S. and the Afghans.

After the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 — the one based on the lie about weapons of mass destruction — NATO trained, mentored and assisted the U.S.-dominated Iraqi Security Forces. That mission continues to this day.

In 2011, NATO led a massive bombing campaign against Libya — once the most

prosperous country in all of Africa — reducing it to a failed state and a haven for extremists who since have expanded their operations throughout most of West Africa.

For the sake of argument, let's leave aside the question of whether any of these NATO wars were justified. Instead, let's look at the relative balance of forces between Russia, the U.S. and NATO.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Russia's military expenditure in 2021 was \$65.9 billion. The U.S.' was \$801 billion — more than 12 times that of Russia.

For NATO, the combined military expenditures of all 30 member countries in 2021 was an estimated \$1.2 trillion — more than 18 times that of Russia.

And even though Russia and NATO have rough parity when it comes to nuclear weapons, it's just possible that the steady eastward expansion of a steadily growing, hostile NATO might have raised some legitimate security concerns in Russia.

Then, there's the matter of U.S. support for the anti-Russian Ukrainian coup of 2014. This began as peaceful protests against then-President Viktor Yanukovich for his opposition to closer economic ties with Western Europe. It morphed into a violent uprising in which openly neo-Nazi organizations played a major role.

The U.S. support was not in dispute. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., had traveled to give encouraging speeches to the protesters. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland handed out pastries to the crowds. More importantly, she later openly bragged about how the U.S. had spent \$5 billion promoting "pro-democracy" groups

in the country.

The coup changed Ukraine in fundamental ways. The new government banned the use of the Russian language for official business, even though 17% of the population was ethnic Russian and some 30% spoke Russian as a first language.

Statues honoring Ukrainian fascists like Stepan Bandera, who had collaborated with the Nazi occupation, were erected while memorials to Soviet war heroes were taken down. The neo-Nazi organizations were free to roam the streets, attacking anyone opposed to the coup. Those acts of violence included the May 2014 Odesa Massacre, where dozens of people were murdered in the Black Sea port city.

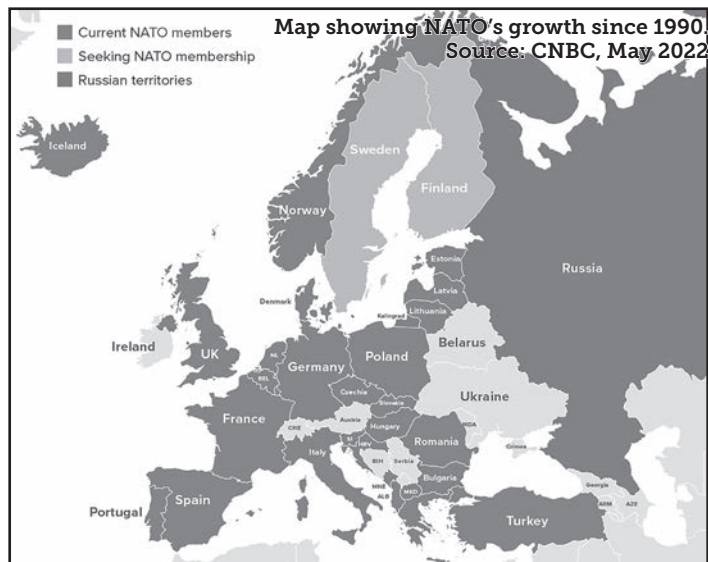
Meanwhile, Ukraine began to operate as a NATO member in everything but name, including carrying out joint military exercises right up to Russia's border.

None of this is meant to endorse Russia's war. But since the Biden administration has already given Ukraine \$5.3 billion in military aid, it might be a good idea to view the war in a historical context.

And if we do that, "unprovoked" might not be the first word that comes to mind.

*Reprinted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch
<https://richmond.com>*

Follow Phil on Twitter: @PhilWilayto1



Activists demand: Canada Out of NATO! Stop NATO!

By Janine Solanki

From June 29 to 30, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) gathered in Madrid, Spain, to make decisions that would impact the people of oppressed nations around the world. This imperialist military alliance held their summit when NATO was escalating its war drive, advancing the U.S. hegemonic strategy with their imperialist allies, including Canada. For over 20 years, U.S.-NATO wars have devastated Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and now Ukraine, where NATO provoked and fuelled a war with Russia.

Peace and antiwar activists in Madrid came out in the thousands to protest the NATO Summit, along with protesters across Europe and around the world. Here in Canada, the Canada Peace and Justice Network called for days of action from June 24 – 30, demanding Stop NATO and Canada out of NATO!

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), a member group of the Canada Peace and Justice Network, joined in organizing the Vancouver action on June 25. This action was a joint effort of the Just Peace Committee, Global Peace Alliance-BC, World Beyond War, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, with the support and participation of other organizations and communities. The action was held in front of the CBC news offices in downtown Vancouver, demanding that CBC stop acting as a mouthpiece to promote Canada-NATO wars. A brief program was held with speakers from the Just Peace Committee, East Indian Defence Committee and Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network, Mobilization Against War and Occupation, Global Peace Alliance-BC Society and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). Protesters also distributed antiwar literature to passers-by, including a statement for the days of action against NATO from the Canada Peace and Justice Network, which can be read at <https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/stopnato>.

Alongside Vancouver, the days of action against NATO took place across Canada, including in Victoria, Nanaimo, Regina, Winnipeg, Collingwood, Hamilton, Montreal, Calgary, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Waterloo, Oakville and Ottawa – cities small and large!

On June 30, MAWO participated in another important event against NATO, a webinar organized by the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute and Science for Peace. The speakers



Antiwar Action in Vancouver for Canada Out of NATO, June 25, 2022.

included MAWO executive member Janine Solanki, Djibo Sobukwe from the Black Agenda Report and Black Alliance for Peace, Danny Haiphong, host of The Left Lens and Tamara Lorincz from Canadian Foreign Policy Institute and Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. The event was very well attended and included a lively discussion. To read the speech given by Janine Solanki, turn to page 4.

Join in upcoming events and actions against war and occupation, online and in the streets of Vancouver! Visit www.mawovancouver.org or follow MAWO on Twitter and Instagram @MAWOVan and Facebook @MAWOVancouver.

Battle of Ideas Press

Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela



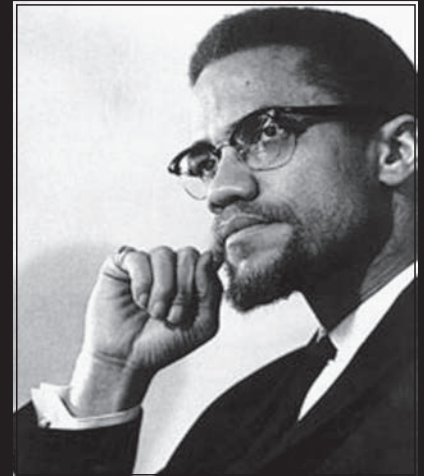
By Alison Bodine

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

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"By Any Means Necessary..."



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

You never see them until election time. You can't find them until election time. They're going to come in with false promises, and as they make these false promises they're gonna feed our frustrations and this will only serve to make matters worse. I'm no politician. I'm not even a student of politics. I'm not a Republican, nor a Democrat, nor an American, and got sense enough to know it. I'm one of the 22 million black victims of the Democrats, one of the 22 million black victims of the Republicans, and one of the 22 million black victims of Americanism. And when I speak, I don't speak as a Democrat, or a Republican. I speak as a victim of America's so-called democracy. You and I have never seen democracy; all we've seen is hypocrisy. When we open our eyes today and look around America, we see America not through the eyes of someone who has enjoyed the fruits of Americanism, we see America through the eyes of someone who has been the victim of Americanism.

April 12, 1964 – The Ballot or the Bullet

Solidarity activists bring revolutionary Cuba to Vancouver and Nanaimo!



Event with Cuban guest speakers in Vancouver. July 2, 2022.



Tamara Hansen of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) introduces Sandra Ramirez Rodriguez and Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez in Vancouver. July 3, 2022.

By Janine Solanki

The Cuban Revolution is known for its dynamism, continuously advancing the revolutionary process and putting ideas to benefit Cuban society into action. This drive to progress swells up from the neighbourhood organizations like the CDRs, youth and students, artists and workers, up through all levels of the Cuban leadership and truly represents Cuba as a whole. Recently the topic of much discussion and debate in Cuba is the new Families Code, which addresses many important issues around marriage, parental responsibilities, adoption, the rights of children, discrimination and violence in the family, the rights of extended family, and same sex marriage. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) has always brought Cuban politics and culture to Vancouver audiences. From spring into summer this year, there have been many great opportunities to reflect on Cuba in Vancouver and beyond!

Understanding Cuba's New Families Code

On May 20, 2022, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) organized a webinar about Cuba's new Families Code, with the perspectives of Cuban speakers. The event was hosted by Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and former Executive Member of the Canadian Network on Cuba. The event featured

two representatives from the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa, Guivel Orozco Ortega, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Cuban Embassy, and Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez, the Press and Cultural Attaché of the Cuban Embassy. The speech given by Aileén Carmenaty can be read in this issue on page 6.

Participants also heard from Azza Rojbi, Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver. Azza had recently travelled to Cuba with the Che Guevara Volunteer Work Brigade, where the Families Code was a frequent topic of discussion and had taken short videos and interviews with Cuban doctors, LGBTQ+ community leaders and workers to share their perspectives about the Families Code at this event. The Families Code is multifaceted and complex, and this event helped participants better understand this progressive new legislation.

CUBA TODAY Tour brings Cuban

speakers across Canada to BC!

From June 25-26, the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) held its 10th Biennial Convention in Toronto, Ontario, with member groups from across Canada, including Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade. The convention also was the kickoff for a cross-Canada tour with Sandra Yisel Ramírez, Director of the North American division of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez, organized by the CNC. The BC leg of the tour on July 2nd and 3rd had two successful events under the banner of "CUBA TODAY: Cuban's Speak in Vancouver & Nanaimo, which welcomed Cuban supporters to one of the few first in-person events since the pandemic. The July 2 Vancouver event and July 3



Cuban guest speakers with friends of Cuba in Nanaimo. July 3, 2022.



(Left to Right) Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez performs after speaking in Vancouver. Randie Long, Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez and Sandra Ramirez Rodriguez speaking in Nanaimo. July 2 & 3, 2022.

Nanaimo event had participants eager to meet with representatives from Cuba and to learn more about what the Families Code is, and how Cuba has successfully fought Covid-19 despite the cruel U.S. blockade. The Vancouver event was endorsed by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver, Vancouver Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist), Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association - Vancouver and Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association - Calgary, and the Nanaimo event was endorsed by Friend of Cuba in Nanaimo.

Cuba Says: LGBTQ+ Rights are Human Rights!

In Vancouver, Pride season is gearing up to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride, back for street events for the first time since the pandemic. For over ten years, VCSC has joined the Vancouver Pride Parade with Cuban and Pride flags and banners reading "Cuba Says: LGBTQ+ Rights are Human Rights!". VCSC is looking forward to spreading the ideas of Cuba at the upcoming Vancouver Pride Parade on July 30 and other Pride events! VCSC has already started bringing Cuba to Pride events in Vancouver this year - On June 25, VCSC had an information table at the East Side Pride festival. Activists spent the day distributing VCSC newsletters with an article about the Families Code, collecting signatures against the U.S. blockade, and talking to festival-goers

about what Cuba is doing to advance LGBTQ+ rights!

To find out where Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba is next and to join in Cuba solidarity events, visit <https://www.vancubasolidarity.com> or follow on Facebook @vancubasolidarity, on Twitter and Instagram @VanCuba_VCSC.



(Above) Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) table at East Side Pride. July 25, 2022.

Cuba Si, Bloqueo No! Solidarity Activists Worldwide Continue Over 2 Years of Monthly Virtual Picket Actions

By Janine Solanki

END TO THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!
AWARD CUBA'S INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL BRIGADE THE NOBEL PRIZE!
REMOVE CUBA FROM THE SO-CALLED "STATE SPONSORS
OF TERRORISM" LIST!



IN COORDINATION WITH ACTIONS ACROSS CANADA & AROUND THE WORLD BY LA TABLE DE CONCERTATION ET DE SOLIDARITÉ
QUÉBEC - CUBA, STOP THE BLOCKADE UKRAINE, OTTAWA CUBA CONNECTIONS & AUSTRALIA-CUBA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY PERTH
JANUARY 17, 2021 VIRTUAL PICKET TO LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!
WWW.CANADIANNETWORKONCUBA.CA



monthly pickets in Vancouver, Montreal and Ottawa, Canada, and Kyiv, Ukraine, at U.S. consulates and embassies. However, the acceleration of U.S. attacks on Cuba compounded by the pandemic reinforced the responsibility of the Cuba solidarity movement to strengthen efforts to defeat the U.S. blockade on Cuba, despite the challenges that the pandemic put on in-person organizing. The Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC), an umbrella group of 23 Cuba solidarity groups across Canada, followed the initiative of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and launched "virtual" picket actions on May 17, 2020. With the understanding that any political campaign must be consistent to be effective, building these virtual picket actions in a consistent manner was vital. As of May 17, 2022, there have been two years of continuous virtual picket actions on the 17th of each month, organized and operated from Vancouver by the Vancouver Community in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver. These actions have also included two 24-hour virtual pickets that spanned the globe!

Global Solidarity with Cuba

By utilizing new technologies and skills in the new era of online organizing, these virtual picket actions and organizers' efforts have strengthened cooperation and the building of an international Cuba solidarity movement. These actions have reflected the local organizing of groups across Canada and worldwide and have helped to expand local campaigns to be international! For

Continued on page 22

OUR HERITAGE



Bernadette Devlin McAliskey

Irish independence fighter and civil rights leader. In 1969, at 21, she was the youngest ever elected Member of Parliament, and sat as an independent socialist. She survived being shot 14 times in a British government-linked assassination attempt in 1981

"The issue of repeal of the Eighth Amendment is actually not even an issue about abortion. It is fundamentally in this case about abortion. But it is at its core, in the 21st Century, a demand that the last usurpation of authority of the individual human being, be ended. That is the usurpation of a woman's right to control of her own body. To exercise first and last authority over that individual body. All day. Every day that she is alive. Not simply when she is a pregnant woman..."

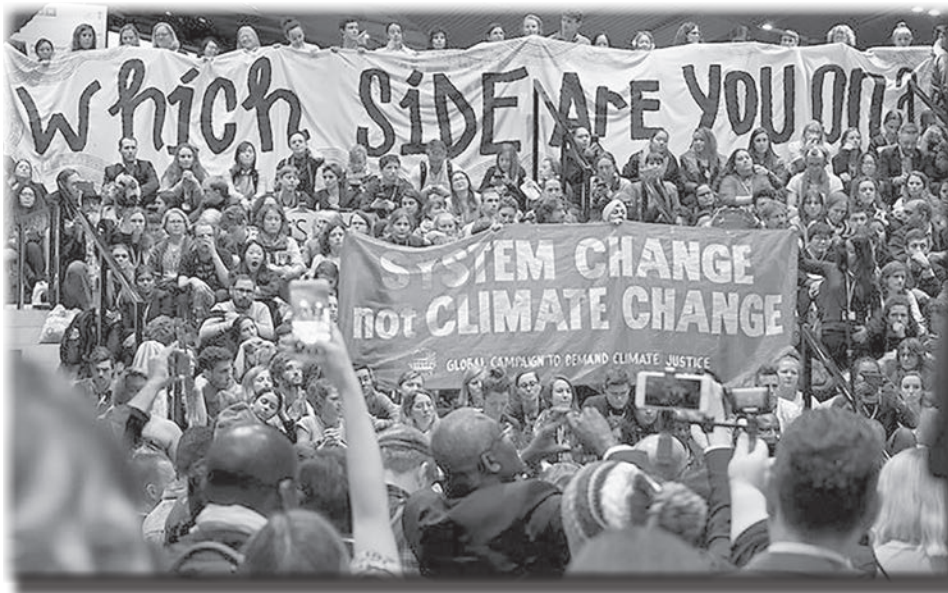
Let us be clear that the demand of the end of usurpation, the demand for our right to control our bodies, to make our own reproductive system, is not a favour we are asking for certain circumstances. It is a fundamental defense of democracy for every person..."

Excerpts from a speech at a pro-choice rally in Dublin, Ireland in 2017 prior to the tremendous victory by popular referendum of the repeal of the Eighth Amendment in 2018, which revoked the Constitutional ban on abortion in Ireland."

Around the world, over two years of the pandemic have dealt a serious blow to the daily lives of working people. This impact is significantly worse for any country under sanctions. The U.S. government instead imposed a "maximum pressure" approach to their cruel and illegal blockade of Cuba. Under the Trump administration, 243 new measures were added to the blockade of Cuba, making the economic situation and difficulty accessing much-needed medical supplies even more dire. The Biden administration continued on this path.

Cuba Solidarity - Adapting and Building

Before the pandemic, there were consistent actions against the U.S. blockade, with



If We Struggle, We Can Win! Confronting the Climate Catastrophe

By Alison Bodine

The Climate Crisis is Here

The delicate balance between humans and nature has been torn apart. It has reached a critical point, and we are getting closer to the point of no return. The world is characterized by air pollution, climate change, extreme weather events, deforestation, species extinction, soil degradation, the continuing genocide of Indigenous peoples, the emergence of millions and millions of climate refugees on this planet, and expanding imperialist wars and occupations.

The climate crisis has not been brought on by humanity, but rather by the economic system of capitalism that has dominated the planet for over 200 years, as it is today. The capitalist system is fundamentally incompatible with mother nature because its drive for constant growth and expansion in the name of profit simply ignores that the planet consists of finite resources.

The world's best climate scientists have confirmed over and over again that the climate catastrophe is here and that the window of time that humanity has to reverse its most deadly impacts is rapidly closing. The most recent reports of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have concluded that there must be immediate action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. This call is being ignored by the leaders of the world's largest capitalist countries every single day.

Inaction on Climate from the Trudeau Government

The Federal government of Canada is not only not taking urgently required measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions immediately, but it is also lying about its 2030 emission reduction plans. In March 2022, to much fanfare, the Trudeau government launched a roadmap for emissions reductions and announced that Canada would meet their emissions targets for the first time. However, internal government documents obtained by the Globe and Mail Newspaper indicate that the Liberal government is expecting reductions that are only one-half of the amount they announced. These documents also reveal how much the Liberal government relies on undeveloped and unproven technologies in their estimations of greenhouse gas reductions.

In fact, based on the Government of Canada's anticipated expansion of oil and gas extraction, which is not addressed in the emissions reduction roadmap—more oil and gas is expected to be produced in 2050 than in 2019. Canada's oil and gas sector will still emit some 200 megatons of CO₂ equivalent in 2050, the year by which the federal government has committed to achieving so-called net-zero emissions.

I don't imagine this comes as a surprise to any of us on the webinar today. Still, I say it to emphasize the gravity of the situation we face and the bankruptcy of the government of Canada. The Trudeau government has delivered only empty promises and lip service

regarding climate action and respecting Indigenous rights, which go hand in hand.

Beyond Canada's borders, the government has not delivered on its commitments to give money to developing nations to combat and mitigate the climate crisis. Developing nations continue to suffer under the super-exploitation of imperialist countries and corporations, especially mining corporations, based in Canada. Yet, the Liberal government has not given a fair share of the resources developing countries need to mitigate the already existing humanitarian and climate crisis in their countries. The government of Canada has also continued its participation in imperialist wars and occupations and complicity with U.S. and NATO military expansion, which destroys all life.

Also, I think it is important to say that despite Canada's relatively small population globally, the environmental impact of Canada is immense. Emissions from oil and gas production in Canada between 2021-2050 are projected to exhaust about 16% of the world's remaining carbon dioxide greenhouse gas budget (the amount of carbon that can be released into the atmosphere and keep global warming limited to 2 degrees Celsius). Therefore, the climate justice movement we build here, and the victories we achieve, will have a global impact.

Capitalism is Destroying Our Mother Earth

The capitalist system prevents the rapid decisions that must be made. This is what we observe every day, the Trudeau Liberal government continues with the status quo pollution, emissions, and destruction of Mother Earth.

What is the logic beyond this inaction? Why isn't the government of Canada, or other imperialist governments, doing what they can to stop the destruction of Mother Earth? As Joel Kovel, scholar and author, and founder of the ecosocialist movement, explains in "5 Theses on Ecosocialism," "Capitalism is the first system of production in the history of the world where exchange value rules over use-value. Its whole history and culture may be seen from this perspective, which requires that money rules the economy and that the economy rules over society, subordinating humanity and nature to the logic of accumulation."

Under capitalism, just seven countries, the United States, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, France and Australia, are responsible for 48% of the world's historical greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Because of capitalism, the economic system based on the accumulation of capital, the divide between rich developed and poor developing

countries, and the divide between people with access to resources needed to mitigate the climate crisis and those without is also growing. According to the World Bank, by 2030, an additional 68 to 135 million people could be pushed into poverty by the impacts of the climate catastrophe.

The climate crisis is here, and it impacts everyone, but does not impact everyone equally.

Will “Green” Technology Prevent Climate Catastrophe?

Is “green” technology implemented under capitalism a solution to the climate crisis? The short answer is no. The production of solar panels or electric vehicles by the millions using materials mined by workers who are super-exploited, using methods that destroy mother nature in the name of profit, and manufactured under these same conditions of labour and exploitation of the natural world, will not save the world from the climate catastrophe, nor combat growing inequality.

Take carbon capture as an example. Carbon capture is a “green” technology that is being pushed by the Liberal government of Canada as one of the solutions for lowering Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions. However, under capitalism, the use of carbon capture technology is actually just a way to give permission to massive oil and gas companies to pollute even more. Implementing carbon capture is projected to increase – not decrease – oil and gas production and, with it, the super-profits of oil and gas corporations.

These contradictions arise if we, as a climate justice movement, do not tackle the fundamental problem. capitalism is a system based on exploitation – whether of human beings or mother earth; unless we end capitalism, we will not be able to confront the climate catastrophe.

In his book “The Enemy of Nature: The End of Capitalism or the End of the World?” Joel Kovel writes, “If we wish to restore the intrinsic value of nature in this sad world, we have to break down capital, and the power of its exchange-value, thereby freeing use-

values and opening up differentiation with intrinsic value. But the consistent demand for the liberation of use-values from the clutches of exchange inexorably leads to that one use-value which is condensed the core of capital – labour power. This is the sticking point and it makes no sense to evade it.

Ecosocialism is more than socialism as traditionally known, but it is definitely socialism as well. Capital is the efficient cause of the crisis afflicting ecologies, but the sine qua non of capital, the one feature that defines its dynamic above all others in the commodification of labor power and its reduction to abstract social labour for sale on the market. If one prefers another line of explanation for the ecological crisis, so be it, and this consideration does not hold. But if capital is truly the enemy of nature, then we do not overcome it absent the liberation of labor.”

Cuba Leading the Way in the Struggle for Climate Justice

On that note, I want to bring into our discussion today an example of what a tangible and planned approach to fighting the climate crisis could look like. And that example is Cuba, a socialist project in transition that has begun to tackle the problem of the commodification of labour that Joel Kovel explained.

Of course, one country cannot end the climate crisis alone. There is only one earth, one atmosphere and one interconnected ocean, and we must fight the climate crisis together. However, in contrast to the inaction of the world’s biggest capitalist countries – Cuba has a plan and is actively implementing a plan to confront the climate crisis. This plan is called “Tarea Vida” (Life Task). This is a 100-year plan to combat climate change that is fueled by the dynamism of the Cuban Revolution, a revolution that is constantly changing and updating – but with the guiding principles of building a transitional socialist society and with a planned economy that puts people before profit.

It is only with socialism that Cuba, an island of 11 million people, has become a leader in the worldwide struggle against climate

change through concrete actions, land reform being one of the first, which began in 1959. This plan includes enforced legal protections and laws that protect the environment and control the production of goods and services. There is planned allocation of state resources, the creation and promotion of state institutions, and education campaigns, bringing the climate debate to all levels of society. Cuba also carries out democratic planning and decision-making, which is a fundamental component of combatting the climate crisis.

Building a Mass Anti-Capitalist Climate Justice Movement

If capitalism persists, the necessity of bringing in super-profits will always surpass the interests of humanity and our Mother Earth. This applies whether we are talking about companies that extract oil or corporations that manufacture solar panels and build wind farms. The capitalist system encompasses the production and distribution of all aspects of human life — from food and energy to our systems of health and education. Unless we get rid of this system and release the powerful technology and human capacity that is only possible without the chains of capitalism, we will not be able to fundamentally change humanity’s destructive relationship with our Mother Earth.

So, what do we do? We build a mass anti-capitalist climate justice movement. We need a mass movement for the environment and mother earth, but we must also work to bring this movement in an anti-capitalist direction because we must eliminate capitalism to prevent climate catastrophe.

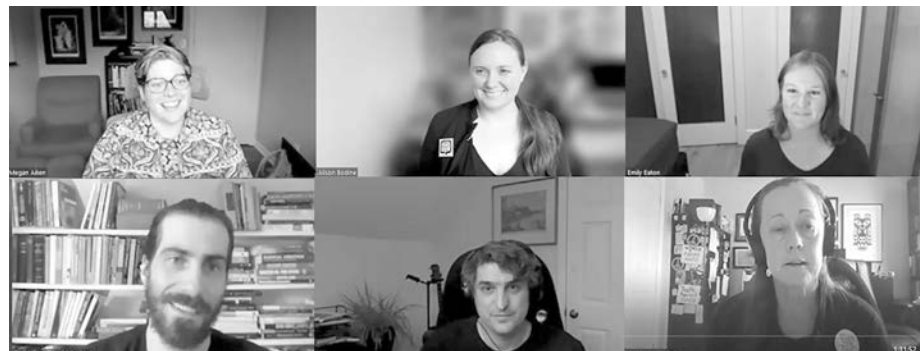
As anti-capitalist climate justice activists, this does not mean that we only work to build anti-capitalist campaigns. Just the opposite, we participate in all levels of community and grassroots struggle in defense of Mother Earth.

Despite the increasingly grave reports from the United Nations IPCC, despite the signs of the climate catastrophe in all of its forms, we still must recognize that we are in a position to struggle and, therefore, a position to win. We must not only expose capitalism’s role in the destruction of Mother Earth or talk about the failures of the Trudeau Liberal government. We must organize for the future that we all know is possible. We have had victories; let’s build on those and build for system change, not climate change!

A talk by Alison Bodine at the webinar – “Fossil Capitalism, Climate Breakdown and Green-Left Strategies,” organized by the Society for Socialist Studies, co-sponsored by Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver and the Fire This Time Movement for Socialist Justice, held on June 15, 2022.

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

Panelists for Webinar “Fossil Capitalism, Climate Breakdown, and Green-Left Strategies. June 15, 2022.



Prime Minister Trudeau travelled to British Columbia in July 2022 to announce his government's "Oceans Protection Plan 2.0," an additional \$2 billion investment over the next nine years in ocean protection programs. In total, the Trudeau government has now pledged \$3.5 billion toward ocean protection. This might seem like a sizeable investment, but it is only a fraction of the money that the government of Canada is spending on climate destruction. For example, in 2020 alone, Canada handed out \$18 billion in subsidies for fossil fuels.

The money that Trudeau is pumping into the TMX pipeline expansion, which will triple the amount of dirty tar-sands bitumen being transported for export to the coast, also far outpaces any investment in the oceans. Since buying the existing Trans

earth.

On **June 1**, Climate Convergence organizers came together in person for a picnic and banner painting. The rain held off for most of the event, and there were many good conversations with passersby who were curious about what we were doing in the park and stopped at the table to learn more about Climate Convergence and the struggle against the TMX and CGL pipelines.

Then on **June 11**, the Mountain Protectors invited climate justice organizations and activists to the Kwekwxnewtxw - Watch House on Burnaby Mountain for a 24-hour community gathering against the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Climate Convergence joined with Protect the Planet, Stop TMX! and others on **June 13** for a rally in defense of SFU Professor Dr. Tim Takaro, who was set to appear

attention to the TMX and CGL pipelines. On **June 29**, Climate Convergence held a successful and energetic banner drop at the pedestrian overpass near Hastings and Sperling at the base of Burnaby Mountain, focusing on banners against the TMX pipeline and the drilling of Burnaby Mountain.

The banner drop was a lead-up to the Youth Say: Don't Give Up! TMX Town Hall that took place on **July 5**. This event, organized at the Lochdale Community Hall in Burnaby, was sponsored by BROKE in collaboration with Mountain Protectors, For our Kids, Burnaby, Protect the Planet, TSSU (SFU Teaching Support Staff Union), Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver and Force of Nature. Over 100 people came out in person and online to hear the speakers at this educational and inspiring united action.

Join the Struggle for Climate Justice!

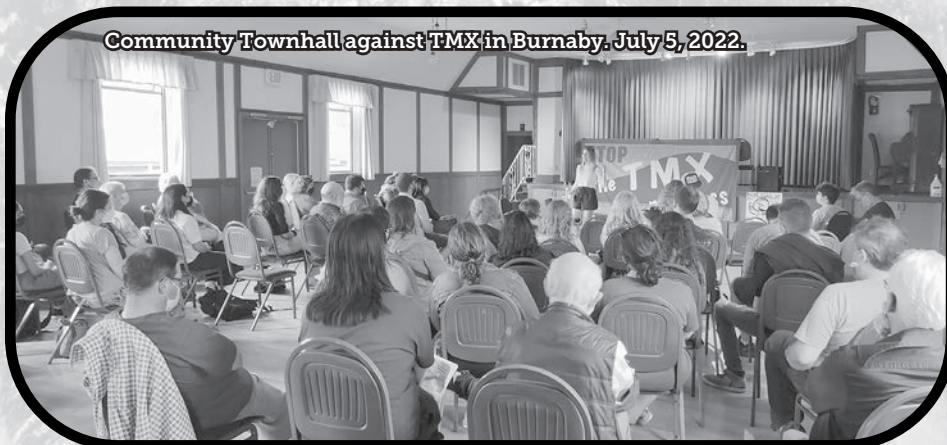
Trudeau: No More Climate Lies!

Mountain pipeline and the expansion project in 2018 for \$4.5 billion, costs to build TMX have now ballooned to an outrageous \$21.4 billion in taxpayer money. Furthermore, on June 22, 2022, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) of the government of Canada also released an updated report demonstrating that the TMX expansion project will result in a net loss of \$600 million. When

Trudeau bought the TMX pipeline, he claimed it would help fund climate action in Canada – now, even the PBO is confirming that is a lie.

By pushing ahead with the TMX and CGL pipelines, the Trudeau Liberal government and Horgan's NDP government in BC have both demonstrated that they have no regard for Indigenous rights, people or the planet and no real plans to address the climate emergency.

Throughout the beginning of summer, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver continued to join with other grassroots organizations and climate justice fighters across the Lower Mainland at many varied and dynamic actions in defense of mother



Community Townhall against TMX in Burnaby, July 5, 2022.

Climate Convergence Continues to Struggle for Climate Justice!

in court that day for peacefully blocking construction work related to the TMX pipeline in 2021. Following the rally, Dr. Tim Takaro was sentenced to an outrageous 30 days in jail.

The Webinar "Fossil Capitalism, Climate Breakdown and Green-Left Strategies" took place on **June 15**. This successful event was presented by the Society for Socialist Studies and co-sponsored by Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, Corporate Mapping Project, and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice.

Before June came to a close, Climate Convergence continued with its campaign of regular banner drops to draw public

The end of June 2022 marked the first anniversary of the "heat dome" that killed over 600 people here in BC. This extreme weather event, ongoing wildfires, and the disastrous floods that persisted the entire summer are just some of the horrible impacts of the climate catastrophe. The one-anniversary of this devastation is a reminder of the necessity to continue organizing for climate justice. It is more apparent

with each passing day that poor, working, and oppressed people in Canada need money for healthcare, education, housing, and social justice, not climate-destroying pipelines!

Join Climate Convergence to get involved in this struggle in defense of mother earth! For more information, visit www.climateconvergence.ca, on Twitter: @climate604 and on Instagram and Facebook: @climateconvergence.

Drop all charges against land defenders! No to the TMX and CGL pipelines! System change, not climate change!

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette



Venezuelans hold signs saying "Sanctions are a Crime"

out his post in Canada. Speakers often join from the U.S., Canada, and Venezuela, such as during the **April 14** action, which featured Benjamin Prado, Under-Secretary-General of Unión del Barrio, an organization in the United States that works in defense of Mexican and Latin American communities, and Radhika Desai, Professor at the

is with the U.S.-based Campaign to Free Alex Saab and the Sanctions Kill Coalition. Each month, speakers stress the importance of this campaign, defending Alex Saab's freedom and fighting the U.S. government's illegal, unjust and inhumane extraterritorial detentions. During the **June 16** action, participants heard updates on the campaign to free Alex Saab from Roigar Lopez, a representative of the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela who builds digital communications for the campaign. On **July 14**, Vanessa Ortiz, also a member of the Free Alex Saab Movement, spoke from Venezuela from her perspective as a Venezuelan journalist. The July 14 action featured another journalist perspective, from José Luis Granados Ceja, who is based in Mexico City. José Luis is a staff writer with Venezuela Analysis and host of their podcast and writes on a freelance basis about many Latin American issues.

One of the pivotal struggles in solidarity and defense of Venezuela took place in 2019 when the U.S. launched a right-wing attack and takeover of the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington, DC. On the July 14 action, David Paul shared his perspective as a leading member of the Venezuelan Embassy Protection Collective who defended the Venezuelan Embassy in 2019. David Paul is a member of the Sanctions Kill Coalition, Task Force on the Americas, and the Democratic Socialists of America.

Defending Venezuela against U.S. sanctions and intervention is an important issue for the antiwar movement to take on. During the July 14 virtual picket action, this aspect was spoken to by Ken Stone. Ken is a long-time anti-war, labour, anti-racism, and environmental activist. He is Treasurer of the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War and Executive Member of the Syria Solidarity Movement.

Alison Bodine chairs the monthly virtual picket actions. She is the coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign and author of "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Venezuela." (Battle of Ideas Press, 2018).

These actions continue to defend Venezuela every month, and you can join to show your solidarity too! Register via Zoom and join at <https://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla>



SOLIDARITY ACTIVISTS BUILDING A UNITED FRONT TO DEFEND VENEZUELA!

By Janine Solanki

Today Venezuela is continuing to stand strong against the non-stop campaign of destabilization and brutal sanctions against Venezuela carried out by the U.S. government and their allies, including Canada. Every day, the people of Venezuela face shortages of goods, fuel, food, medicine, and daily necessities resulting from inhuman, brutal, and heavy imperialist sanctions and blockade. These attacks on Venezuela include the unjust imprisonment of Venezuelan Diplomat Alex Saab, who was arrested while in Cape Verde en route to Iran to negotiate shipments of fuel and humanitarian supplies for Venezuela. Since being kidnapped by the United States government on October 16, 2021, he has been held in jail in Miami awaiting trial on trumped up money laundering charges.

In Canada, activists have come together to demand that U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela! These monthly virtual picket actions are Organized by Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg and the 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.

These virtual actions unite activists across borders and time zones and feature speakers in Canada, the U.S., Venezuela and beyond. A regular speaker representing Venezuela is Professor Luis Acuña, Charge d'affaires of the Venezuela Embassy in Canada. Professor Acuña joins almost every action to speak from Venezuela since the Canadian sanctions and hostile actions prevent him from carrying

Department of Political Studies, and Director, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba and a founding member of the Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg, Canada.

The **May 12**, 2022 action also featured speakers from Venezuela, Canada and the U.S. Nelson Herrera spoke from Venezuela, where he is the Secretary General of the Vice-Presidency for the Working Class of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), as well as the General Coordinator of the Anti-Imperialist Workers Platform (PCOA). Nelson also spoke about his experience as a General Coordinator with the union representing workers in Venezuela's Grand Housing Mission (2014-2017) and a member of the National Constituent Assembly in Venezuela (2017-2020). From Canada, Montreal, Quebec-based author/journalist Arnold August spoke. Arnold is a Contributing Editor for The Canada Files and a member of the International Manifesto Group. Arnold writes regularly about Canada-Venezuela affairs and is the author of three books on U.S./Cuba/Latin American issues.

Each action also provides updates on the fight to free Alex Saab. At the May 12th action, updates were provided by Roger Harris, a board member of the Task Force on the Americas, a 37-year-old anti-imperialist human rights organization. Roger visited Cape Verde, where Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab was being held, in June 2021 as part of an international delegation to free Alex Saab. Roger has travelled to Venezuela numerous times and met with Camila Fabri, the wife of Alex Saab, and others working on his case. He



AN INTERVIEW WITH TUNISIAN LEADER HAMMA HAMMAMI

GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUNISIAN WORKERS' PARTY

PART 2

Interview conducted, transcribed & translated from Arabic by Azza Rojbi

Hamma Hammami is a long-time Tunisian revolutionary socialist activist and leader. Hammami began his militant journey as a student activist in 1970 within the General Union of Tunisian Students (UGET). He was imprisoned and tortured for his political activism, spent 10 years in prison, and more than 10 years in hiding. Hammami was a strong vocal opposition to the government of former Tunisian dictator Ben Ali and played a key leadership role in the 2011 Tunisian revolution. Hammami is the Secretary General of the Tunisian Workers' Party and author of several books on politics and economy.

The below interview was conducted with Hamma Hammami in June 2022 ahead of the constitutional referendum in Tunisia announced for July 25, 2022. We believe this is a very important and educational interview that highlights an example of the struggle that many colonial and semi-colonial countries are going through in a time of capitalist-imperialist decay, rapid polarization of world politics and finance system, and an unfolding new cold war.

AR: Tunisian President Kais Saied claims that he knows what people want and promises a better living standard for people. However, he cuts wages, lifts subsidies on hydrocarbons, reduces the tax burden on private companies, grants amnesty to businesspeople involved in financial corruption, and restructures and privatizes public companies and austerity programs. These attacks on working people in Tunisia are unprecedented and very contradictory. While he claims he understands what Tunisian people want, Saied is imposing severe austerity measures, downsizing, and neo-liberal programs on working and poor people who are already economically and financially stressed. Can you elaborate on his economic and social policies and if these are effective measures to confront the very ill economy of Tunisia?

HH: So here we are in this situation today. What do people want? First, aren't the unemployed from the people? They want to work. The policies of Kais Saied and his government, as demanded by the IMF (International Monetary Fund), call for stopping public sector hiring. What does this have to do with, for example, the demands of one million unemployed people in Tunisia? Yet Kais continues to tell the youth that they will not stop public sector hiring. At the same time, as you might know, he refused to implement Law 38, which would have supported Tunisian youth whose unemployment exceeds ten years.

Second, people want at least a minimum standard of decent living. How does Kais Saied answer this? By raising prices and ending subsidies! The price hike right now is crazy. How will the rise in prices be dealt with by ending subsidies on essential

The World Bank mentioned Tunisia as one of the 24 countries threatened by hunger. As you may know, this summer, experts are telling us to wait for the thirst uprising in Tunisia as the country suffers from water shortages. Currently, there are about 600 medicines out of stock in Tunisia. So, what do the people want? Do people want more unemployment? More poverty, more hunger?

It should be noted that Kais Saied, in his main meetings so far, generally meets with the head of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA) constantly reassuring them that their interests will not be affected. He meets the head of the Group of Banks and Insurance Companies. He meets with such people to assure them of their interests. He reassures foreign countries of their interests, even if he pretends to be against interfering in Tunisian affairs. He does not talk about meddling in Tunisian affairs except when it

comes to political matters. As for Tunisia to be an open ground to foreign intelligence or financial and economic intervention, this does not worry Kais Saied.

AR: The Tunisian government has negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a \$4 billion USD loan. As part of the deal, Saied's government has proposed massive cuts in food and energy subsidies, a freeze on wages of public sector employees, and further privatization of state

and public institutions to fulfill the IMF's demands. How heavy-handed are the IMF and World Bank dictating austerity measures and neo-liberal policies on Kais Saied? Is it believable that combining austerity and neo-liberal programs with obtaining loans from IMF will help restructure Tunisia's economy and financial bankruptcy, or will these temporary measures take Tunisia to a more profound economic collapse?

HH: I called more than once the experts to a challenge. I told them give me one example of a country in which the International Monetary Fund intervened and led to success. Wherever the International Monetary Fund



Protest by the "National Campaign Against the Referendum"

supplies, which equals an increase in prices? The program presented by his government to the International Monetary Fund is geared towards continuing to raise the prices of basic materials. So, he is working against what the people want.

Third, Tunisia's minimum wage is the weakest in the entire region. It is about 140-150 euros. It is very low wages in a country where prices are skyrocketing. What are Kais Saied and his government's answers to this? Let's freeze wages and reduce what the government pays in wages! Maybe by cancelling grants programs or pushing people to early retirement. Is this a policy that fulfills the desires of the people?



Feminst organisation Aswat Nissa joins the protest against the Kais Saied referendum. Tunis, July 22, 2022

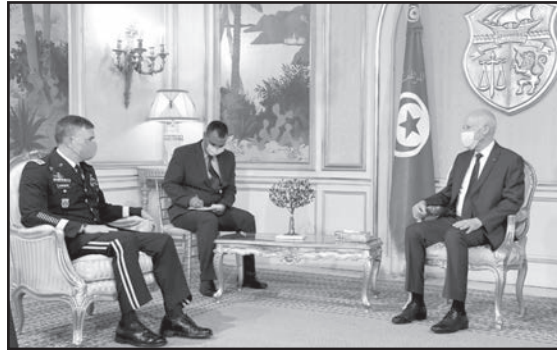
intervenes, there will be a disaster. The IMF is not an ordinary bank. It is a bank-led by major capitalist countries, led by the United States of America, to impose policies on other countries. The policies imposed by the IMF, which I talked about earlier, are against the interest of the people and the government. These are policies to enable creditors to obtain their loans at the expense of the interest of that country and at the expense of the interest of the poor and working class. Kais Saied and his government are trying to convince the Tunisian people that there is no other solution to the economic crisis than going to the International Monetary Fund. In other words, they are trying to convince people that there is no other solution but to impoverish them further and mortgage their homeland to foreign financial institutions.

We consider that this only serves the interests of the wealthy families in Tunisia. These are numbered in the dozens, meaning a small minority that controls 48% of the wealth in Tunisia. This also serves the interests of influential foreign companies and international financial institutions that have interests in Tunisia.

What did we suggest? We said if there was an independent national government in Tunisia, what would it have done? First and foremost, we would have demanded the cancellation of the agreements harmful to Tunisia. An example is the Association Agreement with the European Union. The Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA), which is not a leftist organization, said that this agreement has caused the destruction of 30% of small and medium enterprises and that this agreement caused Tunisia to lose about 350 or 400 thousand jobs. This first. Second, we demanded the freezing of debt—suspension of increasing the country's indebtedness for three years. We, as a party, support the cancellation of debts, especially the cancellation of odious debts. But we suggested as a measure that everyone can accept debt suspension for a period of

three years, as happened in other countries. This will put huge and large sums at the disposal of Tunisia. We raised the third proposal. We said: Why not impose a large wealth tax? During the covid pandemic, there are at least three sectors that have achieved unbelievable profits: communication companies, banking and insurance companies, and large commercial spaces, in addition to private clinics and private laboratories. As for the banks, we have a phenomenon that does not exist in other countries. At a time when the government is talking about a growth rate of 1.5, the profits of banks in Tunisia are between 11% and 12%.

The government does not want to touch the interests of the wealthy. They want to harm the interests of the poor. We also raised the demand to request that non-resident



U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. Stephen Townsend meeting with Tunisian President Kais Saied. Tunis, September 9, 2021

corporations not transfer their profits in hard currency abroad for three years. These companies, such as telecommunications or other commercial companies, transfer about 3.5 billion dinars annually. We also called for another measure. In Tunisia, there are 12 billion dinars in the parallel economy. So, we demanded the gradual inclusion of the parallel economy. The parallel economy currently comprises about 52 or 54 percent of the Tunisian economy.

We also demanded that the state recover its money at the hands of private companies and individuals, its 12 billion dinars. Tunisia's budget at present is 53 billion dinars. We said the money recovered would add to the budget. We suggested that this money first goes to reform agriculture and industry, to improve education and healthcare. To develop big projects. In this way, we will be able to create the economy in a way that

will offer jobs to many unemployed people by developing or creating wealth in Tunisia and stimulating the economy in Tunisia.

So, Kais Saied did not improve the conditions of the Tunisian people but, on the contrary, exacerbated these conditions. That is why we said clearly that we reject this dictatorship, will resist it, and are confident that we will defeat it. We do not want to go back before 25 July 2021 or before January 14, 2011. We are for an independent path that opens up to the new Tunisia. We called this plan the "Popular Democracy Program," which will politically enable the poor and working class to have authority over the state and the government. In parliament, in all parliaments since 2011, we have not seen a single worker or poor person. Instead, we have seen corrupt individuals, and we have seen mostly rich people who control parliament and control the media, and sometimes they are even funding political parties. We also believe that this real popular democracy will enable the people to control the wealth to build an economy that meets the basic material and moral needs of the people. This can be easy, but the issue is one of the choices of the political class.

Tunisia has 12 million inhabitants, in over 163 thousand square kilometres, and we have all kinds of resources. We have 1,200 kilometers of coastline and we have areas suitable for major agriculture of grains, dates, citrus, and olives. We also have huge human potential, including engineers and great experts that have been migrating and leaving Tunisia. An official figure during the last seven years, 95 thousand highly skilled Tunisians left the country. In other words, Tunisia is not a poor country, but it is the ruling class that controls wealth, politics, and the state that impoverishes Tunisia in return for the accumulation of wealth at the top.

End of Part 2

Police violence against protesters against Kais Saied's referendum. Tunis, July 22, 2022



Standing in Solidarity with Cuba in the Face of *Threats & Intimidation*

Statement by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)

July 9, 2022



Cuban workers marching in Havana. May 1, 2022

On Sunday July 10 and Monday July 11, 2022 certain anti-Cuban organizations, outside of Cuba, have threatened to take actions against the Cuban government, specifically targeting Cuba's diplomatic embassies and consulates around the world on the 1st anniversary of the July 11, 2021 disturbances in Cuba.

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba in Canada, condemns these threats and intimidation tactics against the proud, sovereign, and revolutionary people of Cuba. This right-wing anti-Cuba campaign has previously included violent acts, most recently in July 2021 three petrol bombs were thrown at the Cuban Embassy in Paris, France. However this violence has also impacted Canada with the bombing of the Cuban pavilion during Expo '67 and the murder of an Italian resident of Canada, Fabio di Celmo, in a Havana hotel bombing in 1997. The revolutionary people and government of Cuba have every reason to be concerned and on high alert with these groups and their history of violence.

Last year on July 11, 2021 a single day of disturbances in Cuba — with some Cubans taking to the street in protest against shortages in the country and also against the Cuban government — made global headlines

media did not mention that the July 11 disturbances were often violent: attacking police, vandalizing local businesses and private homes, as well as dumping garbage in the streets.

The mainstream media also did not mention that the so-called leaders of these protests, many of whom are part of 'dissident' artistic and musical communities, are funded by two U.S. government agencies: USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy. In fact the U.S. House Appropriations Budget allocated \$20 million in 2021 to projects devoted to overthrowing the Cuban government, much of which goes directly to these so-called 'dissidents'. These groups do not represent the will of the overwhelming majority of Cuban society.

In the end, the relatively small disturbances in Cuba on July 11, 2021 became a top trending topic on Twitter and other social media platforms due to an organized imperialist campaign under the hashtag #SOS-Cuba which was launched by bots, some of which were tweeting multiple tweets per second over the course of 24 hours.

Furthermore, many photos shared widely online that claimed to be of large protests in Cuba, were in fact of protests in Miami,



Cubans marching in support of the Cuban Revolution.

for weeks. The mainstream

Egypt, Chile and Colombia. Many images of police brutality were also exposed as incidents of police violence in other countries, not Cuba. A now famous image, published by Fox News, the New York Times and the Guardian claimed to show anti-government protesters in Havana on July 11, but the picture clearly shows demonstrators holding their "26 de julio" flag, which is Fidel Castro's guerrilla movement flag, they were clearly pro-government!

All of the misinformation, lies, and violence from July 11, 2021 are now threatening to be repeated once again this year on July 10 & 11, 2022. It is because of these threats that Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and organizations in solidarity with Cuba around the world are standing committed with the revolutionary people and government of Cuba in the face of renewed attacks and intimidation by right-wing anti-Cuba forces. We stand in defense of Cuba's diplomatic missions abroad and with the revolutionary people in Cuba who are standing in defense of their homeland.

U.S. Hands Off Cuba!

End the media lies against Cuba!

End the criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba!

VCSC is a Member of the Canadian Network on Cuba-CNC

www.vancubasolidarity.com

Twitter/Instagram: @VanCuba_VCSC

example, the Cuba Support Group Ireland (CGSI) has spoken on virtual pickets to encourage people to join their #WalkingForCuba campaign. Carlos Lazo from "Puentes de Amos" (Bridges of Love) has spoken at the pickets to encourage participation in one of the most important campaigns in the Cuba solidarity movement today - Car Caravans against the U.S. blockade. What started with Carlos Lazo biking over 5,000 km from Seattle to Washington DC against the U.S. blockade in Summer 2020 has become an international Car Caravan movement. These actions are a turning point for those in the Cuban-American community, especially in Miami, who want to see normalized relations between Cuba and the U.S.

The virtual picket actions feature different speakers every month and, after two years, have represented over 100 nations coming from every continent. Activists in Latin America and the Caribbean have also strongly participated in the virtual picket actions. The most critical front in the fight against the U.S. blockade is from within the belly of the beast, in the United States itself. Nearly every virtual picket will have the participation of both speakers and attendees from the U.S., including from the National Network on Cuba (NNOC), IFCO/ Pastors for Peace, CodePink, Los Angeles US Hands Off Cuba Committee, Cuba Si Coalition, Hands Off Cuba/Venezuela South Florida Coalition, the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Committee, among others. Of course, Cuban voices have still been part of the actions, but with pre-recorded videos and Cuban attendees watching via the Facebook livestream. Cuban speakers have included representatives from institutions such as the Workers' Central

Union of Cuba (CTC), Cuban Women's Federation (FMC) and the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), as well as Cuban doctors, professors and students. Cuba's national heroes, the Cuban 5, have also spoken on the virtual pickets, including Fernando Gonzalez, President of ICAP, and Rene Gonzalez, both heroes imprisoned in the U.S. for over 15 years.

Defense of Cuba Continues! #UnBlockCuba

From around the world, the virtual picket does a full circle and comes back to Canada with greetings from member groups of the Canadian Network on Cuba. The virtual picket action is usually co-chaired by CNC executive members Tamara Hansen (Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and author of "5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution: The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership") and Julio Fonseca (President of the Juan Gualberto Gomez Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto). To wrap up the action, the "picket" part of the event is announced, and participants are invited to turn on their videos and hold "lift the blockade on Cuba" signs and Cuban flags. While participants wave and chant enthusiastically, geographically, they may be distant but in spirit and online these Cuban solidarity activists are together for Cuba! In unity, we will win. We must build a worldwide united front against the inhuman and illegal U.S. blockade on Cuba to win the battle against the blockade.

Even as in-person events start up again, these virtual pickets continue to be a space to reflect local activities and to unite the Cuba solidarity movement worldwide. As these virtual picket actions build, so does further cooperation and coordination in the fight to end the U.S. blockade on Cuba!

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Political Editor:

Ali Yerevani - editorftt@mail.com @aliyerevani

Editor: Tamara Hansen @thans01

Editorial Board:

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

Layout & Design:

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

Contributors:

Andrew Barry, Max Tennant, Phil Wilayto, Aileen Carmenaty

Copy Editors:

Adrian Fu, Tamara Hansen, Janine Solanki & Alison Bodine

Publicity & Distribution Coordinator:

Andrew Barry infoftt@mail.com

Production Manager:

Azza Rojbi

Contact:

Phone (778) 938-1557

Email infoftt@mail.com

Mail PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC, V5L 5G3

Subscriptions

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

Distribution

For Fire This Time in your area across BC, Canada, and Internationally contact Publicity and Distribution Coordinator Andrew Barry

Phone : (604) 780-4029

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Fire This Time Remembers



Francisco Moreno
November 5, 1946 ~ July 16, 2022

union activists came under attack. Francisco and many other unionists, activists and leftists were rounded up in the infamous Santiago Stadium, where many of the over 20,000 detained were tortured and murdered. After three weeks in the stadium, Francisco and his brother were released.

In 1976 due to repression and the worsening economic situation in Chile, Francisco moved to Argentina, where he lived for nearly ten years. However, life in Argentina was also challenging as Chilean migrants were seen as “leftist troublemakers” and faced harassment and discrimination by Argentina’s military government.

Francisco arrived in Canada in 1982, and in 1992 he met his future wife, Mirta Carcamo. They raised their family in Richmond, BC, where Francisco, Mirta and their late daughter Priscila got involved in progressive and social justice causes.

In his last years, Francisco suffered from worsening health; however, he was always eager to receive the latest issue of Fire This Time Newspaper. Fire This Time sends our deepest condolences to Francisco’s family members and friends, especially his wife Mirta and son Frances.

Francisco Moreno was born and grew up in Santiago, Chile. In his 20s, he became active in the union for shoe factory workers and became the Union Secretary. After the dictator Pinochet came to power in 1973,



Kat Zu'comulwat Norris

June 9, 1955 -July 7, 2022



Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice was saddened to hear of the passing of Indigenous Elder Kat Zu'comulwat Norris on July 8, 2022. Over the years, we have held a great respect for her work and leadership as a fierce advocate for Indigenous rights and life-long social justice fighter.

Kat Norris, a member of the Lyackson First Nation, was a leader in many different struggles over her lifetime. From her role in founding the Annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Vancouver, to the campaign she led against the RCMP murder by neglect of Indigenous man Frank Paul in 2009, to her organizing and guidance during the Idle No More movement for Indigenous rights which sparked in 2012, Kat Norris was a tireless fighter for Indigenous rights.

Rather than calling herself a residential school survivor, Kat Norris called herself a survivor of a prisoner-of war camp, after she and her brothers were forced to attend the Kuper Island Indian Residential School on Penelakut Island. Kat Norris later moved to Los Angeles, California with her family where she was inspired by the Black and Chicano liberation movements. At 19 years old she moved back to Vancouver and joined the American Indian Movement (AIM).

Fire This Time had the opportunity to interview Kat Norris twice. Once about the case of Frank Paul, and another time in 2006 following a rally that she organized as coordinator of the Indigenous Action Movement. This rally coincided with the final day of a series of residential school settlement hearings and was called to denounce the unjust process of the hearings, as well as recent abuse of Indigenous women and girls by the RCMP in Prince George, BC.

Kat’s conviction that Indigenous people would stand up and fight for their rights, despite continued genocide and repression by the state of Canada was clear throughout the interview. As Kat said, “We’re still fighting for our rights. And it feels like no one is listening, but what I foresee is continued action, continued fighting for our rights. What I foresee is our people getting stronger



Kat Norris speaking at the 2009 Hip Hop Festival for Peace organized by Vancouver's antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO)

and stronger because we’re learning.”

The best way to honour the life of Elder Kat Zu'comulwat Norris is to continue the struggle for Indigenous rights and social justice.

The full interview is available in Fire This Time Volume 3, Issue 6 at <http://www.firethistime.net/newspapers/FTTV36web.pdf>

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