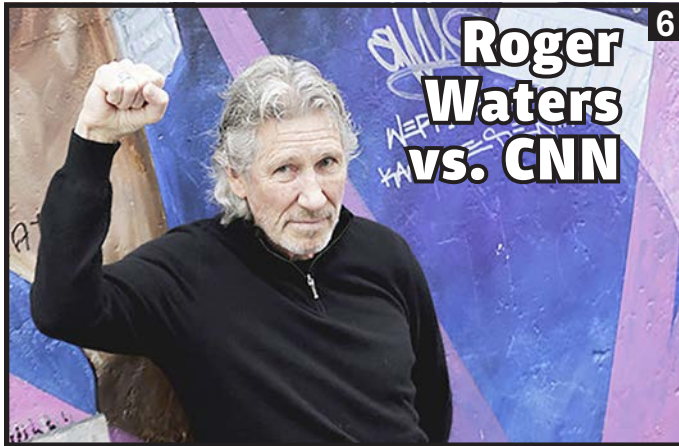


"We are realists...we dream the impossible" - Che

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



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Saudi Arabia: Anti-Women's Rights,

Anti-Human Rights & Anti-Democratic Rights



Top: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman receives US President Biden at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. July 15th, 2022. Left: Yemeni Americans Protesting against the Saudi led war on Yemen

By Azza Rojbi

On August 30, 2022, leaked videos from an orphanage in Saudi Arabia's southwestern city of Khamis Mushait were widely shared on social media. The videos give a glimpse of the brutality and abuse that Saudi women face. The footage showed a group of Saudi security forces attacking and beating a group of women and girls inside the orphanage. They were assaulting them with tasers, wooden sticks and leather belts.

In one video a man is seen dragging a woman by her hair across the lawn, another joins him to beats her with a belt, while a third helps the first man to put the women in shackles. Other videos show Saudi security officers chasing women across the orphanage pushing and tackling them to the ground. The videos were viewed online millions of times and created an uproar on social media including in Saudi Arabia.

The women and girls in the orphanage were protesting their horrible living conditions. Instead of listening to them the Saudi authorities sent in security forces to beat them up. Now that these brave girls and women documented their abuse and leaked the videos on social media, the governor of the Asir region where the orphanage is located announced that the incident will be investigated.

MBS and Women's Rights Abuses in Saudi Arabia

This brutal case is one more example of

the suppression and repression of Saudi women that dare to stand up and fight for their rights. Women's rights activist Loujain al-Hathloul, a University of British Columbia graduate, actively campaigned to push for women to have the right to drive in Saudi Arabia. She was arrested in 2018 along with other prominent women's rights activists just few weeks before the Saudi government lifted the ban on women driving. While Loujain and others were tortured in Saudi jails, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman (known as MBS) was being celebrated as a reformer for lifting the driving ban. Loujain was released after spending 1001 days in jail under the conditions that she doesn't return to activism, or she can be re-arrested, and her and her parents are under a travel ban forbidden to leave Saudi Arabia.

Lina al-Hathloul, Loujain's sister and a Saudi human rights activist living in

Belgium, commented to the Middle East Eye news making the connection between her sister's case and the women and girls at the orphanage:

"Just as women's rights activists such as Loujain al-Hathloul were tortured for demanding their basic rights, orphans who complain about their daily conditions will also be brutally silenced and physically assaulted,"

She added "This video shows the prevailing and unrelenting repression against women in Saudi Arabia. Even when women do not have male guardians and are living in orphanages, it is the arm of the state itself that violently attacks them for demanding their legitimate rights".

Women in Saudi Arabia still live under the oppressive male guardianship system where a male family member controls their life. Saudi women need permission from their male guardian to get married, divorce, access some aspect of healthcare



Hamilton, Ontario action demands Canada to Stop Arming Saudi Arabia on March 26, 2022.

and even to leave prison.

MBS and Democratic rights abuses in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is an absolute despotic monarchy ruled by a clique of royals with unrestricted and unchecked powers. The country lacks any sort of democratic institutions. Saudis are excluded from any real political participation. The existence of political organisations, trade unions, or independent human rights groups are forbidden, and public gatherings and demonstrations are prohibited. The government relies on massive surveillance and repressive security forces to squash any opposition. Since becoming Crown Prince, MBS, the so called “modern reformer” has amassed more and more powers under his hand and brutally suppressed any form of dissent.

According to ALQST, a London based organisation that documents and promotes human rights in Saudi Arabia:

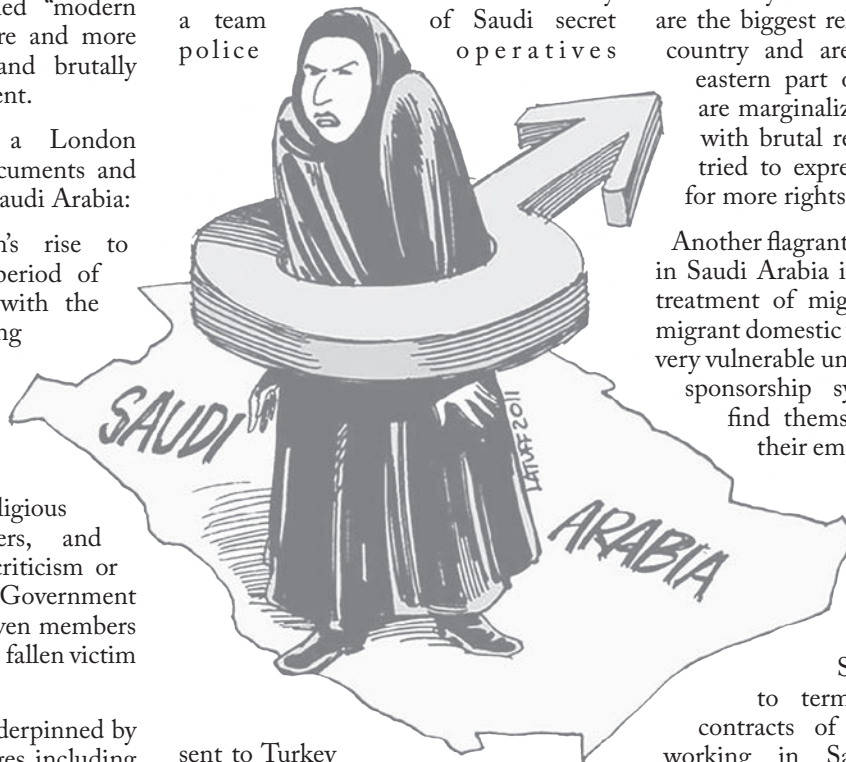
“Mohammed bin Salman’s rise to power has ushered in a period of unprecedented repression, with the authorities brutally cracking down on free speech and any whisper of dissent. The SSP [State Security Presidency] has arbitrarily arrested hundreds of human rights defenders, religious figures, academics, writers, and indeed anyone expressing criticism or not toeing the official line. Government officials, businessmen and even members of the ruling family have also fallen victim to the authorities’ wrath.

This repression has been underpinned by further regressive legal changes, including a 2017 revision of the Counter-Terrorism Law, an even more draconian version of its predecessor, that punishes anyone who “directly or indirectly” describes the king or crown prince as “in any way harming religion or justice.”

Last August saw a brutal crackdown on democratic rights activists and their freedom of expression. The Saudi Court of Appeals sentenced social media activist and blogger, Muhammad al-Jedaie to 18-years in prison. This news came out as a Saudi woman, Nourah bint Saeed al-Qahtani, was sentenced to 45 years in prison for her social media posts. Earlier in the month, Saudi court sentenced women’s rights activist Salma Al-Shehab to 34 years in prison also for

her social media posts. Al-Shehab was originally sentenced to 6 years in prison over tweets supporting democratic and women’s rights in the kingdom. After appealing, her sentence was changed to 34 years. This is a clear indication of punishment and repressive tactics by the Saudi kingdom to make a lesson of anyone that dares to question the system.

In addition to persecuting activists in Saudi Arabia, MBS and his government have been tracking down and silencing dissenting and critical voices abroad. A horrific example is the brutal killing and dismembering of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul in October 2018 by a team of Saudi secret police operatives



sent to Turkey specially for the killing.

Human Rights Abuses in Saudi Arabia

Saudi human rights activists face arrest, persecution, imprisonment and even execution for simply expressing themselves. There are reports that hundreds of young women and men are detained in Saudi jails for their use of social media and criticism of the kingdom. Saudi jails are known for torture and cruel and inhuman treatment of prisoners.

On March 12, 2022, Saudi Arabia carried out the execution of 81 men in the single largest mass execution in years. According to the European Saudi Organization for

Human Rights “In the period of January-June 2022, Saudi Arabia executed 120 people, marking an 80% increased on executions throughout the year of 2021. By June, Saudi Arabia had executed more people in 2022 than in 2020 and 2021 combined.”

The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet condemned the mass execution and said, “Among those beheaded on 12 March, I understand that 41 belonged to the Shiite minority, and had taken part in anti-government protests in 2011-2012 calling for greater political participation.” The Saudi regime treats the Shia Muslim community as second-class citizens. They are the biggest religious minority in the country and are concentrated in the eastern part of Saudi Arabia. They are marginalized and are always met with brutal repression anytime they tried to express themselves or fight for more rights.

Another flagrant human rights violation in Saudi Arabia is the country’s abusive treatment of migrant workers. Women migrant domestic workers are particularly very vulnerable under the country’s kafala sponsorship system. They basically find themselves at the mercy of their employer and are forced to work under inhuman conditions and treatments.

According to Human Rights Watch “In July 2021, Saudi authorities began to terminate or not renew contracts of Yemeni professionals working in Saudi Arabia, leaving them vulnerable to arrest, detention and deportation to the conflict and humanitarian crisis in Yemen as a result of not having legal status in the country.”

Saudi Arabia and the War in Yemen

The brutal Saudi regime is effectively forcing Yemeni workers out of work and deporting them back to a humanitarian crisis that they themselves were directly responsible for creating. Since the U.S. backed Saudi-led war on Yemen began in 2015, hundreds of thousands of people have been killed while millions have been displaced in what the United Nations calls the world’s biggest humanitarian crisis. The Saudi-led coalition is responsible

Continued on page 15

Climate Convergence

No New Pipelines in a Climate Emergency! Stop the TMX & CGL Pipelines! People & Planet Before Pipelines & Profit!

August 4, 2022

According to the NASA space agency, global temperatures this June were the second hottest since records were first kept in 1880. Alongside the sweltering heat, the climate catastrophe has brought forest fires, droughts, and record floods – among other extreme weather events that threaten all of humanity and disproportionately target the world's most vulnerable and marginalized people.

Massive oil and gas corporations, and the government's that enable their destruction, are responsible for the vast majority of global greenhouse gas emissions and incalculable environmental ruin that has brought about the climate crisis. These same corporations – Exxon Mobile, Shell, and Chevron to name a few, have continued to bring in record profits despite their complicity in the destruction of the planet. Aviël Verbruggen, an energy economist at the University of Antwerp, recently analyzed that these corporations have been raking in an outrageous \$2.8 billion USD per day in profits for the last 50 years at the expense of people and the planet.

While claiming to be a "climate champion," the Liberal government of Canada has continued to line the pockets of these same oil and gas company executives with tax-payer money. According to Environmental Defence in 2020 the Liberal government handed out \$18 billion in subsidies alone. In 2018, the Trudeau Liberal government also bought the existing Trans Mountain pipeline and the Trans Mountain expansion (TMX) project for \$4.5 billion in tax-payer money.

Stop TMX!

Trans Mountain is now a Crown corporation, and costs for TMX have sky-rocketed more

than 70% to at least \$21.4 billion. In February 2022, Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland stated that no more public money would be spent on TMX, but according to renowned economist Robyn Allen, this is a complete lie. As long as construction of TMX continues, people in Canada are on the hook for the interest on accumulating debt – which as of now is \$700 million a year. In June 2022, the Liberal government passed further costs on to people in Canada, announcing \$10 billion in loan guarantees, to try to attract private investment in the project.

If constructed, the TMX pipeline will triple the amount of dirty tar-sands bitumen (an

referred to as "natural" gas – the fracked-gas that the CGL pipeline is supposed to deliver to the LNG Canada facility in Kitimat, BC is anything but natural. As reported by Sarah Cox in the Narwal, if completed, Phase 1 and 2 of the LNG Canada project, which has been subsidized by the BC NDP government, will emit the same amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as 1.7 million cars, yearly.

The CGL pipeline is also opposed by the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs whose land it crosses. Instead of upholding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which was passed into law in BC in

2019, the B.C. government has worked hand-in-hand with the RCMP to attempt to force the pipeline through Wet'suwet'en territory. Indigenous land defenders and their allies continue to face police brutality, unjust arrests and detention, harassment, and intimidation for their peaceful defense of the land.

Together we can confront the climate crisis and win!

The Trudeau Liberal government and B.C. government continue to give lip service to environmental concerns and Indigenous rights — while pressing ahead

with massive resource extraction projects which completely disregard both. They don't care about people and the planet, and neither do the oil and gas companies that they subsidize.

It is time for poor, working and oppressed people in Canada to hold the government of Canada accountable for the destruction that they have brought upon Mother Earth and their trampling of Indigenous rights. Everyone who believes that a just and sustainable world is possible must unite in the struggle for climate justice – and come together to demand:

System Change, Not Climate Change!



Alison Bodine leading the chant at the International Climate Strike event with Sustainabiliteens, Climate Justice UBC, and Climate Convergence. March 24, 2022.

especially toxic form of crude oil) travelling from Edmonton to the Westridge Terminal in Burnaby, B.C. daily. The destruction of vital ecosystems is already apparent, including the loss of vital salmon and bird habitat. Increased tanker traffic in the Vancouver harbour is also projected to cause severe harm to the already endangered Southern Resident orcas.

Stop CGL!

The Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline, a fracked-gas pipeline under construction in British Columbia also faces rapidly rising costs. Some of the cost over-runs have come from fines imposed on them for flagrant violations of environmental regulations. Although often

System Change Not Climate Change!

Climate Convergence Continues to Build an International Movement in Defense of Mother Earth



Climate Convergence Intersection Action in New Westminster. August 10, 2022.

By Alison Bodine

At the end of August 2022, devastating floods submerged one-third of Pakistan under water. The United Nations estimates that 33 million people, about one-seventh of the population of Pakistan, have been impacted, as entire towns are destroyed. Over 1100 people have been killed.

Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the world's annual greenhouse gas emissions, which are responsible for the rising temperature of the planet and escalating extreme weather events. Yet, as the world has witnessed over the last few weeks, the people of Pakistan are the ones that are facing the consequences of climate catastrophe.

Unfortunately, the people of Pakistan are not the only ones fighting for their very survival because of the destruction of Mother Nature driven by the endless pursuit of profit that defines the capitalist system. Record-breaking temperatures are being recorded around the world - from China to Iraq to the Arctic. Wildfires have ravaged the United States, Southern Europe, and North Africa. Drought is ravaging food systems in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Italy, and Spain. In a world characterized by increasing environmental disasters and climate chaos, poor, working, and oppressed people have already had their lives uprooted and will be most severely impacted in the future.

Trudeau, Business as Usual

Despite the clear and present danger that the climate catastrophe presents to

humanity, the government of Canada is continuing with the "business as usual" environmental destruction. In March, the Trudeau Liberal government released the "Emissions Reduction Plan," but it is nothing but a pretty package that hides more oil and gas extraction and export. For example, it allows more oil and gas production in 2050 than in 2019. Not to mention that just days after the release of the "Emissions Reduction Plan," the government approved the massive Bay du Nord offshore oil drilling project. The Trudeau government is also pushing ahead with dangerous pipeline projects, including the Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) dirty tar-sands pipeline, which the Trudeau Liberal government bought with tax-payer dollars in 2018.

Each climate catastrophe reminds us that building a consistent, collective, creative, and effective climate justice movement is more necessary than ever before.

Building The Climate Justice Movement Locally and Internationally

In Vancouver, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver has taken up this call and has continued to organize and mobilize people for climate justice, both online and in the streets throughout the month of August.

On August 6, Climate Convergence had a table at the first-ever Car Free Festival in New Westminster. This festival brought together thousands of people to the vibrant city centre, and the Climate Convergence table was busy throughout the day. There was an especially great response to the

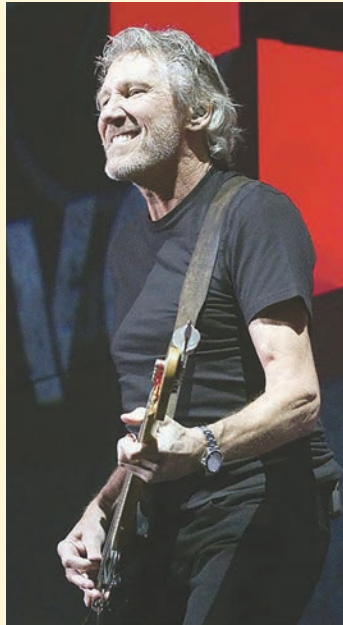
new postcard against TMX addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau and the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault, which people were invited to sign.

Then, on August 10, Climate Convergence organized an Intersection Action at the busy intersection of 6th Avenue and 6th Street, also in New Westminster. This dynamic action demanded "Stop TMX" and "No New Pipeline in a Climate Emergency!" and included many bright and striking banners that captured people's attention. There were nearly constant supportive honks coming from people passing by, as well as words of encouragement from folks walking by from the nearby bus stops.

On August 15, the Wet'suwet'en Strengthening Our Sovereignty Tour arrived in Vancouver. There were two actions on this day with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, who are leading the struggle on their territory against the Coastal GasLink fracked gas pipeline in Northern BC. For peacefully defending their land and upholding Wet'suwet'en law, Wet'suwet'en people and their allies have faced constant harassment, unlawful arrest and detention, and brutality at the hands of the RCMP and other police and security forces. Meanwhile, the BC NDP government continues to close its eyes to the brutality; and it continues to support and subsidize the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline and the climate destroying LNG Canada liquified

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Music Legend ROGER WATERS VS. CNN



Transcribed by Tamara Hansen

On August 4, 2022, in Philadelphia rock music legend, Roger Waters of Pink Floyd, sat down with CNN journalist, Michael Smerconish, to discuss the state of international politics and mainstream news. The interview was at times heated, but Roger Waters political insights were highly educational with a clear and independent outlook on issues surrounding Palestine, Russia, and China. Rogers also addressed his upcoming "This is not a drill" tour, which is travelling throughout North America August-October 2022.

Fire This Time is printing excerpts of the interview that we believe our readers and supporters will find thoughtful and incisive. The full uncut interview is available on Smerconish's YouTube Channel here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZsRj3_iDfM

ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

MS: So, what's it like to tour on, we hope, on the heels of a pandemic?

Roger Waters: Well, it's a huge relief. I mean, we were supposed to go out in July 2020, and now we've gone out in July 2022. So, it was a long wait, but it feels great now. The pandemic thing is an interesting question. [...] The motivations of the people who made the decisions about how to deal with the pandemic, particularly in the United States of America, were based on the one thing that everything's based on, which is bottom line and profit and all of that,

and not based upon the needs of the people, which is why there's a million dead here. And in China, there's about half a dozen.

MS: But we can never trust their numbers, right? I mean, we have no idea.

Roger Waters: Oh, bollocks. Don't give me the whole Russian-Chinese propaganda nonsense.

MS: You believe whatever the Chinese would tell you in terms of the death count?

Roger Waters: I believe whatever people who are neutral will tell me about what's going on. Where can you find news? And don't tell me you have proper news on CNN.

ON THE MESSAGE OF HIS MUSIC

Roger Waters: I've only got one message, "two strangers passing in the street, by chance two passing glances meet. I am you, and what I see is me". That is my message. And that was on *Meddle*, which was in 1970. Basically, my message changed. I

recognize your humanity, but I recognize all the Russians, and the Chinese, and the Ukrainians, and the Yemenis, and the Palestinians, and the Germans, and the French, and the Spanish, and the Ecuadorians, and the Peruvians, and the Colombians. Well done, by the way, Colombia, you've finally got a president who isn't in the pocket of the United States of America businessmen, and maybe your people will start getting a fair shake. I love that. I think it's great.

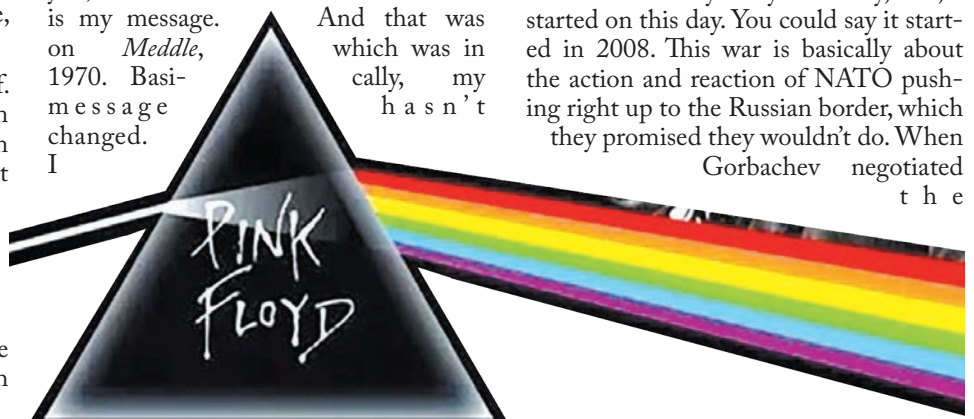
ON PRESIDENT BIDEN, NATO, UKRAINE, AND RUSSIA

MS: Are you an equal opportunity offender on this tour? Here's why I ask. I remember the last tour – of course, I came and watched – very much about Trump. In the current show you've got a montage of war criminals, according to you, and a picture apparently of President Biden on the screen and it says, 'Just getting started'. What's that all about?

Roger Waters: President Joe Biden? Well, he's fueling the fire in the Ukraine for a start. That is a huge crime. Why won't the United States of America encourage Zelensky or whatever his name is, the president, to negotiate? And to explain why – when he stood on the platform of ratifying the Minsk agreements, which he did when he was elected by 73% of the Ukrainian population that were left able to vote, that somebody whispered in his ear or he completely changed his mind about making peace in the Donbass and about solidifying the Minsk agreements and making peace with their Russian neighbors and obviating the need for this horrific, horrendous war.

MS: But you're blaming the party that got invaded. Come on, you've got it reversed.

Roger Waters: Well, you know, any war, when did it start? What you need to do is look at the history and you can say, well, it started on this day. You could say it started in 2008. This war is basically about the action and reaction of NATO pushing right up to the Russian border, which they promised they wouldn't do. When Gorbachev negotiated the



withdrawal of the USSR from the whole of Eastern Europe, he said, 'We will do this on one condition, that you don't come one inch closer to the Russian border than the eastern borders of Germany'. And you lot – if I may include you as an American – agreed to that and said, sure.

[...] Why doesn't the USA sue for peace now? Don't they care about Ukrainians? Why are they prolonging this war? It could be ended tomorrow if Joe Biden stood up on his hind legs and said, 'Let's put a stop to this'. It would end tomorrow.

ON HUMAN RIGHTS

MS: Finally, from a review of your Boston show, this is from the Forward which bills itself as Jewish, independent and nonprofit. Quote, "So, can you fully enjoy Waters' work if you do not agree with his positions? For me," says the author, "the answer is yes. In the concert, there was a high percentage of content, musical, visual and political where we were all on the same page as were, I'm guessing, the nearly 20,000 in attendance". I guess that's what it's all about, right?

Roger Waters: I'm very glad that he says that because that shows that we're making some progress. [...] Because particularly with within the context of the whole Israel-Palestine thing, which some Jewish people have a problem with, and others don't. But we all think about it whether we're Jewish or not. We always come back – or I always come back – to this tiny, tiny platform – except it isn't – which is Paris 1948 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Either you subscribe to the 30 articles of that declaration, or you don't. You cannot cherry pick. You can't have it your own way. You have to say either this is about all of us, all our broth-

ers and sisters, irrespective of ethnicity or religion or nationality, or it isn't. But you can't cherry pick. You can't say, well, we deserve human rights, but they don't. That is called being supremacist.

[...] Thank you, sir, [...] the Forward for saying that about the show. And I'm really glad to hear that you feel that way. But I will stand on that platform until the day I die. And if I lived to be the age of Methuselah, I would still be standing on 1948, Paris. And I stand on that platform with all my brothers and sisters all over the world, irrespective of all the things that I've said. And there are billions of them in the South, in the poor world and the Third World, who have been trampled on for the last 500 years since we, Europeans, started spreading over the world and trying to steal everything from them, which is what we've been doing, including here in the United States. This is not told, not taught in your schools, obviously.

MS: But when you say this, then I have to say, what about our role as liberators?

Roger Waters: You have no role as liberators, what are you talking...

MS: World War Two...

Roger Waters: You go into World War Two [...] it's Pearl Harbor. You were completely isolationist until that sad, that devastating...

MS: I would argue, we were always going to get in and that pushed us in. But thank God the United States got in, right? You lost your father in World War Two. Thank God the United States...

Roger Waters: The Russians had already won the bloody war almost by then. Don't forget, the 23 million Russians died protecting you and me from the Nazi menace...

MS: And you would think the Russians would have learned their lesson from war and wouldn't have invaded Ukraine.

Roger Waters: Well, you with all your reading, I would suggest to you, Michael, that you go away and read a bit more and then try and figure out what the United States would do if the Chinese were putting nuclear armed missiles into Mexico and Canada...

MS: The Chinese are too busy encircling Taiwan as we speak...

Roger Waters: They're not encircling Taiwan. Taiwan is part of China. And that's been absolutely accepted by the whole of the international community since 1948. And if you don't know that you're not reading enough, go and read about it.

MS: Okay. Did we solve anything here today?

Roger Waters: I mean, no, we didn't. I mean, you believe your side's propaganda. [...] You cannot have a conversation about human rights, and you can't have a conversation about Taiwan without actually doing the reading.

MS: Roger, if you're having a conversation about human rights, at the top of the list of offenders are the Chinese. Why is it always the Western...

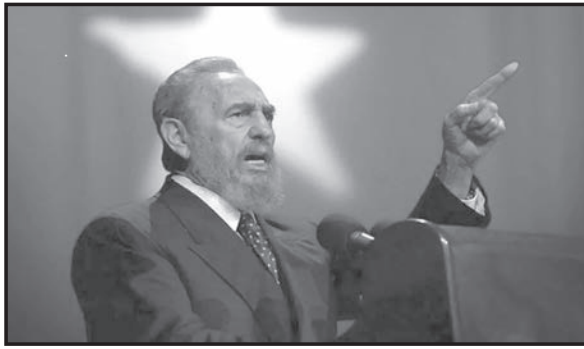
Roger Waters: At the top of your list. [...] The Chinese didn't invade Iraq and kill a million people in 2003. In fact, as far as I can recall. Hang on a minute, who have the Chinese invaded and murdered?

MS: Their own, their own...

Roger Waters: Bollocks! That's absolute nonsense. Complete nonsense. You should go away and read, but read some proper... [...] Thanks for talking to me, it's always a pleasure.

« The motivations of the people who made the decisions about how to deal with the pandemic, particularly in the United States of America, were based on the one the thing that everything's based on, which is bottom line and profit... and not based upon the needs of the people, which is why there's a million dead here. »





COMANDANTE FIDEL: PALESTINIAN HOLOCAUST IN GAZA

in the first half of the 20th century.

On this occasion I will not talk about the wars and crimes committed by the United States empire over more than 100 years, but will only state what it wanted to do to Cuba, what it has done to many other countries in the world, and only served to prove that "A just idea in the depth of a cave is stronger than an army."

History is much more complicated than everything I have said, but that is the way it is, in broad strokes, as the inhabitants of Palestine know, and it is likewise logical that the modern communications media reflect the news which arrives daily, as has occurred with the shameful, criminal war in the Gaza Strip, a piece of land where the population lives in what remains of what was independent Palestine only 50 years

course, who initiated the terrible war.

Added later, "... As of Saturday at midday the Israeli offensive had killed 1,712 Palestinians and injured 8,900. The United Nations was able to verify the identities of 1,117 dead, in their majority civilians ... UNICEF counted at least 296 dead minors."

Palestinian Holocaust in Gaza

"The United Nations estimates ...some 58,900 persons homeless in the Gaza Strip."

"Ten of the 32 hospitals were closed and another 11 damaged."

"This Palestinian enclave of 362 km² does not have the infrastructure needed for 1.8 million inhabitants, above all in terms of the provision of electricity and water."

"According to the IMF, the rate of unemployment surpasses 40% in the Gaza Strip, territory subjected to an Israeli blockade since 2006. In 2000, unemployment was 20%, and in 2011, 30%. More than 70% of the population depends on humanitarian aid during normal periods, according to Gisha.

The Israeli government declared a humanitarian truce in Gaza at 07:00 GMT on Monday, nevertheless within a few hours, it broke the truce attacking a house, injuring 30 persons, in their majority women and children, and an eight-year-old girl died.

In the dawn hours of this same day, 10 Palestinians died as a result of Israeli attacks in all of Gaza and the number of Palestinians murdered has already increased to 2,000.

The killing has reached the point that, "French Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius stated this Monday that Israel's right to security does not justify the massacre of civilians taking place."

The Nazi genocide of Jews outraged all the earth's peoples. Why does this government believe that the world will be insensitive to the macabre genocide which today is being perpetuated against the Palestinian people? Perhaps it is expected that the complicity of the U.S. empire in this shameful massacre will be ignored?

The human species is living in an unprecedented stage of history. A crash

Cuba and Israel have had a complicated relationship since the 1959 Cuban revolution. Although Cuba officially recognizes Israel as a country, nevertheless, Cuba has consistently sided with Palestinians and oppressed people of the Middle East against the Zionist-racist Israeli regime's atrocities and brutal military attacks. Cuba's foreign ministry has condemned Israeli repression, exploitation, and genocide of Palestinians for decades. Israel has always been on the side of the U.S. against Cuba. Since 1992, Israel and the U.S. have been the only two countries that consistently voted against the UN General Assembly resolution condemning the U.S. blockade of Cuba. In 1973, the Cuban government cut its diplomatic relations with Israel. In the last few years, a few political tendencies, especially on the left (as we call them leftist Zionists), have attempted to distort Cuba's position on Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people. In coming issues of Fire This Time, we will publish previous articles by Comandante Fidel Castro and statements by Cuba's foreign ministry to clarify revolutionary Cuba's support for the Palestinian people's democratic and human rights and condemnation of Israel's illegal colonial policies.

- Ali Yerevani, Political Editor, Fire This Time Newspaper

I again request that Granma not use the front page for these relatively brief lines about the genocide of Palestinians being committed. I am writing them rapidly, to state only that which requires deep reflection. I think that a new, repugnant form of fascism is emerging with notable strength, at this time in human history when more than seven billion inhabitants are struggling for their survival.

None of these circumstances have anything to do with the creation of the Roman Empire, around 2,400 years ago, or with the U.S. empire which, in this region only 200 years ago, was described by Simón Bolívar who exclaimed, "...the United States appears to be destined by providence to plague America with misery in the name of liberty."

England was the first true colonial power to use its dominion over a large part of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, Australia, North America, and many Caribbean islands,



Poster reads "Long Live the Friendship between the Palestinian Cuban People"

ago.

The French agency AFP reported August 2, "The war between the Islamist Palestinian movement Hamas and Israel has caused the deaths of close to 1,800 Palestinians,... the destruction of thousands of homes, and ruined an economy which was already weakened," although it does not indicate, of

between military planes or warships which are closely watched, or other similar events could unleash a conflict with the use of sophisticated, modern weapons, which could become the last known adventure of Homo sapiens.

There are events which reflect the almost total inability of the United States to face the world's current problems. It can be stated that there is no government in this country, no Senate, no Congress, CIA or Pentagon which will determine the final outcome. It is truly sad that this should happen when the dangers are so great, but the opportunities to move forward are great as well.

When the great patriotic war took place, Russian citizens defended their country like Spartans, underestimating them was the worse error made by the United States and Europe. Their closest allies, the Chinese, who like the Russians achieved their victory on the basis of the same principles, constitute today the earth's most dynamic economic force. Countries want yuan and not dollars to acquire goods and technology, and increased trade.

New, indispensable forces have emerged.

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - establishing links with Latin America and the majority of countries in the Caribbean and Africa struggling for development - constitute the forces which in our era are willing to collaborate with the rest of the world's countries, without excluding the United States, Europe or Japan.

Blaming the Russian Federation for the in-flight destruction of the Malaysian airplane is a stunning oversimplification. Not Vladimir Putin, nor Serguéi Lavrov, Russia's minister of Foreign Relations, or any other leader of this government would ever come up with such nonsense.

Twenty-six million Russians died in the defense of their homeland against the Nazis. Chinese combatants, men and women, inheritors of a millennial culture, are people of uncommon intelligence and an invincible spirit of struggle. Xi Jinping is one of the strongest and most capable revolutionary leaders I have met in my life.

Fidel Castro

Fidel Castro Ruz
August 4, 2014

Unite to End War & Occupation!

By Janine Solanki

Across Canada, activists have been coming together to organize online, and now protesters are back to hitting the streets to demand an end to war. The connections made in the last two and a half years of antiwar organizing during the pandemic remain, one of which has been to unite over 45 peace and antiwar groups under the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network (<https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca>), which Vancouver-based Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) is a part of.

U.S./Saudi Hands off Yemen

The connections and cooperation between antiwar groups have crossed time zones and borders. One event that brought together international participants was the August 8th online Yemen School Bus Bombing Vigil & Panel, organized in the U.S. by Action Corps. Mobilization Against War & Occupation joined to support and amplify this important event, which marked four years since Saudi Arabia bombed a school bus in Yemen, brutally killing 40 children with a 500 lb, laser-guided, U.S.-made Lockheed Martin bomb. Speakers and participants demanded that the U.S. end its support for the devastating Saudi-led illegal and unjustified war on the people of



Yemen, which the U.S. government is backing with weapons, and financial, political and technical support.

Israel, Stop Killing Palestinians

Going from online to on the ground, on August 11, the Palestinian Youth Movement Vancouver held an action in downtown Vancouver's busy Waterfront Station. The protest was in response to the recent genocidal Israeli bombing attacks across Gaza, which killed over 44 Palestinian people and injured countless more. Activists and supporters of Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) joined protesters to hold protest signs, Palestinian flags and keffiyehs high and to demand an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine now!

MAWO continues to organize online and on the streets, with groups and communities across Vancouver, Canada and internationally! MAWO is an initial endorser for the call to action from U.S.-based United National Antiwar Coalition from October 15-22, demanding NO to U.S. Wars! Stop Washington's war moves toward Russia and China! Stop endless wars: Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Palestine, everywhere! Stay tuned for the Vancouver action for the days of action at www.mawovancouver.org

MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES

Indigenous struggle against colonialism



Lee Maracle

(July 2, 1950 - November 11, 2021)

*Sto:lo Author, Poet, Instructor
[University of Toronto - INS] and
Traditional Teacher First Nations House.*

Canadians have a myth about themselves, and it seems this myth is inviolable. They are innocent. They gave us things; they were kind to us. The reality is that Canada has seized vast land tracts, leaving only small patches of land specifically for us, as though they indeed owned everything and we had nothing, not even a tablespoon of dirt. Canada says it gave us these lands, and Canadians actually believe that Canada "gave us" these reserves. In fact, Canada took all the land but the reserves it set aside for us. You cannot give someone something that already belongs to them.

There are a number of treaties between Indigenous people and Canada. The treaties between Canada and us don't say that we own nothing and Canada owns everything; in fact, they imply the opposite: Canada gets to be Canada by meeting its treaty obligations. That is, you get to be here, at our good grace and our goodwill, not the other way around.

Excerpt from My Conversations with Canadians (1997)



TUNISIA: THE CRISIS OF THE STATE, THE ECONOMY, AND THE CAPITALIST RULING CLASS

AN INTERVIEW WITH TUNISIAN LEADER HAMMA HAMMAMI,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUNISIAN WORKERS' PARTY

Interview Conducted, transcribed & translated from Arabic by Azza Rojbi

Azza Rojbi: It has been over 10 years since the Tunisian people took to the streets demanding “Jobs, Freedom & Dignity” and brought down Ben Ali’s dictatorship. What are your thoughts on where Tunisia is today, and what is the biggest challenge for the country going forward?

Hamma Hammami: For us, indeed, we made a revolution in Tunisia, but revolutions are not a game. And revolutions are not a piece of cake. Revolutions are a process, a great struggle, and they can sometimes even take the form of violence. It took on forms of violence in Tunisia with the political assassinations, for example, that took place because there was a conflict of interests in the country. The internal element also overlaps with the external element. Tunisia is the turmoil and crises experienced in the region and the world. With interventions from both sides, regional and international, the revolution did not achieve its goals. What the revolution achieved in the first stage was changing the form of state power. We moved from a totalitarian dictatorship to representative democracy. But as I said at the beginning, the class character has not changed. Wealth and power remained in the hands of the ruling capitalist elites that controlled the country during the time of Ben Ali, the time of the dictatorship.

This explains the conditions we are in today. And the rule of the Ennahda movement or the rule of Kais Saïed falls within the forms of control of these ruling mi-

norities that, as I said, control the situation in Tunisia. What is before us is to evaluate this previous stage and reclaim the slogans of the revolution. We must return to the origins of our revolution to understand this time that when we make a revolution, we should not stop in the middle of the road. We must carry out this revolution to the end; that is, we take political and economic power from the ruling elites. This is the point. This, of course, requires a great effort from the revolutionary and progressive forces. Today frustration is widespread in Tunisia.



A protester holds a sign reading, “poverty rises, starvations rises” during a protest in Tunis, January 23, 2021.

Despair is spreading. But we believe this will be a temporary matter because the paths of the revolution are not a straight line.

Revolution has periods of ups and down. We do not want to remain like the French Revolution for a hundred years. But I raised the issue of the French Revolution because it is a classic historical model. Revolution, counter-revolution, revolution, counter-revolution until the conditions ripened for the establishment and consolidation of the republic. We believe that the Tunisians, especially the working class in Tunisia, the women of Tunisia, and the youth of Tunisia, will learn from

PART 3

this experience. They will understand that they should pay attention to the programmes, views, and visions. Not like it happened at the beginning when people followed politicians just based on “Oh, they are honest, they fear god.” It became clear that they fear no god or people. Or when Beji Caïd Essebsi deceived people and said, “I will not converge with Ennahda; two parallel lines do not meet.” Well, in the first round, they met and conspired against the Tunisian people. Or Kais Saïed when he comes and tells people I will build a paradise on earth for you. Then Tunisians find themselves in hell.

We must evaluate all these experiences and draw conclusions from them, especially draw a vision and program. We must judge parties, political forces, or people based on those programs and the basis of their practices, not on what they say about themselves or the empty promises they make. However, despite all these difficulties, I am optimistic because when I look back at the history of the Tunisian people, I find that they can rise at every stage. The Tunisian people are very much capable of rising again.

sian people are very much capable of rising again.

AR: As a leading figure in the political scene of Tunisia for many decades and as a revolutionary working-class fighter, in your opinion, what are the next moves to stop Kais Saïed’s assault on the democratic institutions and constitution and to safeguard the democratic and human rights of working people in Tunisia. What are the immediate steps to be taken?

HH: I firmly believe that there is only one solution to stop Saïed, and that is to bring him down. He must be brought down because experience shows us that he is not stopping, but is moving towards

consolidating his repressive regime. He is a threat to individual and public liberties. He is a danger to equality, a danger to women's rights. He was the first president in Tunisia's history who, on August 13, 2020, Women's Day in Tunisia, spoke out against equality. Neither Ben Ali, Marzouki, Beji, nor Bourguiba did it. He was the only one who came on August 13 and said I am against equality. I mean, this is a terrible thing. He also spoke out against and attacked article 6 of the Constitution regarding freedom of conscience and beliefs. And, as I said, he continues to destroy democratic and popular institutions. He also does not want any regulatory institutions. His government has also not stopped deepening impoverishing people.

What is required in a situation like this? The overthrow of this regime, but at the same time, overthrowing the system that ruled Tunisia during the last ten years and replacing it with a new system. A political, economic, and social system based on a program that achieves Tunisia's sovereignty, achieves a decent life for its people, achieves true freedom and democracy for its people, and achieves full equality for Tunisian women. This requires a strong unity between all democratic and progressive forces, whether political forces or civil society forces. We have created the "National Campaign Against the Referendum" because we

consider the referendum a central task in the Kais Saied project. If he passes this referendum, he will take a faster stride toward consolidating his authoritarian regime. He will then attack political parties, the freedom to organize, the unions and the freedom of the press.

At the same time, we see that the civil society forces are also coming together. The Tunisian General Labor Union, women's organizations, and Syndicate of Journalists, all come together. Of course, there are other oppositions, such as the National Salvation Front with Ennahda or the Destourian [Constitutional] Movement, but we do not convene with these oppositions. We do not consider that salvation can be achieved with Ennahda or the Free Constitutional Party. The Tunisian people experienced the consequences of the Ennahda government for ten years. They contributed largely to the destruction of the life of society and people in Tunisia. The Free Constitutional Party still yearn for the Ben Ali regime to be unpopular, and people have revolted against them.

Therefore, our call is directed primarily to the Tunisian people threatened by division, to those whom [President] Kais Saied and others seek to divide. We call on the democratic and progressive forces to unite and rally around a program that is truly capable of saving Tunisia and opening other horizons for the country. In this context, we naturally extend our

hands to forces in the Arab and international arena. To stand on our side, we extend our hand to all the revolutionary forces of all the left-wing democratic and progressive anti-colonial, anti-capitalist, and anti-hegemonic forces. And we call on them to stand up to their governments that have for decades been supporting dictatorship and despotism in Tunisia.

AR: Do you have anything you would like to add?

HH: I want to salute our Tunisian community in Canada and the United States of America. I want to ask them always to be attentive to the situation in Tunisia. We are going through a tough time, so I naturally ask them to seek to understand these situations far from the lies and insults being spread out because lying in Tunisia has become a political method, a way of thinking and a way of working away from healthy and serious intellectual and political discourse and discussions.

AR: Thank you very much, comrade Hammami for your time. We wish you the best of success in your revolutionary struggle for the workers and oppressed of Tunisia.

Hamma Hammami: Greetings to you and thank you.

*To read the full interview visit:
www.firethistime.net*

Below: Hamma Hammami is at the front holding the banner (toward the right side) at the protest by the "National Campaign Against the Referendum" in Tunisia. June 19, 2022.



VIVA CUBA!

▶▶▶ END THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!

By Janine Solanki

For years Cuba has been at the forefront of fighting homophobia and transphobia, building a more inclusive society and advancing the rights of the LGBTQ2S+ community. This last year the Cuban people have had an important topic of discussion and debate during the process of updating and approving the new Families Code, which expands on the rights of the LGBTQ2S+ community by expanding the definition of families. Alongside rights for all members of Cuban society, the Families Code includes protecting the rights of same-sex parents to construct a family,

whether that is through marriage, adoption, or assisted reproduction.

LGBTQ2S+ Rights Are Human Rights

For Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), discussing Cuba's leading role in progressing LGBTQ2S+ rights has been essential to VCSC's work since its founding. This Pride season was VCSC's 17th year participating in Vancouver Pride events! The work of CENESEX, the Cuban National Center for Sex Education, is always front and center at VCSC Pride info tables, including

their campaign posters for an inclusive society and beautiful photos from Cuba's events for International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. This year VCSC info tables also featured articles and information about Cuba's Families Code!

Pride season in Vancouver kicked

off on June 25 with the East Side Pride Festival, where VCSC had an information table, as reported in the last issue of Fire This Time. Cuba solidarity activists had a great afternoon talking to festival goers interested in learning more about Cuba!

Dyke March

On July 30, the annual Dyke March hit the streets of East Vancouver with bright homemade signs and banners. In the mix were Cuba solidarity activists holding a banner proclaiming, "Cuba Says: Sexual Diversity is not Dangerous, Homophobia and Transphobia are!" The march ended on Commercial Drive's Grandview Park, where VCSC joined the tabling fair and gave out VCSC newsletters with an article on Cuba's Families Code.

Vancouver Pride

The next day, the July 31 Vancouver Pride Parade took over downtown with an explosion of colour, sounds and exuberant crowds excited to be back after two years without a Pride Parade due to the pandemic. VCSC joined marching in the parade, complete with a decorated vehicle, Pride, Trans and Cuban flags, and banners letting the crowds know that "Cuba Says LGBTQ2S+ Rights are Human Rights!"



Left: VCSC at the Vancouver Dyke March, July 30, 2022.
Below: VCSC at Vancouver Pride Parade, July 31, 2022



VIVA PRIDE!

VCSC organizers and supporters danced through the streets in matching neon pink and white t-shirts printed with the demand “Lift the Blockade on Cuba!” and chants of “Viva Cuba, Viva Pride!” were met with cheers and enthusiasm from the massive crowds along the parade route. After the parade, VCSC was at the Sunset Beach post-parade festival with a busy information table with a constant stream of people interested in learning more about Cuba. Activists spent the afternoon 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 LGBTQ2S+ rights!

New West Pride

VCSC was not only at Vancouver Pride events but also joined New Westminster for their Pride festival on August 13. The city's Columbia Street was a sea of festivities with music and vendors, and many people stopped by the Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba table to talk with organizers and pick up information.

To learn more about how Cuba is advancing LGBTQ2S+ rights and about the Families Code, read the latest VCSC newsletter at <http://vancubasolidarity.com/newsletters/VCSC-Newsletter-Summer-2022.pdf>

1 Cent for Cuba Campaign

Alongside a busy summer of Pride festivities, VCSC has also been participating in online events and actions in defence of Cuba. VCSC is supporting the “1 Cent for Cuba Campaign,” which kicked off with an online campaign launch event on July 24. This initiative from Rock Around the Blockade (Britain), Cuba Support Group Ireland and Cubanismo (Belgium) challenges British and European banks which have been holding or rejecting transactions related to Cuba. This is an extraterritorial application of the criminal U.S. blockade against Cuba and a violation of international, U.K. and European law. More about the campaign is at 1ccuba.eu.

Monthly Virtual Picket

VCSC has also been hosting and participating in the monthly virtual picket actions demanding an end to the cruel U.S. blockade against Cuba, organized through the Canadian Network on Cuba. The July 17th action had speakers from international Cuba solidarity groups, including the Australia-Cuba Friendship Society and Cuba Support Group Ireland, and Cuba solidarity groups across Canada shared greetings. The following action on August 17 was hosted by the Canadian Network on Cuba and featured

Professor Helen Yaffe, lecturer at the University of Glasgow, author of several books on Cuba and co-producer of the

documentary “Cuba’s Life Task: Combating Climate Change.” The event also featured David Comissiong, lawyer, author and the Barbados Ambassador to CARICOM and the Association of Caribbean States.

Fundraising for Matanzas, Cuba

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba also participated in the fundraising campaign to help Cuba after the devastating fires at the Matanzas oil tanks. Cuba supporters in the Vancouver area contributed to the fundraising and relief campaign organized by the Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto Juan Gualberto Gómez. Learn more about this important campaign at <http://cubanosjgg.blogspot.com>

#UnBlockCuba

There are many ways to support and defend Cuba and to learn about how Cuba is an example for a better world! To find out about upcoming events and actions in Vancouver and beyond, visit www.vancubasolidarity.com or follow Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba on Facebook @vancubasolidarity and Twitter and Instagram @VanCuba_VCSC

VCSC at Vancouver Pride Parade, July 31, 2022



José Martí: An Idea on July 26



By Lizbeth Labaniño Palmeiro

There are events that are turning points in the social and political development of a people. They take place at a precise moment, given their necessity and importance.

The actions of July 26, 1953, fulfill these considerations. At dawn, the Centenary Generation led, in the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba and Céspedes Barracks in Bayamo, the action that would open a new stage of combat against the oligarchy and imperialism and would highlight armed action as the main means of struggle.

A new young and revolutionary leadership was emerging, heir to and committed to finding a solution to the country's problems and eradicating dependence on the United States.

The events of July 26, 1953, invite us to reflect on the presence of José Martí in that day, in Fidel and his comrades.

The leader of the Centennial Generation, Fidel Castro, by pointing out that the intellectual author of the deed of July 26, 1953 was José Martí, took up again his ideal and with him he championed the last stage of those struggles for "the second independence" from imperialism, an unfinished historical task pointed out by our National Hero for the peoples of Our America.

In this regard, the following words of Fidel illustrate the presence of Martí in what happened on that July 26, both morally and intellectually: "It seemed that the Apostle was going to die in the year of his centenary, that his memory would be extinguished forever, such was the affront! But he lives, he has not died, his people are rebellious, his people are worthy, his people are faithful to his memory; there are Cubans who have fallen defending his doctrines, and there are young people who in magnificent atonement came to die by his tomb, to give him their blood and their lives so that he may continue to live in the soul of the homeland. Cuba, what would become of you if you had

let your Apostle die!"[1]

Fidel adds in another passage: "I carry in my heart the doctrines of the Master and in my thoughts the noble ideas of all the men who have defended the freedom of our people".

The meaning of Martí for a generation of young people like that of 1953, has a special character, because it is not a simple mention of a hero, but the assumption of a thought, an ideology, to carry in the hearts the doctrines of a man who became an intellectual, ethical and political reference essential for the new stage of struggle that began after the blow of the tyrant Batista on March 10, 1952; and that had its gestation on July 26, 1953.

The Martí's thought of the 19th century existed to manifest to the Cuban population that it was viable to fight against the oppressive forces; hand in hand with the Cuban people a rebelliousness that would give the possibility of carrying out the liberating project, which above all values was highly pro-independence, anti-imperialist and sovereign.

Given the historical context in which the Moncadistas found themselves, their concern and the sufficiently revolutionary and challenging attitude that led them to act was to be expected. For this reason Fidel points out that: "This is the decisive hour announced by Martí, the hour of the second Emancipation: and with this advance movement, unanimous and continental".

From that moment on, the impact of Martí's legacy was visualized as a guide to the subsequent revolutionary government that led them to triumph in 1959.

Fidel's self-defense plea, *History Will Absolve Me*, was only the beginning of the use of recurring quotes by José Martí in writings, speeches, laws and expositions, which conditioned the revolutionary and political actions of the nation. It is not strange today to walk the streets of Havana and read iconic phrases of our apostle everywhere. Somehow he has even become

part of our idiosyncrasy. It is not by chance, it is coherence and historical sense.

It is Martí's ideology, a legacy from one revolutionary struggle to another, where the people and their leaders are the sources that leads to those who make it possible for those mutilated projects to become a reality.

About this character, Roberto Fernández Retamar points out: "...it is not in a tense environment because of the wait for the revolution, but in an environment full of skepticism and detachment... translated in the difficult intellectual life, in which Fidel Castro is going to unleash one of the deepest revolutions in history, with his assault to the Moncada barracks, on July 26th, 1953. His intellectual support was not going to come from thinkers close to him but from José Martí. And this, which today seems to us the most natural thing in the world, this alone, to jump over the mediocrity of the environment and go to connect in a living way with the only great original thought that had been engendered in this land, was already a definition." [2]

Because of the depth of the reflections promoted, provided by that historic event, its starting point, presence and continuity, the validity of these events as a song of hope both nationally and internationally, where Martí's ideology takes a fundamental role and is of necessary consultation in every political decision to be faced by the Cuban people.

[1] Fidel Castro Ruz. *History Will Absolve Me* (digital edition)

[2] Roberto Fernández Retamar: *Towards a revolutionary intellectuality in Cuba*; in *Revista Casa de las Américas*, editions 296-297, July-December 2019, p. 27.

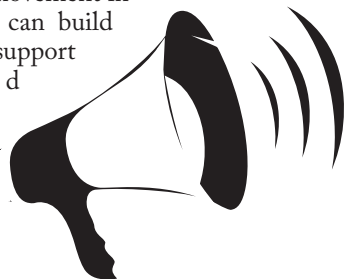
Lizbeth Labaniño Palmeiro is a professor in the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Havana, Psychological Advisor in the feminist podcast "Mujeres al Sur" and daughter of Ramon Labaniño, one of our 5 Cuban heroes.

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natural gas plant, which it is intended to serve. The Wet'suwet'en Strengthening Our Sovereignty Tour was an important opportunity for people in Vancouver to learn more about their struggle and stand in solidarity. Climate Convergence organizers and supporters participated in the actions, which included a march starting at Vancouver City Hall hosted by the group Stop Fracking Around and a rally at CBC Plaza in Downtown Vancouver which was organized by the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Sacred Trust.

On August 24, Climate Convergence actions in the month of August concluded with a successful international climate justice webinar. The webinar, entitled "Water Is Life! The International Struggle in Defence of Water," which was chaired by Climate Convergence organizer Alison Bodine featured a dynamic, all-women panel of speakers from Brazil, Hawai'i and Canada. The panelists were: Dalila Calisto, Member of the National Coordination of the Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB (Movement of People Affected by Dams) in Brazil, who spoke about the impacts of the Equinox Gold Mine in Brazil; Laulani Teale, Coordinator of Ho'opae Peace Project in Hawai'i, who is active in the struggle against the annual RIMPAC war games which took place in Hawai'i in August, Maryam Adrangi, who spoke about the over 60-year struggle of the Grassy Narrows First Nation for justice in face of the widespread mercury poisoning of their waters and lands in Ontario, Canada; and Dr. Kate Tairyan (a senior lecturer at Simon Fraser University and organizer with Protect the Planet, Stop TMX!) who has been monitoring and reporting on the destruction of vital salmon habitat by the TMX pipeline from her home in Hope, BC.

The panel was followed by a lively discussion, which focused on the critical issue of how the climate justice movement in Canada can build more support and



Continued from page 3

for bombing and destroying schools, hospitals, mosques, homes, markets, roads, and countless other civilian infrastructure. According to the World Food Programme (WFP) about 45 percent of the population in Yemen, are food insecure.

Saudi Arabia violated the sovereignty of Yemen and showed a complete disregard for the humanity and well-being of the Yemeni people. The government of Saudi Arabia is not only criminal and despotic at home, but also abroad.

Imperialist cover of Saudi crimes

On July 15, 2022, United States president Joe Biden travelled to Saudi Arabia to meet with Saudi officials including Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The United States government has always glossed over Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses and provided a political and military support to the country.

Saudi Arabia is an important ally for the U.S. to expand their hegemony and influence in the Middle East and North Africa. Without the full backing of the United States and their imperialist allies, Saudi Arabia would not have been able to carry out its criminal war against the people of Yemen.

The U.S., Germany, the U.K., Italy, France, and Canada have made billions of dollars of arms sales and

training contracts to Saudi Arabia since the start of the war on Yemen. Despite all the documented human rights violations by the Saudi regime at home and abroad, imperialist countries continue to give lip service and empty words of condemnation while continuing to arm and train the brutal Saudi security forces and military.

We Must Oppose Rights Abuses in Saudi Arabia

The brave Saudi activists continue to aspire and fight for for a better democratic future in their country despite the massive state repression against them. As peace loving people and activists around the world, it is our duty to stand in solidarity with the people of Saudi Arabia and condemn the abuses and violations committed by the Saudi government against working and oppressed people. We must hold the U.S., Canada and imperialist countries accountable for their complicity.

We must continue demanding that the Trudeau Liberal government cancels all arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Cancel All Arms Deals with Saudi Arabia!

Free All Political Prisoners in Saudi Arabia!

*Follow Azza Rojbi on Twitter:
@Azza_R14*

solidarity with the international struggle, while focusing on local struggles, such as stopping the TMX pipeline.

Join The Struggle Against Capitalist Destruction of Mother Earth!

Whether in actions on the streets or online, the great response to the work of Climate Convergence is evidence that people in Vancouver and BC continue to be interested in how they can take action against the climate crisis. Whether in local struggles such as the fight against the TMX and CGL pipelines, or in defence of old growth forests, or in international struggles such as the fight against the exploitation by Canada-based mining companies in Brazil, the time to struggle in defence of Mother Earth is now.

As both federal and provincial governments in Canada continue to give the green light to the construction of climate killing resource extraction mega-projects and multi-billion dollar corporations that fund them, we must work to building a climate justice movement that is ready to fight for "System Change, Not Climate Change!"

Climate Convergence meetings are held twice a month and are open to everyone interested in fighting for a better, just and sustainable world. For information about how to get involved and to join upcoming meetings, webinars and upcoming actions, visit www.climateconvergence.ca

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA (VCSC)

Stands in Solidarity with the Cuba Solidarity Committee In Puerto Rico Against FBI Harassment, Intimidation, and Attacks!

September 1, 2022

On August 23, 2022, The Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico sent a press statement to the world explaining how the United States' FBI has been harassing, intimidating, and attacking recent participants in the Puerto Rican Juan Rius Rivera Brigade to Cuba. Like dozens of solidarity Brigades, the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade travelled to Cuba during a time when Cuba is facing major challenges due to the global Covid-19 pandemic and the tightening of the over 60-year U.S. blockade. Their press release explains, "The Brigade delivered health donations for the control of COVID to hospitals on its tour of the country, as well as cultural and educational exchanges with the people." For this important work the Brigade should be celebrated, not harassed!

The press release further explains how on August 23, across the Island of Puerto Rico, "agents who identified themselves as from the FBI visited more than a dozen brigade members and friends of solidarity [...] alleging an investigation against the CSC, its president, and the solidarity militancy."

These "visits" are a clear intimidation tactic against activists in Puerto Rico on their democratic right to organize and build friendship and solidarity between the proud peoples of Puerto Rico and Cuba.

Why is the FBI threatened by Puerto Ricans travelling to Cuba? Why is the FBI threatened by humanitarian aid being sent to Cuba? Because we know

that the FBI and U.S. imperialism are worried about the people of Puerto Rico learning about the example of Cuba. About Cuba's struggle for independence from U.S. domination and Cuba's decision to build a dynamic socialist project only 90 miles off the U.S. shores.

We know this FBI harassment of Cuba solidarity organizers and leaders is not an isolated incident. In the past months the FBI raided the African Peoples Socialist Party offices in the United States. Soon after, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio – taking his right-wing Cuba-hatred to a new level – demanded that the FBI investigate

the incredible Cuba solidarity work of Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) and its founder and leader, Carlos Lazo.

We have a responsibility to speak up and speak out against all FBI threats, intimidation, harassment, and attacks on solidarity organizers who are fighting for friendship, for solidarity, and for a more just future.

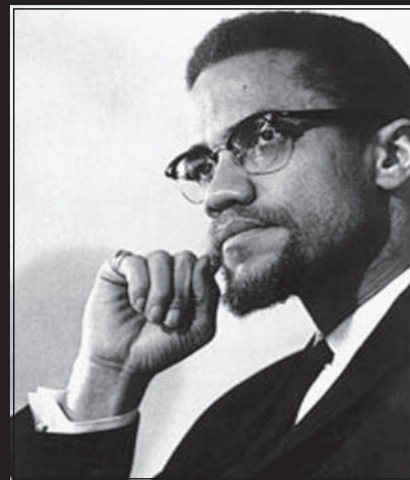
VCSC sends a message of unity, strength, and solidarity to all members of the Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico and its President, our compañera Milagros Rivera.

We will stand and support our friends and co-fighters in the Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico and the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade!

FBI Hands off Cuba solidarity organizers and supporters in Puerto Rico!



"By Any Means Necessary..."



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

If you aren't careful, because I've seen some of you get caught in that bag, you run away hating yourself and loving the man—while you are catching hell from the man. You let the man maneuver you into thinking that it's wrong to fight him when he's fighting you. He's fighting you in the morning, fighting you in the noon, fighting you at night and fighting you all in between, and you still think it's wrong to fight him back. Why? The press. The newspapers make you look wrong. As long as you take a beating, you're all right. As long as you get your head busted, you're all right. As long as you let his dogs fight you, you're all right. Because that's the press. That's the image-making press. That thing is dangerous if you don't guard yourself against it. It'll make you love the criminal, as I say, and make you hate the one who's the victim of the criminal.

Malcolm X speaks with Dick Gregory at the Audubon Ballroom – Dec. 13, 1964

Stop Harassing Cuba Solidarity Activists in Miami

By Pete Seidman

Puentes de Amor Stronger Than Ever



Carlos Lazo with La Colmenita children's theatre group in Cuba June 2022

MIAMI—Puentes de Amor leader Carlos Lazo condemned the call by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) for the FBI to investigate him as an unregistered agent of a foreign power at an August 13 news conference here. Organized by the Miami Caravan Against the U.S. Blockade of Cuba, another target of Rubio's call (along with the well-known Cuba solidarity organization Pastors for Peace), Univision, Channel 23, a major Spanish-language TV station here, broadcast a report on the event the next evening.

The Foreign Agents Registration Act had its origins in the run up to World War II and was part of the U.S. government's efforts to suppress, intimidate, and subdue domestic opponents of the war within the labor, Black, and religious communities. It has been kept on the law books ever since and used against supporters of the Irish freedom struggle, the Cuban Five, RT America, and others.

"Puentes de Amor, denounces the McCarthyite tactics of Senator Marco Rubio," Lazo said. "Rubio's attitude is denigrating, indecent and un-American, in opposition to values affirmed by the U.S. Constitution. It is aberrant and absurd for a senator to slander, to intimidate citizens and civil society organizations, who seek the lifting of the sanctions that punish the Cuban family."

Lazo, a schoolteacher in Seattle, rejected Rubio's charge that meeting with Miguel Diaz-Canel somehow makes him an agent of the Cuban President.

"I will meet with whoever I have to meet to ask for the lifting of sanctions against the Cuban people" and to ask for better relationships between my native country, Cuba, my mother, and my adopted country, America, my father."

"I have had no qualms," he insisted, "about meeting with anyone who is in a position to lift, relieve, or influence ending the sanctions that for so many years have punished the Cuban people, here and there. During all these years I have met with more than one hundred and fifty members of Congress," Lazo explained, "including with then-Senator Mel Martinez, with Congresswoman Ileana Ross Lehtinen, and even with Congressman Dan Burton (co-sponsor of the Helms-Burton Act). A few months ago I had a little respectful dialogue with Senator Ted Cruz. And I would also meet with Senator Marco Rubio to explain these issues." Lazo said, noting that the Senator, "has never been to Cuba, has never walked the streets of Havana, and does not know the Cuban family."

Lazo stressed that "Rubio's witch hunt reveals, 'the Senator's fear of losing his seat. Fear that more and more Cuban-Americans in Florida and in the United States will realize that he is one of the most responsible for maintaining these cruel measures that punish the Cuban family.'"

Indeed, an August 16 article in the Miami Herald reported, "A recent spate of polls suggests Republican Sen. Marco Rubio might suddenly have a tougher-than-expected reelection fight on his hands. The paper went on to note how, 'In the last two weeks, three polls have shown putative Democratic Senate nominee Val Demings [a Black woman who is a former chief of police in Orlando] either tied or leading Rubio in Florida. The most recent, a survey from the University of North Florida released Tuesday, found Demings receiving 48% support from registered voters, more than the 44% who said they backed the GOP incumbent. Seven percent of respondents said they would vote for someone else.'"

The possible spectacle of one of the U.S. Senate's leading Cuban-American supporters of the blockade losing his seat in Florida is indeed proof of the growing opposition among Cubans here to the tightened sanctions and continuing blockade imposed by Trump and continued with a few minor tweaks by the Biden Administration. It is this objective shift in public opinion that has sustained the 25 consecutive monthly caravans organized here in Miami against the blockade.

Expressing the growing confidence of caravan activists here, Lazo concluded, "Senator Rubio, I challenge you to debate these issues face to face. Fill yourself with courage and instead of walking from channel to channel, from station to station defaming a Cuban American, a decorated war

veteran, a teacher, a father, and trying to intimidate those of us who call for an end to the blockade, agree to discuss these things face to face!"

Lazo stated that far from being intimidated, he will be back in Miami on August 28 for the next caravan here against the blockade.

The Miami Caravan received numerous statements of support against Rubio's threats. These came from among others, former Florida State Senator Dwight Bullard, current president of the South Miami-Dade County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Bullard wrote, "The people of Cuba deserve their rightful place in the world community. Free to engage with their neighbors in the just exchange of ideas and resources.

Those of us who advocate for an open and free Cuba deserve a voice in the room, because all we want is human rights for all people, including the people of Cuba."

Another message came from Ira J. Kurzban, a prominent immigration and civil rights attorney in Miami. Kurzban stated, "Marco Rubio does a disservice to the people of Florida by ignoring the real needs of people in this State and instead by bullying people who do not agree with his position on Cuba...His threat regarding the Foreign Agents Registration Act is an old ploy and was made before against others...It had no legal basis then and it has none now."

Chris Small, President of the Amazon Labor Union, also wrote, "Based on Rubio's definition, any citizen or entity that disagrees with U.S. foreign policy and organizes against it is considered a threat to the nation. The fact that a U.S. Senator would engage in such shameful, baseless and immoral tactics to target and silence U.S. citizens should be of concern to us all and should be viewed as a direct threat to our civil liberties." Senator Rubio, he wrote, should "immediately cease his smear campaign and intimidation of Puentes de Amor. End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba!"

Statements also arrived from Kevin C. Harris, a candidate aiming to unseat Democratic Congresswoman Fredericka Wilson in the 24th Florida Congressional District, Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, the Cuban-American legislative action group ACERE, and others.

First printed on: <https://world-outlook.com>

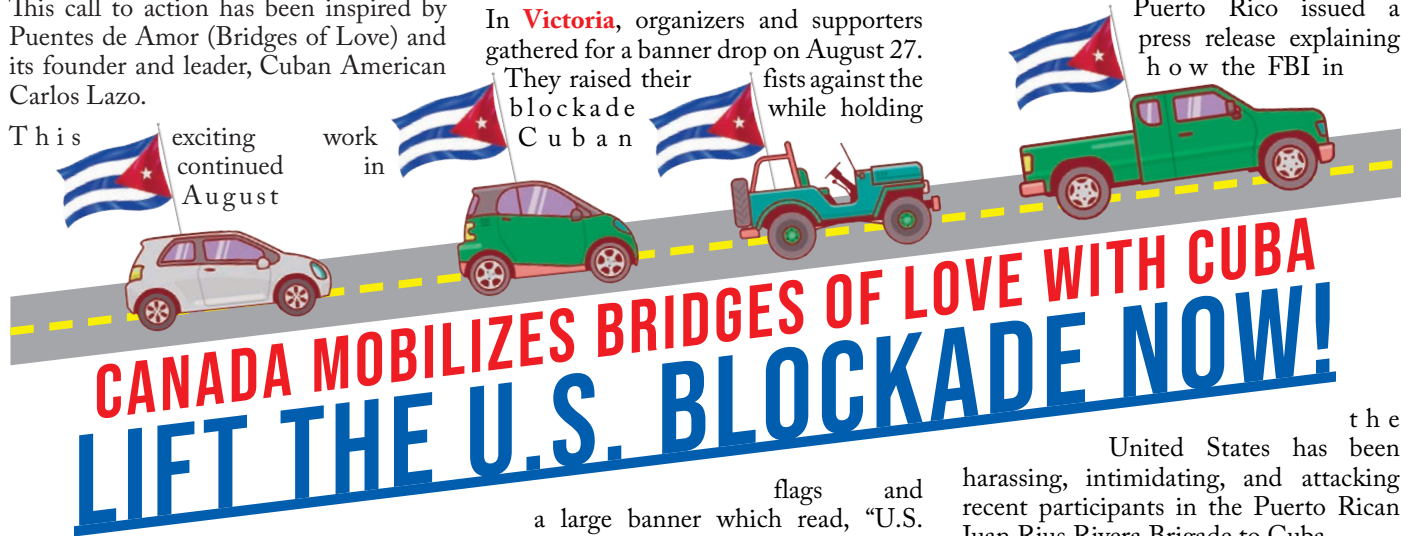
Pete Seidman is a social justice activist and organizer for five decades. He is one of the central organizers of Miami Caravan Against the U.S. Blockade.

By Tamara Hansen

On the last weekend of every month, protest actions, rallies, banner drops, and car caravans are taking to the streets against sanctions on Cuban families and to end the cruel U.S. blockade of Cuba. This call to action has been inspired by Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) and its founder and leader, Cuban American Carlos Lazo.

This exciting continued work in August

They raised their fists against the blockade while holding Cuban



around the world taking to the streets once again. Across Canada, actions were organized in: Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Victoria, and Vancouver with clear demands to U.S. President Joe Biden to end the unjust U.S. blockade against Cuba.

In **Montreal**, on Saturday, August 27, there was a solidarity picnic for Cuba, Chile, and El Salvador organized by a broad coalition of solidarity groups. This led into the Sunday monthly car caravan, which joins the Cuba solidarity movement and the Cuban community living in Montreal in the untied demand to "Stop U.S. Sanctions on Cuba!"

In **Toronto**, folks rallied in front of the U.S. Consulate on August 28. Organizers and supporters listened to dynamic speakers and chanted in unity to end the blockade.

In **Winnipeg**, three Cuba solidarity events were connected throughout the day. First, everyone gathered for a rally and picket, they then took off on a car caravan, which attracted the attention of many onlookers. The caravan concluded at the Graffiti Gallery for a screening of the epic film, "The Motorcycle Diaries."

During these activities, Winnipeg organizers were fundraising for the ongoing campaign for medical supplies for Cuba in the wake of the disastrous

fire in Matanzas. The cross-Canada fundraising effort has been organized by the Juan Gualberto Gómez Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto. To learn more about this campaign please visit: <http://cubanosjgg.blogspot.com/2022/08/asociacion-de-cubanos-inicia-en-toronto.html>

In **Victoria**, organizers and supporters gathered for a banner drop on August 27. They raised their fists against the blockade while holding

a large banner which read, "U.S. Hands Off Cuba!"

Here in **Vancouver**, a dozen cars and 22 people participated in the action. Caravanistas drove a 18-kilometre route (just over 11 miles) through Vancouver with signs and Cuban flags, getting attention and support from drivers and pedestrians alike. We drove peacefully condemning the criminal U.S. blockade on the people of Cuba. August 28 also happened to be Italian Day and the caravan drove right through the festivities, getting lots of waves, raised fists, and honks of support and solidarity!

Following a successful Vancouver car caravan, it was time for a solidarity picnic. Organizers and supporters gathered in the park to share some food and refreshments. It was a great chance to connect and discuss future ideas and plans for building the movement against the cruel U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Part of these conversations included the need to defend the rights of Cuba solidarity activists from government

and right-wing attacks. On August 5, U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (Republican, Florida) called on the FBI to investigate and intimidate Carlos Lazo and Puentes de Amor for their work in calling for an end to the U.S. blockade on Cuba. Then on August 23, the Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico issued a press release explaining how the FBI in

the United States has been harassing, intimidating, and attacking recent participants in the Puerto Rican Juan Rius Rivera Brigade to Cuba.

We must be prepared to defend other Cuba solidarity organizers, activists, and organizations as they develop and push forward their important work to end over 60 years of the cruel blockade against Cuba. These tactics of intimidation and harassment by repressive government institutions are a violation of our democratic right to organize, educate, and mobilize. As is often said, an attack on one is an attack on all. We must unite to support and encourage those who are under attack in their fight back. We must respond by expanding and deepening our important united projects toward building bridges of love with Cuba.

Most of all, let us commit to organizing and taking to the streets once again on Sunday September 25!

Lift the Blockade on Cuba now!

¡Abajo el bloqueo!

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The caravan rolls through the streets of Vancouver on August 28, 2022



1 CENT 4 CUBA CAMPAIGN

How does the campaign work?

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

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

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

What are we campaigning against?

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

Financial transactions which either

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

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

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

This behaviour is open to customer complaints and legal challenges.

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

Who is 1C4Cuba?

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

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

Cuba solidarity movement sends emergency medical supplies to Cuba



JUAN GUALBERTO GÓMEZ
ASOCIACIÓN DE CUBANOS RESIDENTES EN TORONTO

CANADÁ CON CUBA
CUBANOS x CUBA

#FUERZAMATANZAS

#FUERZACUBA

#CUBANOESTÁSOLA

On August 5, 2022 lightning struck the Matanzas, Cuba Supertanker Base and sparked devastating fires and explosions. After 5 days of heroic efforts from Cuban firefighters and the help of Mexico and Venezuela, the fire was extinguished. The fire took the lives of at least 16 people and injured over 100 more.

From the beginning the Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto Juan Gualberto Gomez launched an appeal for donations to send emergency shipments to Matanzas. Medical donation included supplies for burn victims and other specialized items that are difficult for Cuba to get due to the criminal US blockade.

In Vancouver, Cuba solidarity activists with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade raised \$1300 to send to the Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto towards this crucial campaign.

The Association of Cuban Residents in Toronto continues to collect funds to send ongoing aid shipments to Cuba. If you would like donate please e-transfer to asociacion.jgg@gmail.com



"In Venezuela the secret of our dynamism is the militant unity of the proletariat"



Fire This Time Interview's Miguel Angel Torres, a young Venezuelan Revolutionary

By Alison Bodine

Fire This Time Editorial Board member Alison Bodine was an international observer in the elections for governors, mayors, state legislatures, and city councils held in Venezuela on November 21, 2021. She was part of a delegation of over 300 people, including representatives from the European Union, the Carter Center (a non-governmental organization founded by ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter), the U.S.-based National Lawyers Guild, and the Council of Latin American Electoral Experts. While in Venezuela, Alison could interview Miguel Torres, a young revolutionary Venezuelan assisting with the delegation. The election's outcome was a powerful message to the people of Venezuela that they support the Bolivarian revolutionary process and will continue to defend their sovereignty and self-determination in the face of brutal U.S. sanctions and attacks.

Alison Bodine: Good afternoon, Miguel. Thank you for taking the time to sit down with Fire This Time for this short interview. Can you please let our readers know about you and what you do as a young person in the Bolivarian revolution?

Miguel Torres: Well, my name is Miguel Torres. I belong to the youth of this revolutionary process. Currently, I am fulfilling the role of attaché, accompanying the international delegates here in Venezuela to observe the regional elections. We are pleased with the elections and everything we have achieved in this short time, during which we have managed to understand many things and overcome any difficulties inherent in any political process in the country.

AB: What has been your experience during this election, which is taking place at a time of many difficulties, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the imperialist blockade and

attacks against Venezuela?

MT: The process of these mega elections was quite dynamic. It exceeded all expectations because of the pandemic factor, which, as you said, is having a negative impact worldwide. As far as politics goes, there is some evidence that the pandemic has had an impact; there was



Venezuela's Housing Mission delivered 24 apartments to families in Sucre State on Sept 2, 2022

not as much enthusiasm as in previous years. But this year, there was clear participation of people who wanted to exercise their right to vote, and they were able to vote.

AB: What is your message to people who live in North America, who do not know what is happening in Venezuela, beyond what they hear from mainstream media?

MT: Well, beyond what people think about whether we're wrong or we're right, what I want to tell you, from my heart, is that you shouldn't lose hope, you shouldn't lose faith. We are progressing; we will continue working, strengthening our capacities in political matters, knowledge, producing

things, and more. In the face of difficulties, we will continue forward, and we will continue working constantly. It is a beautiful thing to be Venezuelan within the Bolivarian revolution, to feel so strongly about our roots as children of the land of Bolívar. So now that you know, do not believe in the lies of those big international media outlets that distort the reality of different countries, for the simple fact that these countries think differently.

AB: As a young person in Venezuela, you have lived your entire life under imperialist sanctions and blockade. How has this impacted you?

MT: It has had a negative impact. For example, thanks to foreign interference, I have seen many of my relatives decide to leave Venezuela. It was their decision. I don't know for sure, but I think that they will come to regret leaving. But for now, I must accept those difficult decisions of people in my family.

There was also a time when I was much younger that there was difficulty getting food and certain goods. But I never lost hope because even though I know that these challenges can be considerable, I am happy to see my parents, community, and Venezuelan society heading in a new direction. That is what is most important to me.

AB: Is there anything else that you would like to say?

MT: Well, the other thing I would like to say is that you have to know the story, you have to read it. Reading is life. We must strengthen our knowledge and thus teach future generations everything related to our past and where we came from. That is important. Thank you very much.

Alison Bodine: Thank you for your time and insight. Viva Venezuela!

"En Venezuela el secreto de nuestro dinamismo es la unidad militante del proletariado"



Fire This Time entrevista a Miguel Ángel Torres, un joven Revolucionario Venezolano

*** En Español ***

Por Alison Bodine

El 21 de noviembre de 2021 se realizaron en Venezuela elecciones regionales para gobernadores, alcaldes, legislaturas estatales y concejos municipales. En una gran victoria del proceso revolucionario bolivariano, el Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) obtuvo 19 de 23 gobernadores y 212 de 335 carreras para mayores. Con esta elección, el pueblo de Venezuela envió un poderoso mensaje de que apoya el proceso revolucionario bolivariano y seguirá defendiendo su soberanía y autodeterminación frente a las brutales sanciones y ataques de Estados Unidos.

Alison Bodine, miembro de la junta editorial de Fire This Time, fue observadora internacional en las elecciones, como parte de una delegación de más de 300 personas, incluidos representantes de la Unión Europea, el Centro Carter (una organización no gubernamental fundada por el expresidente estadounidense Jimmy Carter), el Sindicato Nacional de Abogados (con sede en Estados Unidos) y el Consejo de Expertos Electorales Latinoamericanos. Mientras estuvo en Venezuela, Alison pudo entrevistar a Miguel Torres, un joven venezolano que estaba ayudando con la delegación.

Fire This Time: Buenas tardes Miguel. Gracias por tomarse el tiempo para compartir con Fire This Time esta breve entrevista. ¿Puede dejar que nuestros lectores sepan algo sobre ti y lo que haces como joven en la revolución bolivariana?

Miguel Torres: Bien, mi nombre es Miguel Torres. Soy perteneciente de la juventud de este proceso revolucionario. En estos momentos cumplo la función de attache, de acompañante de los delegados internacionales y pues estamos netamente contentos de todo lo que se ha venido realizando a lo largo de este corto tiempo, en lo que hemos logrado entender muchas cosas para vencer cualquier tipo de dificultades que son inherentes en cualquier proceso político del país.

Fire This Time: ¿Cuál ha sido su experiencia durante esta elección, que se desarrolla en un momento de muchas dificultades, incluida la pandemia de Covid-19 y el bloqueo y ataques imperialistas contra Venezuela?

Miguel Torres: El proceso de estas mega elecciones fue bastante dinámico. Superó todo

tipo de expectativas por el factor pandemia, que es una de las cosas negativas que dice que está ocurriendo en todo el mundo.

En el tema político, pues se una evidencia de esa, y del deseo desentusiasmo por la participación que por lo menos años anteriores no se veía tanto. Pero este año se vio una clara participación de las personas que querían ejercer su derecho al sufragio y se logró. ¿Cuál es la lección más importante de estas elecciones y la victoria del Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV)? Con el tema de las gobernaciones y los municipios, que gracias a Dios bueno pudimos obtener la victoria fue para nosotros bastante significativa, más allá de que conocimos la derrota en tres estados. Ahora conocemos nuestras debilidades y eso nos ayuda a enfocarnos en el futuro para poder salir victoriosos en un futuro proceso electoral.

Fire This Time: ¿Cuál es su mensaje para las personas que viven en América del



sentir tan fuerte nuestras raíces como hijos de la tierra de Bolívar. Sí que ya saben, no crean en supersticiones de esos grandes medios internacionales que desvirtúan la realidad de diferentes países por el simple hecho de pensar diferente.

Fire This Time: Como joven en la Venezuela de hoy, usted ha vivido toda tu vida bajo las sanciones y el bloqueo imperialistas. ¿Cómo te ha impactado esto?

Miguel Torres: Ha tenido un impacto negativo. Por ejemplo, gracias a la injerencia extranjera, he visto que muchos de mis familiares deciden irse de Venezuela. Fue su decisión. No lo sé con certeza, pero creo que llegarán a arrepentirse de irse. Pero por ahora, debo aceptar esas decisiones difíciles de la gente de mi familia.

También hubo un tiempo cuando era mucho más joven, que había dificultad para conseguir comida y ciertos bienes. Pero nunca perdí la esperanza, porque aunque sé que estos desafíos pueden ser considerables, me alegra

ver a mis padres, a mi comunidad, a la sociedad venezolana, tomar un nuevo rumbo. Eso es lo más importante para mí.

Fire This Time: ¿Tenía algo más, que quiere decir?

Miguel Torres: Bueno, pues lo otro que yo quisiera decir que hay que conocer la historia, hay que leer que eso es lo importante. Leer es vida y tenemos que fortalecer nuestro conocimiento y así enseñarle a nuestras futuras generaciones todo lo relacionado con nuestro pasado, de dónde somos, de dónde vinimos. Que eso es verdaderamente importante. Muchas gracias.

Fire This Time: Gracias por su tiempo y perspicacia. ¡Viva Venezuela!



Jóvenes venezolanos participan en la Misión Árbol el 28 de Octubre de 2021

Norte, que no saben lo que está pasando en Venezuela, más allá de lo que están escuchando en los medios de comunicación?

Miguel Torres: Bueno, más allá de lo que piensen las personas de que si estamos mal o estamos bien, yo lo que le quiero decir, desde mi corazón, es que no hay que perder la esperanza, no hay que perder la fe de que las cosas están yendo de forma positiva para seguir trabajando, seguir fortaleciendo nuestras capacidades, ya tanto en la materia política, en conocimiento, en producir cosas, todo en general. Ante las dificultades seguiremos adelante, seguiremos trabajando constantemente. Es algo hermoso ser venezolano dentro de la revolución bolivariana,

Fire This Time Remembers



Frank Velgara Valentin

August 24, 1949 - August 25, 2022

By Benjamin Ramos

It is with great sadness, that we in the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign, announce the passing of one of our founders and long-time coordinators, Francisco Velgara Valentin, known affectionately to the movement at large as Franky.

Franky was a dedicated independentista, revolutionary socialist, and internationalist. He fought for Puerto Rican independence, supported Revolutionary Cuba, stood with the Vietnamese revolution, gave his unyielding support to mass movements in Latin America, helped to found revolutionary formations in Puerto Rico and the Diaspora, and

worked to Free All U.S. Held Political Prisoners.

This is but a sliver of the work Franky did. His dedication to creating a socialist revolution was unyielding and far reaching. Franky will always be remembered. We will draw strength from his life and legacy.

¡Franky Velgara Valentin PRESENTE!

The ProLibertad Freedom Campaign

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

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

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FREE ALEX SAAB NOW! NO TO SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA! US/CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!



By Janine Solanki

Sanctions imposed by the United States affect a third of humanity, with more than 8,000 measures impacting more than 40 countries. Venezuela is one of these countries facing brutal sanctions responsible for at least 40,000 deaths from 2017 to 2018, as the Center for Economic and Policy Research reported. In recent years under the pandemic, sanctions have made shortages of medical supplies and other necessities even more critical.

In mid-2020, Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab was en route to Iran to negotiate a deal to



Adán Chávez Frías, President of the Institute of Advanced Studies of Thought of the Comandante Eterno Hugo Rafael Chavez Frías speaking at the IMG Webinar on August 28, 2022.

alleviate the effects of U.S. sanctions, enabling Venezuela to receive more fuel, food and medical supplies. Alex Saab was abducted at the command of the U.S. government. He was arbitrarily imprisoned and tortured for over a year in Cape Verde before being extradited to the U.S.

The campaign to free Alex Saab remains a demand at the forefront of the Venezuela solidarity movement and every monthly "U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!" online picket action. The monthly actions are organized by the Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg, the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, and Just Peace Advocates.

The **August 18th** action featured speakers from Venezuela, including Professor Luis Acuña, Charge d'Affaires of the Venezuelan Embassy in Canada, speaking from Venezuela. Liliam Mendez, a member of the Free Alex Saab Movement in the Venezuelan state of Apure, spoke to update participants on Alex Saab's case and encouraged people to join in to fight for his freedom.

The movement in defence of Venezuela is truly worldwide. At this picket, Irma Sofia Nava spoke from Mexico, where she is a leading organizer with Mexico Solidarity

with Venezuela and Spokesperson for CONAICOP (National and International Council of Popular Communication, an international organization founded in Venezuela), Mexico.

Speakers from Canada included writer and analyst Bhagwant Sandhu, a retired director general with the federal government in Canada, who also held executive positions in B.C. and Ontario provincial governments. The online action was chaired by Alison Bodine, 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).

This online action always opens the floor to greetings from solidarity groups across Canada before participants turn on their video for a group photo! With activists holding protest signs and Venezuelan flags, this online protest stretches from Venezuela to Canada and worldwide!

Ten days later, another important webinar was held, discussing resistance throughout Latin America to U.S. hegemonic policies. The **August 28** webinar, "Summit of the 'Americas' vs. CELAC: Whither the Monroe Doctrine @ 200?" was organized by the International Manifesto Group with the sponsorship of organizations in Venezuela, the U.S. and Canada, including the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice. The panel of prominent speakers included: Adán Chávez Frías, Venezuelan Ambassador to Cuba; Carlos Ron, Venezuelan Vice Minister of Foreign Relations for North America and President of the Simon Bolivar Institute for Peace and Solidarity Among Peoples; Camila Escalante from Bolivian-based media outlet Kawsachun News; Colombian social activist and journalist Laura Capote; Montreal-based author and journalist Arnold August; independent journalist Benjamin Norton, who is editor of the anti-imperialist news outlet Multipolarista; Elias Jabbour, author and Associate Professor of Theory and Policy of Economic Planning at the Rio de Janeiro State University; Austin Cole, member of the Black Alliance for Peace's Haiti/Americas team; with moderation by Radhika Desai, author and Professor at the Department of Political Studies, and Director, Geopolitical Economy Research Group, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada.

To learn more about events in defence of Venezuela, visit www.firethistime.net or follow on Facebook @firethistimemovement, Twitter @FTT_NP and Instagram @firethistime and @FTT.Venezuela.

OUR HERITAGE



Evelyn Reed

(October 31, 1905 - March 22, 1979)

Revolutionary leader and
women's revolutionary theorist

What is the source of women's oppression? Those who maintain that women constitute a caste or class are led to the conclusion that it is not capitalism but men who are the prime enemy. This position leads to a false strategy in our struggle for liberation.

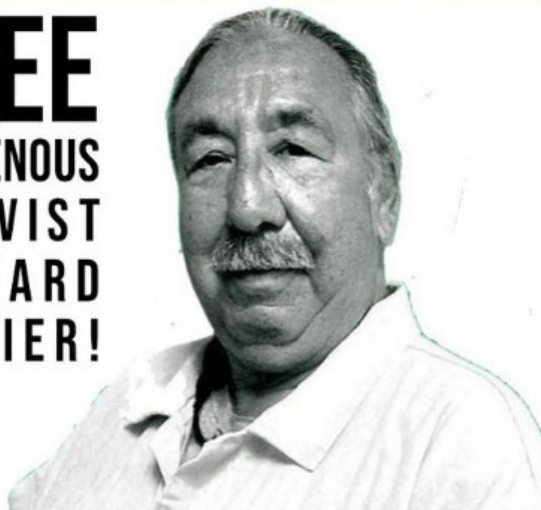
The new stage in the struggle for women's liberation already stands on a higher ideological level than did the feminist movement of the last century. Many of the participants today respect the Marxist analysis of capitalism and subscribe to Engels' classic explanation of the origins of women's oppression. It came about through the development of class society, founded upon the family, private property and the state.

But there still remain considerable misunderstandings and misinterpretations of Marxist positions which have led some women who consider themselves radicals or socialists to go off course and become theoretically disoriented. Influenced by the myth that women have always been handicapped by their child-bearing functions, they tend to attribute the roots of women's oppression, at least in part, to biological sexual differences. In actuality its causes are exclusively historical and social in character.

*International Socialist Review,
September 1970 - "Women: Caste, Class
or Oppressed Sex"*

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CONTACT: NYCJERICO@GMAIL.COM

► **DAYS OF ACTION** ◀
October 15 - 23, 2022

BACK TO THE STREETS!
SAY NO TO U.S. WARS!

**Stop Washington's
war moves toward
Russia and China**

**Stop endless wars:
Iraq, Syria, Somalia,
Palestine, everywhere**

Call to action by:
**United National
 Antiwar Coalition (UNAC)**

<https://unac.notowar.net>



Initial endorsers: United National
 Antiwar Coalition, Popular Resistance, Black Alliance for Peace, International Action Center, BAYAN USA, Sanctions Kill Campaign, Students for a Democratic Society, US Peace Council, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Friends of the Congo, Ban Killer Drones, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Socialist Actions, Solidarity Committee of the Americas, Welfare Rights Committee, Socialist Unity Party, Women Against Military Madness, Mayday Books, Anti-War Committee (MN), Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace, Minnesota War Tax Resistance, Brainerd Area Coalition for Peace, Chicago Antiwar Coalition, People Opposed to War, Imperialism and Racism, Veterans for Peace Chapter 27, St. Paul Eastside Neighbors for Peace, Minnesota Peace Action Coalition, Twin Cities Assange Defense Committee, PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick, San Diego Free Mumia Coalition, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Women in Struggle, Just Peace Advocates (Canada), Mobilization Against War & Occupation (Canada), Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice (Canada), Kwame Nkrumah Ideological Institution (South Africa), Swedish Peace Council, Coop Anti-War Cafe (Berlin).



FREE ALEX SAAB NOW!

NO TO SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA!

U.S./CANADA: HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

MONTHLY VIRTUAL PICKET

**FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD +
 GREETINGS FROM VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY ORGANIZERS
 ACROSS CANADA & QUEBEC!**

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 2022

**4PM VANCOUVER TIME
 (7PM ET / 6PM CT)**

REGISTER FOR ZOOM SCAN THE QR OR VISIT:

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



MONTHLY CAR CARAVAN TO

LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!



**#PuentesDeAmor
 #UnblockCuba**



Vancouver, BC, Canada

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25 2022

12PM

For location call 604.780.4029

Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver

WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG | @nobloqueovan