

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

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



# FIRE THIS TIME



**Climate Justice 8-13**



**End the Blockade on Cuba 2**



**Support the Brazilian people!**



**Free Alex Saab!  
U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!**



**#StopWarOnYemen**



**FREE  
LEONARD  
PELTIER**

**4**



**PM Trudeau:  
No New Fighter Jets!  
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**Stop the Deportation  
of Climate Justice  
Activist,  
Zain Haq**

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# **WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD UNITE WITH CUBA!**

## **The Urgency of Ending the U.S. Blockade on Cuba**

*By Tamara Hansen*

February 2022 marked 60 years since President Kennedy signed the economic blockade into law. This angering anniversary means that every Cuban under 60 was born and has lived their whole life under this unjust and brutal U.S. policy.

Since marking 60 years of the blockade in February, it has been a challenging year for Cuba. The Saratoga Hotel explosion, the Matanzas fire, and most recently, Hurricane Ian. From Canada, we have been fundraising and working to provide solidarity, but we know the more important help is to bring an end to the cruel U.S. blockade of Cuba.

**Some people argue it has no effect – so why does the U.S. government keep it?**

In just the first seven months of 2021, the blockade caused Cuba losses of more than \$2.5 billion. This number represents an average impact of more than \$365 million per month and more than \$12 million per day. Cuba cannot purchase any product, from medical equipment to school supplies, if it has more than 10% or more components manufactured in the United States. Anyone who dares to

ship products to Cuba by air or sea risks having their ships and airplanes barred from entering the United States ports for six months.

The acceleration of U.S. attacks on Cuba and Cuba's challenging post-pandemic recovery reinforces our responsibility to strengthen our efforts to defeat the blockade on Cuba. This must be a political priority for the solidarity movement, all friends of Cuba around the world, and the great heroic Cuban people.

As working people discover more about Cuba around the world, we know how Cuba's inspiring vision of the socialist project has shown what it means to put human beings ahead of profit. Cuba's leadership in healthcare, education, pandemic response, and response to climate change all provide necessary examples for working people in our own countries – in Canada, the Philippines, and worldwide.

It is up to us to overcome the lies and slander against the Cuban revolution and show working people that a better world is possible and necessary — and that, despite challenges — Cuba is showing us the way forward! Cuba today undoubtedly

is the vanguard of the struggle to win a new world, a socialist world.

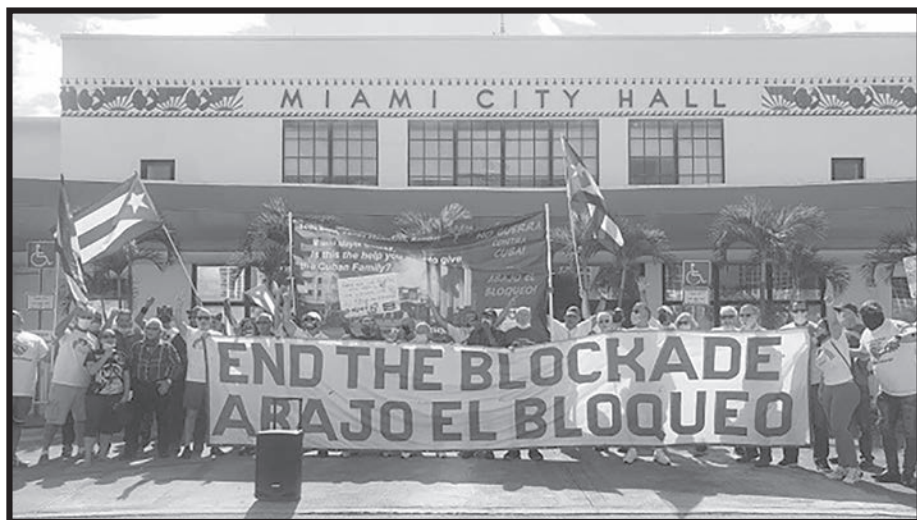
**Building an international Cuba solidarity movement**

While Covid-19 has made our Cuba solidarity work very different and more challenging, we have also been able to use new technologies to maximize our cooperation across time zones and borders. Like tonight, it is 5pm in the Philippines and 1am here in Vancouver, Canada – but we are here together, united on Zoom for dear Cuba.

While we work locally or nationally in the U.S. and Canada, we strive to build a stronger and more effective Cuba solidarity movement worldwide.

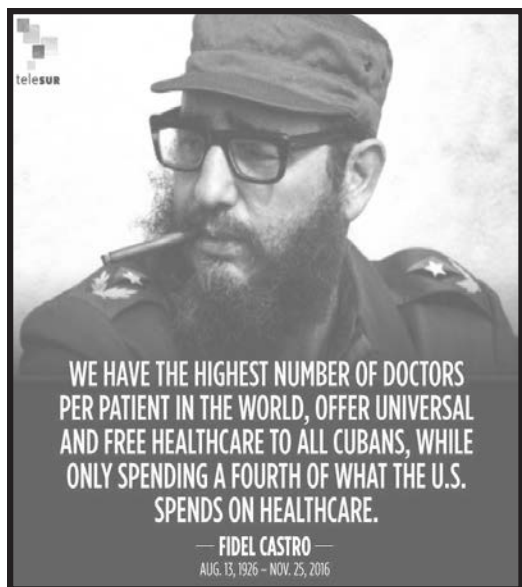
I want to suggest further extending this collaboration to worldwide international activities as an ongoing and consistent activity. We need to have a strong international movement to bring working and oppressed people to join us in campaigning against the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Our friends at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) have started part of this work over the decades. Another key has been the tremendous recent work of Carlos Lazo and Puentes de Amor. However, we must explore new ways to broaden our solidarity movement. We try to focus on the blockade as a single issue in this area of work. This way, we can unite with people who do not agree with all political aspects of our work for Cuba but will unite with us on the specific issue of the blockade and sanctions against Cuban families. We know that Cuba needs this urgently!

On the other hand, it is our work to defend the socialist character of Cuba. In that area of our work, we hold events highlighting the gains of the Cuban Revolution. We watch films about Comandante Fidel Castro. We have events about Cuba's campaign to eradicate illiteracy and the



Puentes de Amor Caravan Against the U.S. Blockade on Cuba. Miami, Florida, March, 2022.





important popular democratic nature of Cuba's socialism – such as the recent passing of the new revolutionary families' code. Cuba's democracy is unique and has the best political and democratic structure worldwide.

In defending Cuba's socialism and the gains of the Cuban socialist revolution, we also educate people in Canada about the need for social justice and socialism in Canada. We ask why Cuba, a so-called third-world country, can provide free college and university education for its people while here in Canada, college and university students struggle with deeper debt?

### **Cuba solidarity in Canada & Internationally**

During the campaign to free the five Cuban heroes, three cities across Canada committed to organizing monthly picket actions at United States embassies and consulates in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal. In my city, Vancouver, we organized 110 monthly picket actions before our 5 heroes were free! What an amazing celebration that was!

We then began monthly picket actions to end the U.S. blockade on Cuba in 2015. We were joined by our co-fighters in Kyiv, Ukraine, who organized monthly street actions against the blockade up until March of this year due to the security situation in their country. There have also been consistent monthly actions against the blockade in Perth, Australia, and other cities for years.

I highlight these monthly actions because we believe that all political work must

be consistent and organized into campaigns to be effective. We know that U.S. imperialism is very organized and consistent in its attacks on Cuba, so our response to U.S. aggression must also be serious, consistent, and united to build an effective international movement. Unity and consistency are two crucial and necessary factors to do an effective and successful campaign.

We have two consistent monthly actions currently demanding an end to the unjust U.S. blockade on Cuba. The first is the monthly virtual pickets on the 17<sup>th</sup> of every month, people from around the world join on Zoom and Facebook to talk about their opposition to the unjust U.S. blockade on Cuba, as well as

their local activities and perspectives. Since the start of the pandemic, we have also had three **26-hour monthly virtual picket actions** with speakers from over 100 nations, with speakers from every continent except Antarctica!

The second consistent monthly project has been to unite with the international caravan movement on the last Sunday of every month. Carlos Lazo and Puentes de Amor have inspired us in Vancouver and across Canada. This movement needs to keep growing and bringing together the Cuba solidarity movement and Cubans living abroad.

There are so many other ideas and areas to build: online petition campaigns, creative campaigns to build awareness, banner drops, art displays, poetry contests, Twitter storms, sharing articles and videos on social media, global days of action, letter writing to print and alternative media, Passing resolutions in the city councils and labour councils,

webinars, rallies petitions, resolutions, campaigns to call politicians, etc.

### **Where do we go from here?**

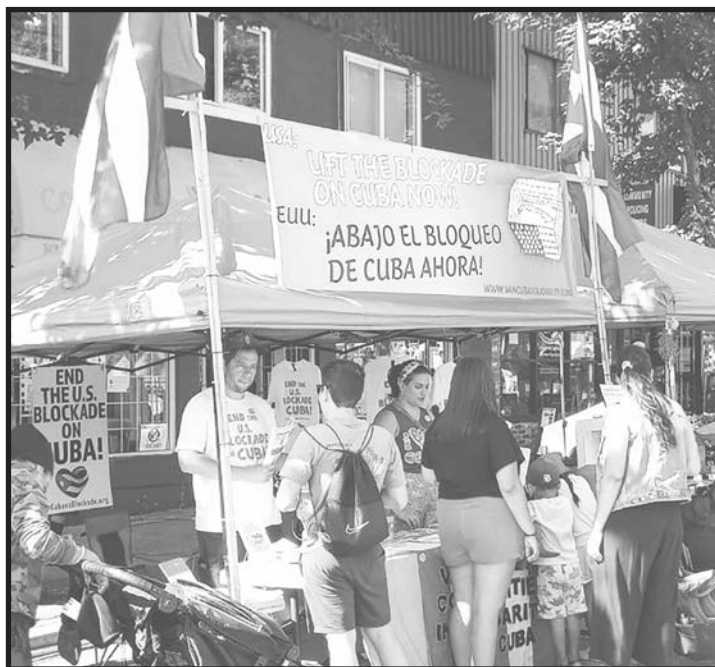
It has been a tremendous honour to speak to you today about the Cuba solidarity movement. I am so inspired to be talking to friends and organizers of the Philippines-Cuba Cultural & Friendship Association, to hear about our common struggles and to be inspired to continue to push for change and socialism!

This work must continue to find common ground and points of unity, develop collaboration and teamwork with patience, confidence building, and trust, to build a united front internationally to defend socialist Cuba! We need to work with consistency, cooperation, and creativity to build a solid campaign to end the criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba once and for all!

Our international work has grown in leaps and bounds, so let's continue working together to defend Cuba against the U.S. empire and its cruel and unjust blockade!

**Lift the Blockade on Cuba!**  
**¡Abajo el bloqueo contra Cuba!**  
**¡Viva Cuba revolucionaria!**  
**¡Viva Diaz Canel!**  
**¡Viva Raul!**  
**¡Viva Che!**  
**¡Viva Fidel!**

*Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01*



**Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba Table, at Commercial Dr. 2022 Car Free Day Festival.**

Leonard Peltier's name has become a story that reflects other stories. One narrative describes Peltier as America's longest political prisoner, serving more than 46 years in a federal maximum security prison. In that telling, Peltier has become a humanitarian and a 78-year-old Turtle Mountain elder who has been incarcerated for far too long.

There is a long list of people, tribes and organizations that have called for Peltier's freedom. The former prosecutor in the case. Members of Congress. Amnesty International USA. Pope John Francis. The Dalai Lama. The National Congress of American Indians. Dozens of tribal nations, including Peltier's own tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. And, as of this month, the Democratic National Committee.

That's one version. A contrary account casts Peltier as the lead character for the crimes committed by the American Indian Movement during the Wounded Knee era, including internal community violence, and he is described as a remorseless murderer.

That last story is still promoted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on its website. But Peltier is not in prison for murder. The government could not justify a murder case, so it switched gears and today Leonard Peltier is Inmate #89637-132 serving at the United States Penitentiary, Coleman, in central Florida, on charges of "aiding and abetting" the murder of federal officers, plus a seven-year sentence for an escape attempt.

Indeed Peltier has already served a longer sentence than most principals in murder convictions. There is no way to look at the evidence and come away with any conclusion other than Peltier is being punished for crimes that could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Kevin Sharp is a Nashville attorney, and former U.S. District Court judge, who is representing Peltier pro bono with a petition to President Joe Biden calling for clemency. That petition questions the role of the United States government saying "the FBI redoubled their efforts to secure a conviction," including dropping other charges, so that the "weight of the Federal Government could be directed against Leonard Peltier."

One of the problems is that even if guilty, Peltier has overserved.

"He's overserved any sentence he should have," Sharp said. "You got your pound of flesh. If that's what you wanted, you got a guy who was there and you, he's now 78 years old, and he's got 46 years behind bars. What else do you want? Except for him to die. And we stopped talking about him that way, but that's the worst thing that can happen because now you don't start, stop talking about him. Now you've got this guy that you allowed to die in prison. It

gets louder, not softer."

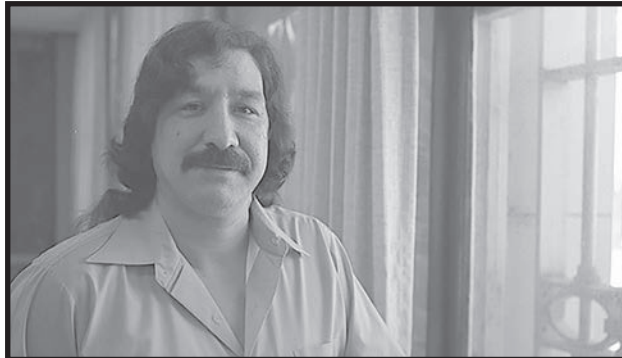
Over the years the government first said Peltier shot the agents. Then later the prosecution switched the story to "we don't know who killed the agents, but we know Leonard was there," Sharp said.

"Okay. Congratulations. There were 40 other people there with weapons. There were lots of other people there that day. There were 150 agents there. One of them killed Joe Stuntz, a 21-year-old Native boy. We don't know who killed him. We know it was one of the agents that they never went to figure it out. So those are the facts that we know. And if that case was tried today, there is no way it stands."

Sharp said the Peltier's trial would not stand scrutiny today.

"There aren't even two sides," he said. "We know that the witnesses were intimidated. We know that witnesses were threatened. We know that affidavits knowingly false affidavits were

## Leonard Peltier's 46 Years In Prison: What Else Do You Want?



submitted to the courts. We know that when the trial took place and the prosecutor said, we only have this one piece of evidence, this shell casing, this ties Leonard to, to this shooting. We know now that they knew that wasn't true. And we only learned years later after his conviction, that there had been a ballistics test that showed it wasn't his weapon."

In the White House petition Sharp argues that Peltier "remains a casualty of this country's cruel and lawless war against American Indians his continued incarceration, moreover, is a constant reminder to Native communities that they are disposable in the eyes of the U.S. government and unworthy of the most basic protections afforded by our Constitution."

It's the failure of basic constitutional protections that power Sharp's message: He left the federal bench because of what he saw as structural issues in the criminal justice system.

"I was forced because of mandatory minimums to sentence a young man to two life sentences," Sharp recalled. "It was very frustrating to me because in order to become a federal judge, you're vetted and investigated by the FBI, vetted and investigated by the White House, the Department of Justice, the Senate Judiciary committee, and they have their own investigators all for one reason ... and that's to

satisfy themselves that you have the intellect and the temperament and the judgment to rule on these most important items in our country and that is dealing with somebody's liberty."

Sharp sent Chris Young to prison. And that crossed a line for him. So after six years as a federal judge, Sharp shifted gears and set out to defend justice.

"That led me to the Trump Oval Office and working with Kim Kardashian to help free this young man," he said. "His name was Chris Young ... and Chris is free today. We actually were able to secure clemency."

It was in that context that Sharp became interested in Leonard Peltier.

He received a package from Connie Nelson, the former wife of Willie Nelson.

"And I sat down with this package and it was the trial transcripts from Leonard's trial," he said. "It was newspaper articles, court opinions, photographs, and I just started going through it and I am sucked in."

Sharp saw holes in the government's story.

"It was easy for me to see what happened, the misconduct by the prosecutors, by the investigators, the rulings by the court that would never stand today because the standard of review is different. All of that was easy for me," he said. "What then has sucked me in for years since I first opened that package is the 'why?'"

Why are there so many constitutional violations? What was going on? What led to this point?

"It was the context. That's what sucked me into this and has aggravated me, has, you know, made me angry, made me sad, made me confused," Sharp said. "What are we doing? And why are we here? And that's why Leonard Peltier is so important." This isn't about people with guns on Pine Ridge, you know, South Dakota on June 26th, 1975. That's part of it. But the real story is the why. And as, as one of the courts said in one of the court opinions, the United States government needs to take responsibility for what happened there that day."

Sharp said there is no way that Peltier's trial would meet today's minimum standards of justice.

In 1986 the 8th U.S. Court of Appeals found that the government had failed to disclose evidence favorable to Peltier. This is what's known as a "Brady violation" and it's enough to require a new trial. But in Peltier's case the rule was ignored. The district court "held that the October 2, 1975, teletype, evaluated in the context of the entire record, would not have affected the outcome of the trial and that, therefore, Peltier was not entitled to relief."

Or consider the story of a self-proclaimed racist juror. Three women in Fargo slipped a note to the trial judge, Paul Benson, that said they were friends with the juror and she told them that she was really prejudiced against Indians. The judge asks her about the statement. "Yep, I said it. But I told you when you were asking me questions that I would set any prejudice I



had. I'd be fair." The judge says, "Thank you very much." And the trial continued on and Juror Number 10 voted "guilty."

That fact alone would be enough to reverse a trial.

"If that happened today, he gets a new trial," Sharp said. "So it's those things that drive me crazy. When I talk about, look, I, I believe in the Constitution, those are all constitutional violations. We get a new trial."

The government's prosecutors changed their theory in 1985 — after Peltier's conviction. As the prosecutor Lynn Crooks told the appeals court, "we can't prove who shot those agents." Thus, Peltier was not actually convicted of murder instead he's been in prison since 1977 on "aiding and abetting" the murder of federal officers.

Another former prosecutor in the case, James Reynolds, has called for clemency. In a letter to the president, Reynolds wrote that with the benefit of hindsight "I have realized that the prosecution and continued incarceration of Mr. Peltier was and is unjust. We were not able to prove that Mr. Peltier personally committed any offense on the Pine Ridge Reservation."

One other story told about Peltier is not directly related to his aiding and abetting conviction — and that's the tie to the Anna Mae Aquash murder investigation. The American Indian Movement at first blamed the FBI for Anna Mae Aquash's murder in February of 1976. But later information surfaced that she was murdered by AIM because she was suspected of being an informer. Aquash's family said Peltier was involved and was aware of her killer. Two former AIM members, Arlo Looking Cloud and John Graham, were convicted of killing Aquash.

Sharp points out that Peltier has never been charged in connection with Aquash.

In a statement the last week of September, Thalia Carroll-Cachimuel, executive director of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, said "there has been an extraordinary volume of misinformation spread regarding Leonard Peltier. Leonard Peltier's conviction and perverse length of his incarceration are emblematic of the racist mistreatment of American Indians by law enforcement that existed throughout Indian Country for decades. If there is evidence that has never before been produced, then we encourage its unveiling if the true motive is justice. If the motive is simply to support Mr. Peltier's unjust imprisonment, the bar must be set much higher."

Peltier's petition for clemency will be up to Biden. Just this month a resolution enacted

by the Democratic National Committee said the party's platform already says the president should use clemency "to secure the release of those serving unduly long sentences."

And, in Peltier's case, "given the overwhelming support for clemency, the constitutional due process issues underlying Mr. Peltier's prosecution, his status as an elderly inmate, and that he is an American Indian, who suffer from greater rates of health disparities and severe underlying health conditions, Mr. Peltier is a good candidate to be granted mercy and leniency; and ... it is highly appropriate that consideration of clemency for Mr. Peltier be prioritized and expedited, so that Mr. Peltier can return to his family and live his final years among his people."

Peltier's petition says the time for clemency is now because his health is fading.

"Leonard suffers from a variety of ailments, including kidney disease, Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, a heart condition, bone spurs in his feet, a degenerative joint disease, constant shortness of breath and dizziness, and painful injuries to his jaw. A stroke in 1986 left Leonard virtually blind in one eye," the clemency petition says. "Prison doctors advised Leonard that the condition required surgery, but the maximum-security prison where he is incarcerated does not have the capacity to treat the condition. Leonard's physical condition is dire, and he cannot physically defend himself in prison, let alone threaten anyone with harm."

North Dakota state Rep. Ruth Buffalo, Mandan Hidatsa Arikara, brought the resolution forward at the September DNC meeting. She said it started with a coordinated message from a variety of state legislators and the North Dakota Democratic-Nonpartisan League Party. That was followed by a similar call from the Native American caucus of Native American state legislators. All that built toward the DNC resolution.

Buffalo represents Fargo in the legislature, the city where Peltier's trial originally took place. She said she has heard from constituents "regardless of party affiliation" supporting clemency because of the constitutional violations.

"One thing that has kept us going is so many of us unfortunately have relatives and loved ones who are currently in the criminal justice system or who have thankfully made it out of serving time behind bars," she said. And so Peltier's long prison time is "something an issue that definitely hits home for many of us."

She said Peltier should come home.

"I know there's so many people who have been praying since the seventies for Leonard's release," Buffalo said. "And so we know that there's many grandmas and elder women at Turtle Mountain who pray for Leonard on a daily basis."

This whole case is a reflection of injustice, she said, and it must be resolved in order to heal communities.

"Leonard's release is one sure way to make sure that we are on a path towards healing," Buffalo said.

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## MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES!

### Indigenous struggle against colonialism



Howard Adams (Métis)  
1921 - 2001

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

The native nation, in a state of archaic suspension for the last hundred years, will break out of its colonial molds. Nationalism will usher in a new humanism and harmony that will set native culture in motion once again and open the doors to new cultural developments. This revival of culture will not be refined or sophisticated but it will be vigorous. Formalism and ritualism will be abandoned in favor of new forms of expression that will depict struggle, freedom, vitality, and hope.

Since red nationalism is essential to Indian/Métis liberation, it must be a spearhead force for the native movement, and must provide the machinery for educating the masses politically. Since the cultural awakening is only one stage of liberation, steps must be taken to ensure that the national consciousness will develop its political aspects as well.

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



Leonard Peltier Walk to Justice organizer Rachel Thunder speaking at Grant Park in Chicago. September 24, 2022.





# HANDS OFF YEMEN!

## STOP BRUTALIZING & TORTURING THE PEOPLE OF YEMEN!



*By Azza Rojbi*

March 26, 2022, marked seven years of a cruel and devastating war on Yemen. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and their coalition started their military intervention in Yemen under the pretense of restoring 'elected government,' 'legitimacy,' and 'stability' to Yemen. We look today after seven years, and we see no 'legitimacy' or 'stability' in sight, only death and destruction! Yemen today is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, according to the United Nations.

From day one, the United States government and its imperialist allies, including Canada, provided political, technical, military and training support to Saudi Arabia and other countries in their coalition and, of course, billions of dollars in arms sales. There is no way that Saudi Arabia or the UAE could have started this war without its assistance and direct involvement.

The Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen is a planned imperialist war for regional domination and hegemony.

The map in this article shows Yemen's

strategic location. As you can see on the map, Yemen's coast borders the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a narrow strategic waterway connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The strait is one of the world's most active and vital maritime shipping routes. Thirty percent of all shipping in the world passes this point. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, "In 2018, an estimated 6.2 million barrels per day (b/d) of crude oil, condensate, and refined petroleum products flowed through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait toward Europe, the United States".

Yemen's strategic location is vital for the United States and imperialists to expand their military and economic domination over the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the East Africa region. Saudi Arabia

and the UAE are doing dirty work for imperialists in the region because they have interests in the region.

Imperialism today is more and more becoming more vicious and inhuman. Imperialists, especially the U.S., are losing their sole domination worldwide. They are losing their dominating status. They are using wars, occupation, sanctions, and blockades to hold onto their control over colonial and semi-colonial countries. In the case of Yemen, because of its strategic location, they can't allow the existence of an independent sovereign Yemen. They need another puppet government in the region to serve the interests of the United States and all their imperialist allies.

The people of Yemen are victims of the

**Battle of Ideas Press**

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

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By Azza Rojbi

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



brutality of the imperialist war. The same brutality imperialists have shown toward Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba, to name a few. In this new era of war and occupation which started with the occupation of Afghanistan in 2001, the U.S. and their imperialist allies have imposed wars, occupations, sanctions and blockades to break the will and to destroy the dignity of sovereign nations for further domination and plundering the wealth of those countries and beyond.

### Effects of blockade and sanctions

Since the start of the war on Yemen in 2015, the Saudi-led coalition imposed an air, land and sea blockade on Yemen. At the time, Yemen imported 90% of its food, fuel, and medicines.

According to the United Nations, by the end of 2021, the war in Yemen claimed 377,000 lives, nearly 60 percent of deaths caused by lack of safe water, hunger and diseases. Today in Yemen, a country with a population of 30 million, over 17.6 million people are in immediate need of food assistance, and 16 million are in critical need of water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The destruction of vital infrastructure, including hospitals, by the Saudi-led war, coupled with the blockade and sanctions, is a death sentence against the people of Yemen. A Yemeni child under five dies every nine minutes because of the war. The US and their imperialist allies have continued to suffocate Yemen for seven years and are responsible for this

atrocious humanitarian situation.

The Saudi-led coalition justifies its blockade on Yemen by referring to a UN Security Council resolution that imposes an arms embargo on the Houthi's government in Yemen. At the same time, three of the UN Security Council's permanent members, the US, the UK, and France, continue to profit from making billions of dollars fueling the war and selling arms to Saudi Arabia and UAE.

The UN security council's resolution has given the excuse to Saudi Arabia and the UAE to impose an illegal blockade and impede the flow of goods into Yemen. Under the pretense of searching for arms, they delay and detain any ship seeking to enter a Yemeni port.

The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), in Geneva, Switzerland, released its annual report in September 2022 titled "Torture in slow motion: The economic blockade of Yemen and its grave humanitarian consequences." The report states, "No searches conducted by the coalition have resulted in the discovery of weapons."... "Instead, restrictions on fuel imports, in particular, keep having a knock-on effect on the provision of food, drinking water, and healthcare."

The Saudi-led coalition has also imposed air access restrictions on Yemen and Sana'a's international airport, which has been a lifeline for Yemenis to seek medical treatment abroad. Saudi Arabia bombed and destroyed hospitals and healthcare facilities in Yemen and trapped the population from leaving Yemen to access healthcare in other countries.

During the recent temporary truce on April 2022 between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi government in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition eased some aspects of the blockade against Yemen. It allowed limited flights out of Sana'a airport. But this has not been helpful at all since Saudi Arabia has not fulfilled even its minimal commitments in the truce deal. Basically, the humanitarian situation in Yemen continues to worsen, and imperialists continue to starve an entire population for wanting to exercise their self-determination.

In an article published by Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN) in October 2022, Yemeni peace advocate Arwa Mokdad wrote, "the blockade is a war crime and should be lifted immediately. In their painfully slow negotiations, the warring parties in Yemen haggle over a small number of fuel ships and a limited number of flights. What should be our rights as Yemenis—freedom of movement, the ability to leave the country for vital medical care, escaping collective punishment—are instead seen as bargaining chips for the countries that have waged war on Yemen and the foreign powers, like the United States, that have backed them."

The Yemeni people have suffered from imperialist domination and intervention in their internal affairs for decades. Today, more than ever, it is important that we continue to expose the warmongers' crimes and the brutalities of Saudi-UAE and imperialist war in Yemen. We must stand with the Yemeni people from here in Canada and across the world. We must demand an immediate end to the war, the complete lifting of the inhuman blockade and sanctions on Yemen and that all foreign troops and mercenaries leave Yemen. The self-determination and sovereignty of Yemen needs to be respected. Yemen's future needs to be decided and built by Yemenis, not by foreign powers fuelling the conflict for their interests.

*Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza\_R14*





# WHAT IS AT STAKE IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Speech by Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Minister of Science, Technology and Environment of Cuba, at the COP 27 Climate Change Conference

Distinguished Ministers and Ministers, This COP has the particularity of being held in Africa -one of the richest continents in biodiversity-, and in a complex international context.

The time to adopt the decisions and actions necessary to reverse climate change is running out. What we do has to be consistent with history and not forget that the roots of the problem are in the capitalist system, responsible for a predatory and consumerist development model.

What is happening has an impact on global ethics and aesthetics, the quality of life of man, his environment and infrastructure deteriorates. In all parts of the world, as a result of extreme weather events, people die, cities and traditions are destroyed, historical memory is affected; the food and energy security of nations, which damages the psychology of people.

Every year in my country, we experience the uncertainty of knowing if we will be hit by a hurricane, heavy rains or intense droughts.

These vulnerabilities are aggravated by the cruel and unfair economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States of America, which has already been rejected 30 times by the international community, and still remains immovable.

However, Cuba continues to advance with the experience of 5 years of implementation and results of the State Plan to confront Climate Change: Life Task. One of them is the creation of the Climate Foundation called "IRIS, United for Climate", which we make available

to channel national and regional efforts.

Ministers and Ministers,

What is at stake is sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and the subsistence of man. We owe future generations the commitment to act, to achieve Open Climate Governance and Ethics, based on solidarity and financial justice.

Climate solidarity is to stop acting for individual economic interests, it is to think about those who lose living conditions, it is to change

unsustainable patterns of consumption, it is to help the most vulnerable.

Financial justice is having new and additional funds available to compensate losses and damages and implement the adaptation measures we need; simplify procedures and agree on a new financial goal.

I conclude by recalling the speech of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, in Rio 92, which I quote for its validity:

"An important biological species is at risk of disappearing....: man.

.. We must better distribute the wealth and technologies available on the planet. Less luxuries and less waste so that there is less poverty and less hunger....

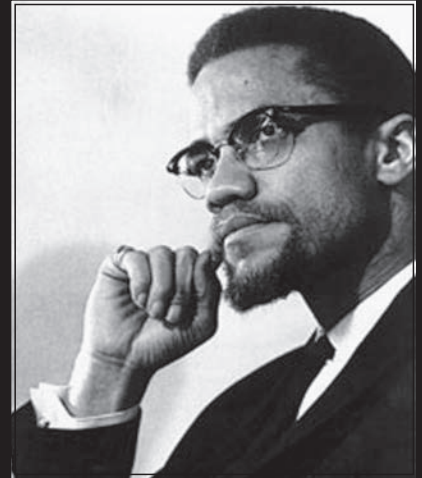
...Stop selfishness, stop hegemonism, stop insensitivity, stop irresponsibility and deceit. Tomorrow it will be too late to do what we should have done a long time ago."

End of quote.

Thank you.

*Reprinted from Cuba MINREX, cubaminrex.cu*

## "By Any Means Necessary..."



### MALCOLM X SPEAKS

It's impossible for you and me to have a balanced mind in this society without going into the past, because in this particular society, as we function and fit into it right now, we're such an underdog, we're trampled upon, we're looked upon as almost nothing. Now if we don't go into the past and find out how we got this way, we will think that we were always this way. And if you think that you were always in the condition that you're in right now, it's impossible for you to have too much confidence in yourself, you become worthless, almost nothing.

*From On Afro-American History - January 24, 1965*





# Lo que está en juego es el desarrollo sostenible



Discurso de Elba Rosa Pérez Montoya, Ministra de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente de Cuba en la COP 27 Conferencia Sobre Cambio Climático

## \* En Español \*

Distinguidas Ministras y Ministros,

Esta COP tiene la particularidad de realizarse en África -uno de los continentes más ricos en biodiversidad-, y en un complejo contexto internacional.

El tiempo para adoptar las decisiones y acciones necesarias para revertir el cambio climático se nos acaba. Lo que hagamos tiene que ser consecuente con la historia y no olvidar que las raíces del problema están en el sistema capitalista, responsable de un modelo de desarrollo depredador y consumista.

Lo que está ocurriendo tiene un impacto en la ética y estética global, se deteriora la calidad de vida del hombre, su entorno e infraestructuras. En todas partes del mundo, a consecuencia de eventos meteorológicos extremos, fallecen personas, se destruyen ciudades, tradiciones, se afecta la memoria histórica; la seguridad alimentaria y energética de las naciones, lo cual daña la psicología de las personas.

Cada año en mi país, vivimos la incertidumbre de saber si seremos azotados por un huracán, fuertes lluvias o intensas sequías.

Estas vulnerabilidades se ven agravadas por el cruel e injusto bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos de América, que ha sido rechazado ya durante 30 ocasiones por la comunidad internacional, y aún permanece inamovible.

No obstante, Cuba continúa avanzando con la experiencia de 5 años de implementación y resultados del Plan de Estado para el enfrentamiento al Cambio Climático: Tarea Vida. Uno de ellos, es la creación de la Fundación Climática llamada "IRIS,

Unidos por el Clima", que ponemos a su disposición para canalizar esfuerzos nacionales y regionales.

Ministras y Ministros,

Lo que está en juego es el desarrollo sostenible, la erradicación de la pobreza y la subsistencia del hombre. Le debemos a las futuras generaciones el compromiso de actuar, de lograr una Gobernanza y Ética Climática Abierta, basada en la solidaridad y justicia financiera.

La solidaridad climática es dejar de actuar por intereses económicos individuales, es pensar en los que pierden condiciones de vida, es cambiar patrones insostenibles de consumo, es ayudar a los más vulnerables.

La justicia financiera es disponer de nuevos y adicionales fondos para resarcir las pérdidas y daños e implementar las medidas de adaptación que necesitamos; simplificar procedimientos y acordar una nueva meta financiera.

Concluyo recordando el discurso del líder histórico de la Revolución Cubana, Fidel Castro Ruz, en Río 92, que por su vigencia cito:

"Una importante especie biológica está en riesgo de desaparecer....: el hombre.

.. Hay que distribuir mejor las riquezas y tecnologías disponibles en el planeta. Menos lujos y menos despilfarros para que haya menos pobreza y menos hambre....

...Cesen los egoísmos, cesen los hegemonismos, cesen la insensibilidad, cesen la irresponsabilidad y el engaño. Mañana será demasiado tarde para hacer lo que debimos haber hecho hace mucho tiempo".

Fin de la cita.

Muchas gracias.

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## OUR HERITAGE



### Rosa Luxemburg

Revolutionary Marxist Leader (1871-1919)

If we consider history as it was – not as it could have been or should have been – we must agree that war has been an indispensable feature of capitalist development. The United States, Germany, Italy, the Balkan States, Poland, all owe the condition or the rise of their capitalist development to wars, whether resulting in victory or defeat. As long as there were countries marked by internal political division or economic isolation which had to be destroyed, militarism played a revolutionary role, considered from the viewpoint of capitalism. But at present the situation is different. If world politics have become the stage of menacing conflicts, it is not so much a question of the opening of new countries to capitalism. It is a question of already existing European antagonisms, which, transported into other lands, have exploded there.

*Excerpt from Reform or Revolution Chapter IV Capitalism and the State (1900)*



# "THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AND GLOBAL POVERTY"

## VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT NICOLÁS MADURO AT COP27

The terrible environmental imbalances that today dramatically affect life throughout the planet seem to indicate that Climate Change -as it's called with incoherent euphemism- is an irreversible fact.

Fearful by many and denied by the elites, the dystopian scenario of which the scientific community, some world leaders and almost all social movements warned early on, has become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The greatest environmental crisis since life has existed. The climate crisis is an unavoidable reality that can only be confronted with concrete, urgent, and immediate actions.

It is doubly painful to have to admit, moreover, that the dimension of this crisis does not take us by surprise. Since the beginning of environmental diplomacy, there was sufficient data to declare an early emergency and act accordingly. That was three decades ago.

With the signing of the historic Kyoto agreement in 1997, an important consensus was reached on the reduction of the carbon footprint by industrialized and developing countries, which until 2009 yielded significant, albeit insufficient, results.

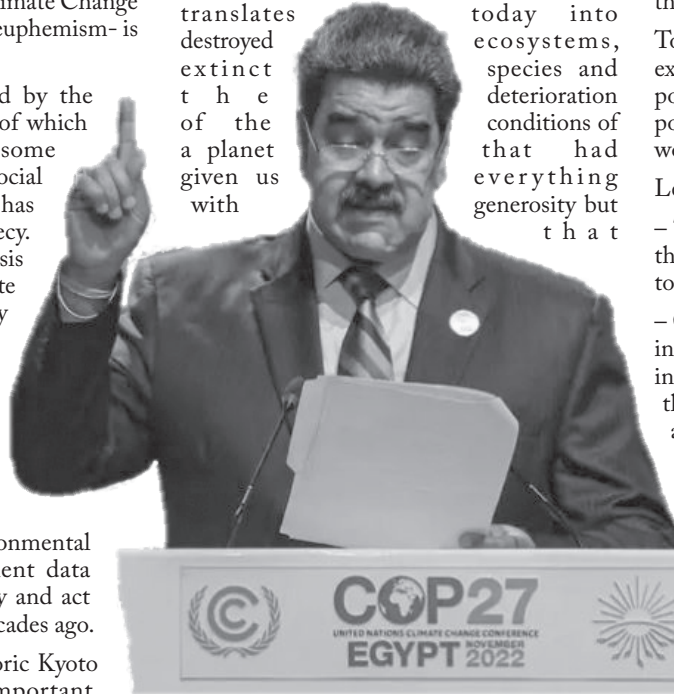
The Paris Agreement also aimed to improve the mechanisms that oblige developed countries to reduce their impact on global warming and, above all, finally gave a binding character to the contributions of science in this regard. But there were also painful stalemates and ruptures, such as those that occurred in 2009 in Copenhagen, where the unwillingness of the denialist elites to move forward at the right pace and in the right direction, that of life, became evident.

We still remember the police repression in the streets against the environmental movements and the corporate bureaucratic plots that were created then to avoid us reaching agreements and firm commitments which would allow us all to build a sensible and relevant solution to the climate situation that is already in a critical phase.

President:

We have lost much more than time: every

hour, every month, every year of inaction, of hesitation, of indolence, translates today into destroyed ecosystems, extinct species and deterioration of the conditions of that had everything given us with generosity but that



today begins to take a huge toll for the abuses committed.

Recognizing the failures of civilization in this area is the beginning of a radical rectification. Yesterday we were threatened by climate change, but today we are faced with a fatal destiny which is the complete collapse of the ecosystem. The most current projections say it: if we continue at this self-destructive pace, the planet will be uninhabitable in 30 or 40 years.

We know that this climate crisis has and will have definitive consequences on the planet, forcing us to modify our consumerist model of life.

The latest UN report on climate change, in which 14,000 scientists from around the world participated, warned that if greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide, methane, and iron oxide are not reduced by 50%, the damage will be irreversible in just eight years. That is, by 2030 there will be no turning back from what we are experiencing: storms, hurricanes, rains, extreme cold, and heat that unexpectedly change the conditions of life and

even more, compromise our existence. Global warming is wiping out species on earth and this seems to be unstoppable.

To mention an example: extreme heat could extinguish bees and if there are no bees the pollination cycle is interrupted, if there is no pollination plants do not reproduce and this would decrease oxygen.

Let's look at the data:

- The average annual global temperature in the last 100 years rose 0.8°C and is expected to exceed 1.7°C for the next five years.

- Greenhouse gasses are at the highest levels in human history. This level, which had fallen in 2020, when the world was quarantined by the pandemic. In 2021, with the industrial and commercial reactivation, the level surpassed the record of 2019 which was approximately 12% higher than in 2010 and 54% higher than in 1990. In 32 years there was an increase that should have happened over centuries.

- Phenomena such as droughts and extreme rainfall are increasing accordingly and in a disorderly way: about 80% of natural disasters between 2001 and 2021 were related either to droughts or floods.

- According to estimates by climate experts, by 2050 the Arctic Ocean will be virtually free of sea ice for the first time in history and with a temperature rise of 2°C 99% of the world's corals could be lost.

- Similarly, sea levels have risen about 23 centimeters since 1880, and almost half of that took place in the last 25 years. Each year, the sea rises another 3.4 millimeters.

- That rise is causing freshwater to become salty, compromising the water resources on which millions of people depend.

- Rising temperatures can attract deadly pathogens to freshwater sources and make it unsafe for human consumption.

Without a doubt, human civilization is responsible for the serious consequences that the planet is experiencing today. However, this statement is incomplete and would be hypocritical if it is not detailed that this civilization is profoundly unequal. It is made up of countries that have been indiscriminately



exploiting the planet's natural resources for two centuries, while others barely have enough to feed themselves and persist under a pre-industrial mode of production.

Venezuela is responsible for less than 0.4% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, the Venezuelan people must pay the consequences of an imbalance caused by the major Western economies, who have polluted and continue to pollute the planet for the benefit of a few.

Existence as we know it has been forever disrupted to the detriment of all living species on the planet. The rate of extinction of the species that today make up the complex organism of biodiversity is accelerating and extending alarmingly, just as Commander Fidel Castro Ruz warned in that famous call of conscience he made 30 years ago at the Rio Summit in Brazil. I quote: "An important biological species is at risk of disappearing due to the rapid and progressive liquidation of its natural conditions of life: man," and prophetically warning the following: "Tomorrow it will be too late to do what we should have done a long time ago". He also pointed out that savage and predatory capitalism is largely responsible for the threat against nature.

It will be useless, as it has been until today, any effort we undertake to alleviate the consequences of this environmental disaster, if we do not have the courage to recognize that this and this alone is the cause of the coming disaster.

In 2009 in Copenhagen, Commander Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías had the courage to say it plainly and directly. Allow me to bring some of his ideas here today. I quote: "What is the cause of climate change? The cause is the dream of seeking happiness through material accumulation and endless progress, using techniques with which all the earth's resources can be exploited in an unlimited way" (...) "Let us not change the climate, let us change the system" he declared.

President,

The imbalance and the environmental crisis created in nature are comparable to the conditions of inequality and injustice that capitalism has created against humanity. A system that normalizes exploitation among human beings has no ethical conditions to respect other forms of existence. Capitalism sees resources where other cultures see life and the sacred. It therefore feels entitled to possess and destroy everything in its path.

President, fellow dignitaries: It is necessary to reach real and effective agreements in the face of the structural problem but we must also design today, right now, a concrete agenda of actions to protect the vulnerable populations of the world, who suffer the most from the consequences of this environmental tragedy:

famine, the loss of millions of homes, the proliferation of multiple diseases and the human displacements that have been causing desertification and the sinking of entire fertile territories.

Humanity cannot continue to be orphaned. It is necessary to materialize, without delays or bureaucratic obstacles, the fund for climate losses and damages that we have been talking about for some years now in previous summits. We must work on this urgent proposal down to the last detail. Let us fine-tune the mechanisms so that the financial assistance is direct, fair, timely and expeditious, so that compensation for environmental damage reaches the most affected peoples.

Any agreement reached today must attack the root of the problem and give attention above all to the most vulnerable.

It is necessary to take into account the singularities of the countries that make up the globalized world and to assign, according to their responsibility in the destruction of the environment, concrete tasks to save humanity and alleviate the effects of ecological imbalance.

The abysmal inequality between the countries of the so-called first world and the rest has increased and deepened in recent decades at the same pace as environmental destruction. There is a connection between the environmental crisis and global poverty. The indiscriminate exploitation of renewable and non-renewable resources, in addition to producing environmental misery, is responsible for social misery on a planetary scale, since it exacerbates it. This cannot be ignored at the moment of creating drastic measures and effective plans to correct and regulate the activities of civilization for the future.

Finally, we advocate as a sovereign country for the protection of the Amazon: as the last great jungle of this planet where all the biodiversity, water resources and the living memory of the native peoples, who never in their millennia of existence have left an irreparable mark on that sacred soil.

On the contrary, it is the native peoples who teach us that nature is not a separate and inanimate being, separated from human beings, but our totality: we are the physical and spiritual extension of nature and nature is ours.

The ancestral and native cultures of an entire continent, from the Sioux of North America to the Yanomami of the South, conceived the earth as a living being that feels and thinks like us. Let us wake up to this truth and get out of the anthropocentric arrogance that prevents us from seeing the sacredness of the world.

Venezuelan men and women are not known for being pessimists. We have with us a tireless spirit of struggle and an immense

love for life that elevates us to think of a new humanity, from a new spirituality. A humanity reconciled with nature, reconciled with itself and reconciled with the future.

As the Canadian philosopher Marshall McLuhan said: "There are no more passengers on this spaceship called Earth: we are all crew members". I know that there is not a man, nor a woman who is willing to see this beautiful adventure that can be the new humanity eclipsed. Nor will we sit back and watch the end of days.

Let the world count on these hard-working and hopeful people, ready to join forces with everyone to save the planet. The illusion of infinite development is over: let us now put a limit to the damage caused to Mother Nature.

Chairman, brothers and sisters:

The time for speeches is over, as well as the time for lamentations.

There is only one present to act radically and with certainty in favor of another possible world and a true life.

And even if the present is an instant in the eyes of eternity, it will be enough if there is a will to live.

Thank you very much.

## ***Battle of Ideas Press***

### **Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela**



#### **By Alison Bodine**

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

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# Climate Justice Now! System Change, Not Climate Change!

## Climate Convergence in the struggle for a better world



Rally for Biodiversity at Premier Eby's Office in Vancouver, Dec 17, 2022

By Alison Bodine

In 2022, the human cost of a rapidly warming planet and the climate chaos imposed on people worldwide was immense. Just 10 devastating events caused USD 168.1 billion in losses, according to a report from the relief and development agency Christian Aid - Hurricane Ian (the U.S., Cuba), extreme drought in Europe, floods in China, drought in China, floods in Australia, floods in Pakistan, Storm "Eunice" (northern and central Europe), drought in Brazil, Hurricane Fiona (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Canada), and floods in South Africa. The loss of life, mental and physical sickness and injury, unemployment, and complete disruption of the lives of poor, working and oppressed people around the world brought on by these disastrous events and more is not calculated, but it is undoubtedly even more devastating.

Meanwhile, governments of the world's richest capitalist countries, the world's biggest polluters, continued to facilitate and subsidize business-as-usual climate destruction. This was blatantly evident in the COP27 Climate Change and COP15 Biodiversity United Nations international conferences.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP27 took place November 6-18 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. However, COP27 concluded with no concrete actions from the world's worst polluters to combat climate change or provide "loss and damage" funding to developing countries to combat the climate crisis and mitigate the devastating impacts that are already a reality. Instead, there are more empty promises. As with the previous 26 UN climate

conferences, none of the agreements made during COP27 are binding, and there are no consequences if countries and governments do not fulfil their promises or meet their targets.

This includes the government of Canada, which once again attempted to portray itself as a world leader in climate action at COP27. However, this couldn't be farther from the truth. If the fact that the government of Canada owns the climate-destroying Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) project wasn't enough to expose their hypocrisy already, the Canada exhibition at COP27 quickly became infamous for giving a platform to climate criminals including tar-sands oil and gas executives and big bankers.

The COP15 United Nations biodiversity conference took place in Montreal from December 7 - 19. Although this meeting ended with a deal to protect 30% of all land and water on Earth by 2030, it is plagued by the same contradictions as COP27, including that the agreements made are not binding. There are



Community Potluck and Banner Painting - Dec 7th, 2022

also concerns from many Indigenous peoples around the world that the protection of land and water will come in the form of a land grab against their traditional territories as governments find ways to meet the agreement without impacting lands and waters being exploited by the world's richest resource extraction, manufacturing, and agricultural corporations.



Decolonial Solidarity United Action in Vancouver - November 5th, 2023.

From oil, gas, and mining executives to representatives from Microsoft and Amazon, some of the world's most prominent climate criminals were also at COP15 to be sure to impose their will on the conference outcome. This included representatives from the Canadian Bankers Association, representing the biggest five banks in Canada: RBC, TD, Scotiabank, CIBC and BMO. Since the Paris climate agreement in 2015, these banks have invested more than \$900 billion into fossil fuels (National Observer).

Yes, 2022 was a challenging year for Mother Earth and humanity, but it was also an important year of successful united organizing in defense of people and the planet.

### Climate Convergence Continues Organizing for Climate Justice

In Vancouver and the Lower Mainland, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, a grassroots climate justice coalition, organized 15 public actions in 2022, including 5 international webinars, 4 banner drops, 5 street actions, and 2 get-togethers for painting banners. Climate Convergence also collaborated on 7 united actions for climate justice, working with organizations such as the Mountain Protectors, Protect the Planet, SFU-350, 350Vancouver, BROKE, and Old-growth Vancity.



Many of these successful actions were organized in November and December 2022, as organizing against the Coastal GasLink (CGL) fracked gas pipeline and Trans Mountain expansion (TMX) dirty tar-sands oil pipeline increased in the face of escalating construction costs (and costs to taxpayers in Canada) and the continued violation of Indigenous rights.

This began with a united action on **November 5** to demand an end to the drilling under the Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) on Wet'suwet'en territory in Northern B.C. TC Energy, the company building the pipeline, began drilling in November despite the opposition of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs and community members whose unceded land it crosses.

Decolonial Solidarity, which has formed to campaign against RBC bank's investment in the CGL pipeline, called on grassroots organizations, including Climate Convergence, to come together for a rally at Connaught Park in Vancouver, followed by a march to the RBC bank branch at Broadway and McDonald. Over 200 people joined the action, singing and chanting together to denounce the environmental destruction of the CGL pipeline and the ongoing harassment and brutality of Wet'suwet'en people and land defenders by RCMP and other police and security forces.

The struggle against the CGL pipeline and the TMX pipeline are closely related, and it is important that organizing in the Lower Mainland continues to tie these struggles together – and expose that both the federal Liberal government and B.C. NDP government continue to give lip service to environmental concerns and Indigenous rights — while

the climate crisis.

Then on **December 7**, Climate Convergence held our first in-person gathering and banner painting of the season. Organizers came together to share refreshments, discuss our future work, and create new bold and impactful banners to use at future events and actions – including the successful **December 11** Festive Hug at Burnaby Mountain.

The Festive Hug – a continuation of the “Hug Burnaby Mountain” event against the TMX pipeline in April 2022, was a great success. Climate Convergence co-sponsored the action alongside the main event organizers, Protect the Planet, Mountain Protectors, and 17 other organizations. There was a dynamic stage program, many beautiful crafts to create, and a great atmosphere of building for united work to stop the TMX pipeline as over 200 people gathered on Burnaby Mountain.

In addition to ongoing work against the CGL and TMX pipelines, Climate Convergence also continued to organize events and actions around other issues vital to the local and international struggle for climate justice.

On **November 8**, Climate Convergence organized a webinar, “Puerto Rico: Climate Catastrophe, Colonization and the Struggle for Independence.” This webinar featured special guest Monisha Rios, the founding director of Centro Solidario de Puerto Rico and current president of SOLI Puerto Rico, a network of Puerto Ricans in the struggle for peace and international solidarity. Monisha spoke passionately about Puerto Rico and her experiences in the climate and social justice

struggle for climate justice.

Then on **December 17**, Old-growth Vancity and Climate Convergence joined together for a rally for biodiversity coinciding with the United Nations COP15 biodiversity conference that was taking place in Montreal. The dynamic action was held in front of the constituent office of British Columbia NDP Premier David Eby in Vancouver. It called attention to the fact that while B.C. has the most biodiversity, meaning the highest variety of plants, animals and fungi, in all of Canada, the laws to protect it are practically toothless, and projects like the Coastal GasLink (CGL) and Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) are destroying vital ecosystems daily. Activists demanded that Premier David Eby: Respect Indigenous knowledge and self-determination! Protect BC's Biodiversity! Put People & Planet Before Pipelines! And Save Old-Growth Forests! Local television station CTV also came to cover the action, and an interview with Climate Convergence central organizer Alison Bodine aired on the news that evening.

**As long as we struggle, we know we can win!**

2023 will be an important year in the struggle for climate justice. Locally, across Canada and worldwide, we must work together to build a more united and stronger movement for climate justice. A movement that is capable of ending the status quo climate destruction and reversing its devastating impacts on people, biodiversity, and the environment.

To do this, we must understand that what we need to build a sustainable and just future is not empty promises and completely inadequate



**Festive Hug Event at Burnaby Mountain, Dec 11, 2022 (L to R): Rueben George of Tsleil-Waututh Nation speaking; Climate Convergence table.**

pressing ahead with massive resource extraction projects which entirely disregard both.

On **November 16**, Climate Convergence organized a rush-hour Intersection action at 49th Avenue and Fraser Street in Vancouver, demanding: Stop the TMX & CGL Pipelines! People and Planet Before Pipelines and Profit! Activists joined with Decolonial Solidarity, who had an adopt-a-branch- action at the RBC on the corner earlier in the day, for a lively united protest of singing and chanting, and lots of support from cars passing by. There was also a light sign display, banners, and a table with information about the dangers of the TMX and CGL pipelines and the need to fight against

movement, as well as about the ties of the government of Canada and Canada-based corporations to the ongoing colonization and destruction of the island's environment.

Following Monisha, the webinar featured live greetings from the Protect the Planet, Stop TMX! Stoney Creek camp against the TMX pipeline from the land defender and water protector, Khursten. Then Alison Bodine, the host of the webinar and Climate Convergence central organizer, gave updates about the current struggle against the Coastal GasLink (CGL) pipeline, emphasizing the importance of building a local movement connect to, and standing in solidarity with, the international

commitments like those at COP27 and COP15, but a fundamental change in the relationship between humanity and Mother Earth. The planet can no longer sustain the capitalist system's constant need for more resources and expanding markets. For this reason, we demand System Change, Not Climate Change! And we invite you to join us in this struggle!

Climate Convergence meetings are held twice a month on Wednesday evenings, and everyone interested in joining the struggle for climate justice is encouraged to attend these meetings and other actions. Visit [www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca) for more information.

*Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette*

# SUPPORT THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE!

## HOLD ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RIOT IN BRAZIL ACCOUNTABLE!



The Ottawa Chapter of ALBA firmly stands with the Brazilian people in condemning the January 8 attack on Brazilian democratic institutions. We firmly support the Lula government in the measures it is taking to hold high-ranking officials accountable for the coup attempt in which calls were given for a military take-over. In the wake of these events, Brazilians massively took to the streets, demanding accountability at all levels and calling for “No amnesty!”. Following the 1964-85 dictatorship, governments at the time opted not to punish members of the military who had participated in murder and torture, and this has been a bitter experience for the Brazilian people who want to end all conciliation with open abuses of human rights. All political ties and financial support – both internal and external – for the attempted coup must be brought to light.

U.S. president Biden’s statement within the framework of the Mexico-U.S.-Canada Summit in defense of Brazil’s democratic institutions and “the will of the Brazilian people” can only be taken with a grain of salt. His own administration’s support for Bolsonaro – who is presently in Florida and denies all involvement in the coup attempt – is well known. At the 9th Summit of the Americas, the Biden administration did not invite Cuba, Nicaragua or Venezuela, supposedly because they are ruled by undemocratic regimes. Yet, they invited Bolsonaro, a former military officer and firm supporter of the military dictatorship in Brazil as well as that of Pinochet in Chile, the same Bolsonaro who, in 1999, publicly declared: “Elections won’t change anything in this country. It will only change on the day we break out in civil war here and do the job that the military regime didn’t do, killing 30,000

people. If we kill some innocent people, that’s fine, because in every war innocent people die.”

Over the years, Bolsonaro has played a key role in organizing and inciting violence and hatred for Brazil’s democratic institutions. Before the 2022 October elections won by Lula, Bolsonaro asked his supporters to buy arms so as to “be prepared” in case of a defeat. During his term in office, he included several thousand military officers at various levels of civil government. His Minister of Defense at the time openly challenged and attacked the authority of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. American intelligence and spy agencies worked with Brazilian judge Sergio Moro in the Lava Jato corruption scandal in order to put Lula in jail and prevent him from running in the 2018 election, charges which were eventually proven fraudulent. For his reward, Moro was named Justice Minister. On his trip to the U.S. in 2019, Bolsonaro visited CIA headquarters, followed in July 2021 by a visit to Brazil by the head of the CIA who held talks with Bolsonaro. The latter has always considered himself a staunch defender of U.S. interests in Brazil, in Latin America and within the international community.

Though it is positive that Canada and the U.S. have seen fit to express an interest in working with President Lula, we must remain vigilant and step up our opposition to all meddling in Latin-American and Caribbean affairs in all its forms, including financing and inciting criminal dissension as well as covert and open coup d’états.

-Fully support the Brazilian people’s struggle for democratic rights!

-Stop all foreign interference in Brazil and in

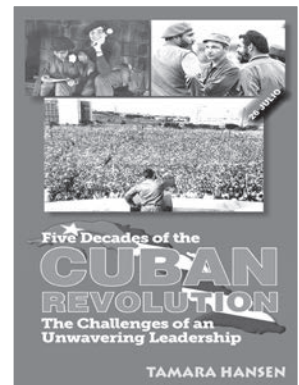
Latin America and the Caribbean!

-No amnesty for enemies of the people and human rights abusers!

*Statement by the Ottawa Chapter of ALBA, Canada  
albasocialmovementsottawa@gmail.com*

### Battle of Ideas Press

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



By Tamara Hansen

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

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# U.S. LAWYERS ASK BIDEN TO REMOVE CUBA FROM THE STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM LIST

January 19, 2023

Dear President Biden,

The undersigned are lawyers who write collectively with concern at the continued placement of Cuba on the list of State Sponsors of Terror ("SSOT"), a designation that was made by the State Department during the last week of the Trump administration. Recently, a letter was sent to you by 18 former heads of state asking that the United States lift its embargo and that Cuba be removed from the SSOT list. In addition, petitions signed by hundreds of civil society organizations and thousands of citizens have requested the same. Nearly half-way into your presidency and there has been no outward gesture or recognition that Cuba's placement on this list was ever merited, especially considering that it had been removed just a few years prior by the Obama-Biden administration. There is no legal or moral justification for Cuba to remain on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

The State Department has said that they are undertaking a review of the criteria used by the former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, which justified Cuba's placement by noting that Cuba refused to extradite members of the Ejército de Liberación Nacional ("ELN") who had traveled to Cuba to participate in a formal peace dialogue with the Colombian government. Cuba cited its clear obligation as a guarantor country

for peace negotiations that they had an obligation to guarantee the well-being and safety of those who participated in the negotiations, and extradition both violated that obligation and also compromised the possibility of future peace talks. In addition, the Colombian constitution prohibits extradition for political crimes, which was reflected in the extradition treaty between Colombia and Cuba. Colombian President Gustavo Petro has specifically requested that the United States remove Cuba from the SSOT list and has asked Cuba to resume its role as a guarantor country for peace dialogue yet again with the ELN. While the undersigned dispute the original rationale given for justifying Cuba's addition to the SSOT list, even if it had, it clearly no longer does.



In addition, Secretary of State Pompeo's formal statement said that Cuba harbors U.S. fugitives who are wanted for political violence for acts committed nearly

50 years ago. In order to meet the statutory definition laid out by the three federal statutes that establish a country's designation as a state sponsor of terror, an act must both meet the definition

of "terrorism" and be international in character. Cuba meets neither of these.

Undoubtedly, this point of concern was raised and resolved by the Obama administration when Cuba was removed from the SSOT list. Even in the absence of that possibility, international law clearly prohibits extradition for acts of political violence. To the extent that the 1904 extradition treaty between Cuba and the United States remains in effect and continues to be honored by both parties, it contains a standard political offense exception. This exception is premised upon a concept familiar to the United States, which is that individuals have a "right to resort to political activism to foster political change." Indeed, this is precisely the type of "activism" that the United States designates millions of dollars to each year for regime change in Cuba. Chris Dodd, the new Special Presidential Advisor for Latin America that you just appointed, has stated that it is a false premise to equate political violence with terrorism. In addition, Cuba's penal code prohibits extradition for crimes of a political nature.

A review of policy practice by the United States also reveals that failure to extradite a U.S. citizen wanted to face criminal charges has not been used as justification for placing a country on the SSOT list, aside from Cuba. Policy - and electoral - concerns are what appear to have always kept Cuba on the SSOT list, rather than actually meeting the legal requirements to be on there. As former Special Advisor on Cuba affairs to President Clinton, Richard Nuccio, noted, "Frankly, I don't know anyone in or outside of government who believes in private that Cuba belongs on the terrorist list. People who defend it know it is a political calculation. It keeps a certain part of the voting public in Florida happy, and it doesn't cost anything." Given the tremendous economic, social, humanitarian and commercial effect placement on the SSOT list has had for the Cuban people, maintaining it for such pretextual reasons continues to be a stain on U.S. foreign policy.

We respectfully urge the administration to immediately initiate a review and notification process to remove Cuba from the SSOT list.

View list of signatories, including 160 lawyers, at <https://acere.org/lawyers-ask-biden-to-remove-cuba-from-the-state-sponsors-of-terrorism-list/>

Hey President Biden,  
**CUBA IS NOT A 'SPONSOR OF TERRORISM'!**  
**REMOVE CUBA FROM YOUR LIST!**



[www.vancouverblockade.org](https://www.vancouverblockade.org)

## POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

### Cuba is Not a Sponsor of Terrorism!

New postcard campaign by Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver calling for Cuba to be removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List.

For more details & to join the campaign email [NoBloqueoVancouver@gmail.com](mailto:NoBloqueoVancouver@gmail.com)

# Olaf Scholz, Hands Off Antiwar Activists

## German Government suppresses democratic rights

By Phil Wilayto

June 22, 2022, was the 81st anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, and a prominent German antiwar activist took the occasion to publicly question why the German government is now supporting neo-Nazi organizations in Ukraine.

As a result, that activist is now facing the possibility of up to three years in prison.

Heinrich Bucker runs Berlin's popular Coop Antiwar Cafe, which since 2005 has been a gathering space for activists working on a wide range of issues. Since 2019 the cafe has co-organized the weekly event "Frente Unido América Latina" in front of the U.S. Embassy. He's a member of the "Kommunistische Plattform" in the party DIE LINKE; a member of the League of Anti-Fascists; and represents the U.S.-based World Beyond War in Berlin. The cafe also represents the "Aufstehen" Initiative in Berlin Mitte, backing the left politician Sahra Wagenknecht and organizing left events against sanctions and for peace.

On June 22, Bucker gave a speech at an event hosted by Berlin's Friedenskoordination (Peace Coordination) at the Soviet War Memorial in Berlin's Treptower Park, in which, according to a statement on the antiwar cafe's website, he said that "... it seems incomprehensible to me that German politics should again support the same chauvinistic and especially Russophobic ideologies on the basis of which the German Reich found willing helpers in 1941. The SS and Wehrmacht used Ukrainian national-fascist organizations as repressive and murderous squads against their own countrymen, including millions of Jewish men, women and children."

The collaboration of ultra-nationalist Ukrainian organizations with the Nazi occupation is a matter of historical record. And, before the present war, Western mainstream media would routinely report on the existence of present-day fascist organizations in Ukraine, such as the Azov Battalion, Right Sector, National Militia, C-14 and many others. (<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cohen-ukraine-commentary/commentary-ukraines-neo-nazi-problem-idUSKBN1GV2TY>)

But that coverage has now ended.

On Oct. 19, Bucker received a letter from the Berlin State Criminal Police Office notifying him that he was under investigation for possible violation of Paragraph 140 of the German Criminal Code, which has to do with disturbing the public peace. A violation of the statute can be punished by a fine or a prison sentence of up to three years. The investigation was apparently prompted by a complaint by a Berlin attorney upset about Bucker's speech.

"In Germany, we are currently experiencing a narrowing of the space for debate and massive restrictions on freedom of expression, caused by one-sided reporting in the mainstream-media," Bucker writes. "There are now a number of individuals who are in the focus of the German criminal investigation authorities. Similar tendencies are also reported from other EU [European Union] countries."

The Coop Antiwar Cafe itself also has come under attack. In addition to threatening emails, the cafe's front windows were recently smashed.

Along with his June 22 speech, Bucker also initiated a statement on the war in Ukraine that questioned the official line that it's simply an act of unprovoked Russian aggression. Instead, the statement, posted on the cafe's website, points to the steady eastward expansion of NATO up to the very borders of Russia, and U.S. and European support for the 2014 coup that drove out the elected president of Ukraine and brought in a right-wing government anxious to join NATO and hostile to both Russia and the country's ethnic Russian minority.

Another reason for the police interest in Bucker could be the prominent role he has played in promoting an anti-imperialist statement on the war in Ukraine initiated by the U.S.-based Odessa Solidarity Campaign, a project of the Virginia Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality. That statement, similar to the one initiated by the Coop Antiwar Cafe, has been endorsed by more than 230 organizations and individuals in 22 countries, with nearly two-thirds of the endorsers from Germany.

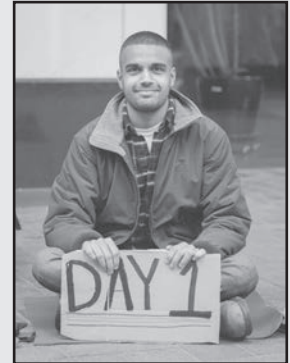
Meanwhile, in the United States, the African People's Socialist Party is calling for support in the face of expected indictments of four of its leaders and prominent supporters who have been actively speaking out against U.S. support for Ukraine. The APSP is a Pan-African organization that for the past 50 years has been opposing U.S. wars at home and abroad.

In response to the police pressure, Bucker's allies and supporters in Germany have been preparing a united defense effort. Stay tuned for new developments and calls for solidarity.

For more information on repression directed against antiwar activists and efforts to support them, see: Coop Antiwar Cafe: <http://coopcafeberlin.de> African People's Socialist Party: <https://apspuhuru.org> Odessa Solidarity Campaign: <https://odessasolidaritycampaign.org>

*Phil Wilayto is editor of The Virginia Defender newspaper and coordinator of the Odessa Solidarity Campaign. He can be reached at: [DefendersFJE@hotmail.com](mailto:DefendersFJE@hotmail.com)*

## Defend Democratic Rights of Activists! Stop the Deportation of Climate Justice Activist Zain Haq from Canada!



Zain Haq is a 21-year-old Vancouver-based activist who is facing deportation from Canada for his climate justice work.

It is important that all peace-loving people take a stand in defense of the democratic rights of activists to peaceful protest and against deportations and attacks from CBSA. Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice encourages you to take action in defense of Zain Haq.

An online letter campaign has been launched to urge Canada's Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Refugees, Sean Fraser, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, to immediately suspend and revoke deportation proceedings against Zain Haq.

As the online support letter reads: "*Haq is a nonviolent climate activist who has been advocating for the protection of old-growth forests in British Columbia, and led a successful fossil fuel divestment campaign at his university.*"

*Zain is, and has long been, publicly and actively committed to the principles of nonviolence. Zain grew up in Pakistan, a country where millions of people have recently been displaced by floods because of glacial melting, and are facing ongoing crises of hunger, health care, and housing.*"

Read and sign the online letter here: <https://openletter.earth/stop-deportation-of-student-activist-zain-haq-03aac2f1>





# De-escalate and Repatriate:

## Statement regarding the death of Canadian mercenary Joseph Hildebrand in Ukraine

Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network  
November 20, 2022

The recent death of a Canadian mercenary in Ukraine has prompted national news coverage and a defiant statement of condolences from Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe.

Joseph Hildebrand, who was killed near Bakhmut, Ukraine, was a farmer and a Canadian soldier who served two tours of duty during Canada's thirteen-year role in the illegal US-led war and occupation of Afghanistan, which cost Canadian taxpayers at least \$18 billion and resulted in 153 soldiers and Canadian officials losing their lives. During this year's Remembrance Day observance in Regina, Premier Scott Moe called Joseph Hildebrand "a true Saskatchewan hero" and expressed condolences to his widow and daughter. (We also express our condolences.) Then, true to the militaristic culture of our times, Moe went on to call for the defeat of the Russian Federation.

The news that Canadians are dying in combat in Ukraine should come as no surprise. Earlier this year, a millionaire entrepreneur named Chris Ecklund in Hamilton, Ontario, created an online recruitment portal to enlist Canadians in the International Legion of Defence of Ukraine. This site apparently enabled close to 500 Canadians to risk their lives in a foreign land, for a foreign government about which they know little. Ecklund has not been prosecuted nor has his site been shut down. In addition, at least two ministers of the Trudeau government have likewise encouraged Canadians to "fight for Ukraine" and the government itself has reportedly dispatched Canadian special forces to fight on the ground.

However, few are speaking to the fact that Joseph Hildebrand and other Canadian "volunteers" are fighting illegally in Ukraine as mercenary combatants. Canada's Foreign Enlistment Act makes it illegal for anyone to try to recruit Canadians to fight in foreign wars. The "volunteers" are also in violation of United Nations' convention

#44/34 banning the use of mercenaries. These Canadians run the risk of being arrested and charged by the Russian authorities under the UN convention. The punishment in Russia for such behaviour includes the death penalty.

There is an extensive history of post-cold war conflict in Ukraine, and of Canada's involvement in it. The Canadian government spent one billion dollars from 1991 to 2014 to help the U.S. orchestrate both the Orange Revolution of 2004 and the Maidan Coup of 2014, which overthrew the democratically-elected government of President Yanukovich and replaced it with a Nazi-riddled junta that precipitated a war with the mainly Russian-speaking population of the Donbas. From 2014 to 2022, successive Canadian federal governments supported the coup government with hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, sent it stockpiles of weapons, and trained some 33,000 Ukrainian soldiers under Operation Unifier, with full knowledge that some were members of Ukraine's neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, and recognizing that the Ukrainian government deliberately undermined the Minsk Agreements which were negotiated to end the conflict. The Harper and Trudeau governments sought to turn Ukraine into a de facto NATO state with a de facto NATO army, as part of NATO's expansion towards the frontiers of Russia, despite post-cold war pledges to then-Soviet President Gorbachev that NATO wouldn't expand "one inch eastward" of a reunited Germany. About 14,000 people were killed in the conflict in the Donbas prior to Feb 24, 2022, and over one million were forced to

flee to Russia as refugees.

The Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network is aghast that our government, as a NATO member, orchestrated the conditions that led to the current war in Ukraine and the death of Joseph Hildebrand, and that incited about 500 Canadian mercenaries to travel to fight there illegally. One purpose in issuing the statement, then, is to avoid any further Canadian casualties.

### Stop digging!

We demand that the Trudeau government cease and desist from fueling this war with more arms, huge cash infusions (including \$500 million announced on Nov. 14th), and mercenaries. The Canadian government has diplomats that should serve as more than extras for cocktail parties—please get them to bring the warring parties to the table to negotiate a solution.

The war in Ukraine could easily expand overnight into a wider European war and even into a global nuclear confrontation: Witness the war fever created over a single missile that landed in Poland, causing two casualties, on November 15th—in what turned out to be a "friendly fire" incident.

It's urgent that Canada step up, seek to de-escalate the current conflict and repatriate all the Canadian troops and mercenaries currently in Ukraine. Instead of fighting battles for the U.S. empire, Canada should be fighting the battles that really matter, the ones that save human lives rather than extinguishing them. We ask Justin Trudeau and all our MPs to get to work fighting climate change, the pandemic, species extinctions, pollution, homelessness, and poverty here in Canada. The death of Joseph Hildebrand is one more reason for Canada to develop an independent foreign policy and withdraw from NATO, the military alliance that drew Canada into the conflict in Ukraine.



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

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



# FREE ALEX SAAB! US/CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

*Over radio waves and online,  
Venezuela solidarity activists demand Free Alex Saab!*

*By Janine Solanki*

Venezuela has been in the crosshairs of the United States government for over 24 years, ever since Venezuela established their sovereignty and independence through the process of the Bolivarian Revolution. Venezuela has since been subject to crippling U.S. sanctions, US-backed coup attempts, foreign meddling and interference and even the unlawful arrest of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab.

At the end of November 2022, talks between the democratically elected government of Venezuela and the US-backed Venezuelan opposition concluded in Mexico with a partial agreement. However, the U.S. blockade and sanctions against Venezuela remain in full force. The Biden Administration has not provided any relief to the suffering imposed on the people of Venezuela. The people of Venezuela continue to face daily hardships and lack of access to food, medicines, and everyday goods because the U.S. government is attempting to strangle the economy of

Venezuela.

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

## Hands Off Venezuela!

On **November 22, 2022**, the 21st consecutive virtual picket action was held, with supporters joining in from the US, Canada, Venezuela, Belgium, the UK, Senegal and Poland! The action had a panel of speakers including Dr. Maria Páez Victor, Venezuelan-born sociologist and author, founder of the Louis Riel Bolivarian Circle in Toronto, Canada and producer of the radio program Venezuela Viva; Roigar Lopez Rivas from the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela; Michelle Munjanattu, a NYC-based union activist; and moderation by Alison Bodine, coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign. At each of these actions, groups and individuals from Canada and Quebec spoke to share their solidarity with Venezuela before participants turned on their video for a group photo holding picket signs, Venezuelan flags and fists of solidarity.

The following month's action on **December 20, 2022**, included special guest Carlos Ron, the Vice-Minister for North America at the Venezuelan Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Other speakers who joined the event were: Indhriana Parada from the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela, who recently released a book about Alex Saab; Michelle Ellner, CODEPINK Women for Peace, Latin America Campaign Coordinator; and Professor Luis Acuña, charge d'affaires of the Venezuela Embassy in Canada speaking from Venezuela.

## Free Alex Saab!

The main focus of each action is on the campaign to free Alex Saab. On June 12, 2020, Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab was en route to Iran to negotiate

a deal to alleviate the effects of U.S. sanctions, enabling Venezuela to receive more fuel, food and medical supplies. During a refuelling stop in Cape Verde, Alex Saab was abducted and arbitrarily imprisoned at the command of the U.S. government. On October 16th, 2021, Alex Saab was illegally extracted by the U.S. from Cape Verde, bypassing his diplomatic immunity, and is currently being unjustly held in a Miami jail. On December 23, 2022, U.S. Federal District Court Judge Robert Scola released his decision not to recognize the diplomatic status of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab. This decision, and Alex Saab's continued detention in a Miami jail, is a further violation of international law and a continued injustice against Alex Saab and the people of Venezuela.

Following the December 23 decision, the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign launched a postcard campaign directed at U.S. President Joe Biden. The postcard is calling for the immediate release of Alex Saab and to return him to his wife, children and loved ones in Venezuela.

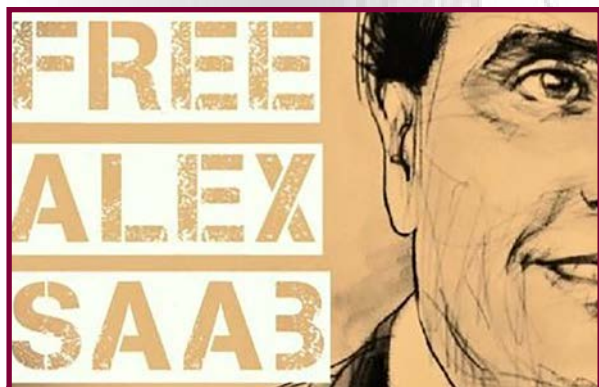
## The Radio Frequencies of Venezuela Solidarity

While the U.S. mainstream media campaign either ignores Venezuela or spreads misinformation and lies, grassroots and progressive news sources speak up, to tell the truth about Venezuela, the Bolivarian Revolution and the injustices the U.S. government is committing against Venezuela. The radio program Venezuela Viva broadcasts weekly on CHHA at 1600am, over Toronto's Latin American radio station. The program is produced by Dr. Maria Páez Victor and Nino Pagliccia, Venezuelan Canadian activist and political writer based in Vancouver. On **November 17**, Nino interviewed Alison Bodine, coordinator of the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, who spoke about the necessity of activists to unite in Canada, the U.S. and worldwide in defense of Venezuela and for the freedom of Alex Saab. To listen to Venezuela Viva live, tune in on Thursdays at 11 am P.T. / 2 pm E.T. on 1600am or <https://streema.com/radios/CHHA>

Alison Bodine was also interviewed on the radio and Facebook live program Proletarian Internationalism by the Frente Intercontinental of the FMLN in El Salvador. During this interview on **November 30, 2022**, Alison spoke about the work of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign and the importance of joining together with Venezuela solidarity activists worldwide. The recording of this interview is online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6njfj9ZgdWM>

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

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*



Name:  
City, Province/State:  
Postal/Zip Code, Country:  
**To: U.S. President Joe Biden,**

→ Venezuela has been facing brutal sanctions imposed by the United States. These sanctions are responsible for at least 40,000 deaths from 2017 to 2018 (Center for Economic and Policy Research). During the pandemic, sanctions have made shortages of medical supplies and other necessities even more critical.

→ On June 12, 2020, Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab was en route to Iran to negotiate a deal to alleviate the effects of U.S. sanctions, enabling Venezuela to receive more fuel, food and medical supplies. During a refuelling stop in Cape Verde, Alex Saab was abducted and arbitrarily imprisoned at the command of the U.S. government.

→ On October 16th, 2021, Alex Saab was illegally extracted by the U.S. from Cape Verde, bypassing his diplomatic immunity, and is currently being unjustly held in a Miami jail.

→ On December 23, 2022, U.S. federal District Court Judge Robert Scola released his decision not to recognize the diplomatic status of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab. This decision, and Alex Saab's continued detention in a Miami jail, is a further violation of international law, and a continued injustice against Alex Saab and the people of Venezuela.

In signing this postcard, we call on you to free Alex Saab immediately and return him to his wife, children and loved ones in Venezuela.

Signed,

Add  
correct  
postage  
here

**President Joe Biden  
The White House,  
1600 Pennsylvania  
Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC  
20500**

Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign has launched a new postcard campaign for Alex Saab. Email [fttvenezuela@gmail.com](mailto:fttvenezuela@gmail.com) for info on how you can order postcards and join in the campaign for freedom for Alex Saab!



# Online and on the streets, activists demand Lift the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!

*By Janine Solanki*

For over 60 years, the U.S. government has imposed a complete economic blockade on Cuba in an attempt to overthrow Cuba's independent and sovereign government. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the U.S. blockade became especially cruel – the Trump administration added 243 additional measures to tighten the blockade and added Cuba to the U.S. State Department's "state sponsors of terrorism" list, making it even more difficult for Cuba to trade on the world market. Despite promises, the Biden administration hasn't eased the blockade or lifted any measures.

Despite decades of U.S. slander campaigns and lies against Cuba on the world stage, the U.S. government has never been



more isolated regarding its blockade policy against Cuba, and increasingly heads of state are speaking up against the U.S. blockade. On November 3, 2022, at the United Nations General Assembly, the world voted 185-2 in a motion condemning the U.S. blockade on the people of Cuba. The U.S. and Israel were the only two votes supporting the blockade.

From the world stage to the streets, grassroots solidarity is vital to push for an end to the U.S. blockade on Cuba. In the last few years, to overcome limitations on gatherings due to the pandemic, car caravans were created to ensure protests against the U.S. blockade on Cuba could continue with social distancing. Cuban-American Carlos Lazo pioneered this idea and headed the Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) which first began caravans in Miami, Florida. The Car Caravan has since spread to several cities across the US, Canada, Cuba, and throughout the world.

Each month, Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB-Van) joins with other groups and Cuba solidarity activists to hold a Car Caravan against the U.S. blockade in coordination with other such actions worldwide. On **Sunday, November 27, 2022**, Cuba supporters joined for the last car caravan of the year, decorating cars with Cuban flags and signs demanding "Lift the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!"

For the last action of the year, on **December 16, 2022**, the Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade-Vancouver held a candlelight

vigil to end the U.S. blockade in downtown Vancouver instead of a car caravan. Vancouver Cuba solidarity activists welcomed Carlos Lazo of Puentes de Amor, who travelled to Vancouver to join the action. Cuban flags and picket signs attracted many passers-by in the busy downtown core, who stopped to listen to speakers, including Carlos Lazo, and to pick up literature at the information table.



**Vancouver Vigil to end the U.S. blockade on Cuba with Carlos Lazos, December 16, 2022.**

Vancouver Cuba solidarity activists with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade-Vancouver have also joined to support actions and webinars hosted by organizations worldwide. On **November 25, 2022**, a webinar titled "Continuing the Fight for Socialism with Fidel! End the Blockade!" was held by the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association. Tamara Hansen, the coordinator of VCSC and author of "5 Decades of the Cuban Revolution: The Challenges of an Unwavering Leadership" from Battle of Ideas Press, joined the webinar as a guest speaker, connecting Vancouver and the Philippines through Cuba! Tamara's talk is published in this issue of Fire This Time on page 2.

Turning to another country, in the summer of 2022, the Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico alerted the Cuba solidarity community worldwide that the U.S. government and FBI had begun a campaign of harassment towards Cuba solidarity activists in Puerto Rico. This harassment campaign is not limited to Puerto Rico. It has also increasingly targeted Cuba solidarity activists in the U.S. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba has joined in supporting Cuba solidarity activists under attack, and on **December 15**, joined with the US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition and Committee in Solidarity with Cuba (CSC) of Puerto Rico to organize the webinar "The FBI Must Stop Harassing & Criminalizing Cuba Solidarity!" This webinar featured speakers from the U.S. and Puerto Rico standing up against FBI

harassment, including Gail Walker, Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization / Pastors for Peace; Milagros Rivera, President of the Committee of Solidarity with Cuba in Puerto Rico and Director of the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade; and Banbose Shango, with All-African People's Revolutionary Party (AAPRP) and a former co-chair National Network on Cuba. Alison Bodine, from Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver and Deborah B. Santana, an organizer with the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico, Brigadista with the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade and retired professor, moderated the webinar. The webinar was a tremendous show of support and defense for Cuba and for activists who support Cuba despite FBI harassment.

Another online event Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade-Vancouver participate in were the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) virtual picket actions against the U.S. blockade of Cuba. This monthly online action brings together CNC member groups across Canada and solidarity activists from Quebec and Cuba supporters worldwide. The **November 17** virtual picket action focused on the recent United Nations General Assembly vote, which overwhelmingly supported Cuba in condemning the U.S. blockade. The December 17 action focused on the Cuban 5 heroes, who had infiltrated anti-Cuban terrorist groups operating in the U.S. to protect Cuba. They were unjustly imprisoned in U.S. jails in 1998 for between 13 and 16 years. The December 17 action marked the anniversary of the freedom of all the Cuban 5 in 2014, and participants heard from featured speaker Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban 5 heroes released on this day.

Whether online or on the streets, Cuba solidarity activists in Vancouver are continuing to defend Cuba and fight for an end to the U.S. blockade. Check out the next event at [www.vancubasolidarity.com](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com) or follow Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba on Facebook @vancubasolidarity and Twitter and Instagram @VanCuba\_VCSC.

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*

**Vancouver Car Caravan against the U.S. blockade on Cuba, November 27, 2022.**



# NO FIGHTER JETS COALITION CALLS ON TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT TO #DROPTHEF35DEAL

While Canadians struggle with rising energy and food costs, extreme weather events, and economic strife this winter, the Trudeau government is trying to push through a \$7 billion deal for 16 F-35 stealth fighter jets with American weapons giant Lockheed Martin. On December 22, Global News and La Presse reported that the Canadian government is planning on signing a contract with Lockheed Martin early in the new year.

According to a leak by federal government officials, the Department of National Defence has received approval to buy the F-35s despite years of widespread opposition from Canadian citizens, celebrities and parliamentarians. The government is advertising the cost as \$7 billion; however, that is only the cost of the initial buy-in for 16 F-35's. Further, while the government is advertising the cost as \$19 billion for the full order of 88 fighter jets, according to the No Fighter Jets campaign 2020 report, From Acquisition to Disposal: Uncovering the true cost of 88 new fighter jets, the lifecycle cost of buying 88 fighter jets is estimated to be at least \$76.8 billion over 30 years.

Experts, including former procurement chief at National Defence Alan Williams, have denounced this procurement, because the total cost of this purchase has not been fully disclosed by the federal government. Williams said: "It is distressing to read information being made public

regarding billion-dollar procurements that is so opaque and piecemeal rather than being transparent and comprehensive... (It) makes it appear the government is hiding the truth from Canadians."

Our report Soaring: The Harms and Risks of Fighter Jets and Why Canada Must Not Buy a New Fleet details the many adverse financial, social and environmental impacts of fighter jets. Excessive operational and maintenance costs, air pollution, extreme noise and damaging air weapons training in and around Indigenous communities are some of the many harms of fighter jets. As the U.S. Government Accountability Office explains, the F-35 continues to be plagued with cost overruns and technical flaws. In its April 2022 study, the GAO found that the F-35 has over 900 open



Photo from the No New Fighter Jets Action in front of NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's Office in Burnaby, Canada as part of Canada-wide Weekend of Action, January 6, 2023.

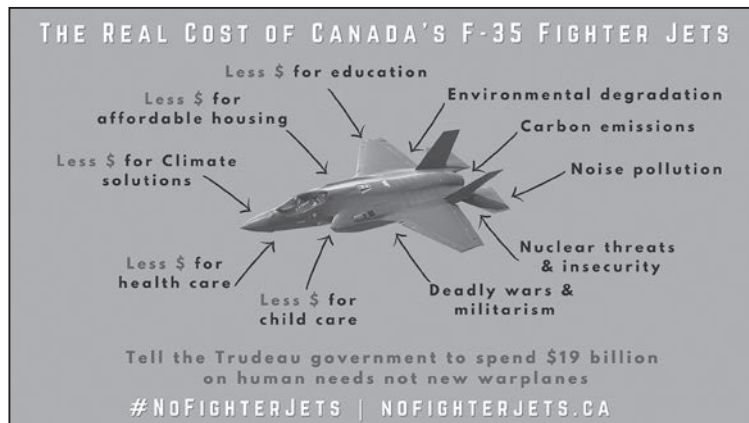
deficiencies.

A new fleet of fossil fuel-powered F-35s will lock Canada into decades of carbon intensive militarism and prevent us from decarbonizing. One F-35 releases more carbon emissions in one long-range flight than a car does in a year. Moreover, the F-35 is a stealth fighter jet designed for first strike attack, meaning it is only effective as an offensive warplane used against other countries. It has also been designed to carry the B61-12 tactical nuclear weapon and will put Canada in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Fighter Jets are weapons of war and exacerbate global warming.

As winter sets in and Canadians struggle to make ends meet, it is irresponsible and unjust for the Trudeau government to spend public money on American warplanes. Instead, the federal government should invest in affordable housing, health care, education, economic assistance, and climate action. Canada's planned F-35 procurement is unacceptable and immoral and must be canceled.

Tell your Member of Parliament to say no to the F-35 deal. Join the No Fighter Jets campaign in an urgent weekend of action from January 6-8, 2023. #NoFighterJets #DropTheF35Deal #NoNewFighterJets Learn more at nofighterjets.ca/ourwork.

*Statement by the No Fighter Jets Coalition.  
December 29, 2022*



**#NoNewFighterJets #DropTheF35Deal  
TAKE ACTION**



**1 Sign the e-petition to the parliament of Canada:**  
<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4217>

SCAN HERE TO SIGN



**2 Sign the online letter to the Trudeau government here:**  
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/canada-drop-the-f-35-fighter-jet-deal>

SCAN HERE TO SIGN





# No to War & Occupation, Yes to Self-Determination! No to New Fighter Jets! No to NATO!



**No New Fighter Jets Action in front of NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh's Office in Burnaby, January 6, 2023.**

*By Janine Solanki*

"War" today has more facets than ever before. War might look how we expect, and as the people of Afghanistan and Iraq know all too well - boots on the ground, night raids and detention centers, fighter jets in the skies, bombs dropped on homes and destroyed cities. In Syria, Libya and Yemen, imperialist governments, including the U.S. and Canada, have conducted war at a relative distance, causing just as much destruction without moving their troops on the ground. The war here has meant US/Canada funding and arming of foreign mercenaries or governments like Saudi Arabia to do their dirty work, or fighter jets and drones taking off from NATO airbases in nearby countries to bomb and obliterate from the skies.

Economic warfare is also being waged around the world, with U.S. sanctions impacting a third of humanity in over 40 countries. On November 11, 2022, a webinar titled "End the Illegal US Sanctions" discussed the impact of sanctions on oppressed nations, organized by ILPS (International League of Peoples' Struggle) Commission 4. Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) supported the event, and one of the speakers was MAWO executive committee member and Fire This Time editorial board member Azza Rojbi. Azza spoke about the US-backed, Canada-armed, Saudi-led war against Yemen, and her talk is printed in this issue of Fire This Time on page 6.

Wars have also been conducted through covert and destabilization operations, which Haiti faced in 2004 when the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted by a US/Canada/France orchestrated coup. In the fall of 2022, protests in Haiti demanded the resignation of the unelected, illegitimate president of Haiti and demanded no foreign intervention. Amid these protests, on October 15, 2022, Canada and the U.S. sent military aircraft to Haiti full of weapons and armoured vehicles. Canada sent another

shipment of armoured vehicles in early 2023 to prop up the current government. Imperialist governments have also been discussing a new foreign occupation force in Haiti. In response, Mobilization Against War & Occupation (MAWO) organized with the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network (CWPJN) for the webinar "Human Rights, Canadian Imperialism and Haiti's Fight for Self-Determination" on December 10, 2022, International Human Rights Day. The webinar featured speakers: Jafrikayiti (Jean Saint-Vil), an author, member of Solidarity Quebec Haiti and co-founder of AKASAN (Ayisyen ki ap soutni Ayisyen nètalkole) and Jaku Konbit; Dimitri Lascaris, a Montréal-based lawyer, human rights activist and former candidate for the leadership of the Green Party of Canada; poetry by Haitian-Quebecois poet and activist Laura Doyle Péan; and moderation by Janine Solanki, a MAWO executive member. The webinar had great attendance, with insightful questions and discussion with the speakers and participants.

While the government of Canada has been shipping weapons abroad to Haiti, fueling the war in Ukraine with military equipment, and dealing arms to the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, Canada is also bolstering its arsenal. Despite years of opposition, in late 2022, reports surfaced that the government of Canada planned to sign a \$7 billion deal for 16 F-35 stealth fighter jets with American weapons giant Lockheed Martin, which was later confirmed on January 9, 2023. In response, the No Fighter Jets Coalition called for a weekend of action across Canada before the official announcement. In Vancouver, Mobilization Against War & Occupation held an action in front of NDP leader and MP Jagmeet Singh's office on January 6. Protesters filled

the sidewalk and demanded that the F-35 deal be scrapped and that Canada not purchase new fighter jets, which will only be used for more brutal wars. The protest called attention to the cost of the planned deal for 88 fighter jets, which will be \$77 billion over the 30-year lifetime of the fighter jets. The money should be spent on much needed funding for healthcare, education, jobs and climate solutions, instead will be spent on degrading the environment and killing innocent people around the world. Protesters delivered a letter to MP Jagmeet Singh's office, asking for the NDP to reverse its current position in support of new fighter jets, and stand against the purchase. The action also received mainstream news coverage by City TV, which aired on the evening news and online. The action encouraged passers-by to sign a parliamentary petition, which can be found online at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4217>

Mobilization Against War & Occupation continues to organize, educate and mobilize against imperialist wars, occupations, sanctions and military actions in the Vancouver area and with groups across Canada and internationally. To find out about upcoming events or activities, visit [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org)

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*

Part of United National Antiwar Coalition's Martin Luther King Jr. Week of Action - January 13 - 22, 2023

**NO TO US/CANADA/NATO WARS, OCCUPATIONS & SANCTIONS!  
NO NEW FIGHTER JETS! DROP THE F-35 Deal!**

**Burnaby Action:**  
Saturday January 21 at 2pm  
Brentwood Skytrain Station  
Willingdon and Lougheed Hwy

Canada Out of NATO!  
Canada Stop Arming Saudi Arabia!  
No New Occupation of Haiti!  
No to War and Occupation,  
Yes to Self-Determination!

Scan QR or visit <https://tinyurl.com/BurnabyAntiwarAction>

Burnaby action organized by: Local members of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network and friends, including Just Peace Committee-BC, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO), Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, World Beyond War - Vancouver, Global Peace Alliance BC, and the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist)

## Canadian Network on Cuba Letter to the Toronto Star: "Talk is Cheap, Jail is Real: Canada's Hollow Rebuke of Cuba's Crackdown"

On the 64th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the Toronto Star elected to publish a deceitful, one-sided article that pushes the United States' imperialist agenda and genocidal policy against the Cuban people. Its authors have recently been engaged in a smear campaign in Canada, by lobbying the government for yet additional sanctions on Cuba, using falsified justifications and a non-existent moral authority.

It is not difficult to discern whose interests are being represented by the authors of such articles. Sarah Teich is a senior fellow of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, a right-wing think-tank with many powerful corporate sponsors, including mining and oil corporations, banks, and the Charles Koch Foundation. Rosa María Payá, who has close ties to Republican Senator Marco Rubio, is the CEO of U.S. NGO Cuba Decide, based out of Miami, which receives funding from the U.S. State Department and were directly involved in the violent riots of July 11, 2021 in Cuba. Michael Lima's Canadian NGO, Democratic Spaces makes spurious, unsubstantiated claims about so-called political prisoners in Cuba and states a goal of bringing democracy to Cuba – Cuba already has democracy.

These contributors cite reports which are all from organizations that are directly influenced by U.S. government policy and known to be comprised of officials who have been in foreign policy roles in the United States. One of the named organizations gets more than 85% of its funding from the U.S. State Department alone.

It's time for the Canadian media to be honest about the fact that the protests in Cuba on July 11th, 2021 were violent riots, and not peaceful. They were responsible for mass destruction of public property destruction, theft of high value goods, assaulting police officers, and attacking a children's ward of a hospital and threatening health care workers. These are crimes in Cuba, and in Canada as well.

Those convicted after the events of July 11th, 2021 are not "political prisoners". They committed crimes which threatened the safety and interests of Cubans, in many cases at the behest of foreign actors and organizations. The Cuban Attorney General has provided updates on those who were charged; a total of 381 persons were sanctioned, mainly for crimes that included sedition, sabotage, robbery with force and violence, assault, contempt, and public disorder. Why do the contributors compare the number of prisoners in Cuba to Venezuela and Nicaragua, and not the United States for example, with the highest incarcerated population in the world, where people are in jail due to socioeconomic factors and racism (as well as political prisoners), some without ever having had a trial? That is a rhetorical question.

Cubans have the right to express themselves, including the right to protest, protected by their Constitution. The majority of



Cubans support their government, as seen by the massive mobilization of counter-protests after July 11th, 2021, drastically outnumbering the violent rioters. There is routinely a significantly higher voter turnout in Cuban elections than there is in Canada as a matter of fact, and Cubans directly participate in policymaking on a regular basis. Cubans already have their own democratic system. Cuba is a sovereign country, and Canada has no right to interfere in its affairs.

The Canadian government should not use sanctions, which always harm regular, working people in the targeted countries, the least of all against Cuba, who is known throughout the world for their international solidarity via their medical brigades providing doctors, providing free university education to students from all over the world, and donating or selling at-cost their highly effective COVID-19 vaccines to countries that otherwise could not afford to procure them, while wealthy countries hoarded and wasted their vaccines.

The only human rights crisis in Cuba is due to the United States' blockade of over 60 years, and Canada should be publicly denouncing it and calling for immediate removal of those sanctions on the Cuban people. Cuba has the right to self-determination, and to diplomatic and trade relations with any country that it wishes, and there is no justification for Canada to be dictating, as the contributors specifically try to suggest, that they cannot trade with countries that the United States does not like.

Canada has no moral authority, nor justification, to sanction Cuba, and should be focused on correcting its own human rights abuses and developing an independent foreign policy based on mutual respect, collaboration, and peace, rather than following along with the U.S. agenda. Canada should not jeopardize our relations with the Cuban people, from whom we have much to learn.

Samantha Hislop  
Julio Fonseca  
Co-Chairs, Canadian Network on Cuba

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We welcome articles, letters, unsolicited submissions, and suggestions. However, we cannot promise publication. Submissions and suggestions can be made by email by contacting infoftt@mail.com or regular mail. Submissions will not be returned.

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

### Donations

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

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

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# The World Stands with Cuba!

International Actions and a Successful 26-hour Online Picket Coincide with Cuba's Tremendous Victory at the United Nations Against the US Blockade!

By *Alison Bodine*

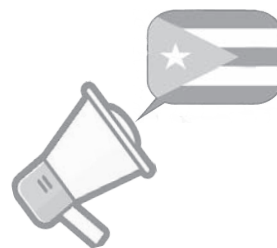
From October 27 – November 3, 2022, Cuba solidarity organizers from across the United States and Canada came together to organize a week of actions against the criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba. Over 60 national and local organizations and prominent individuals endorsed the 'UNVote4Cuba' week of action, which included more than 30 actions spanning from Miami, Florida, to Vancouver, British Columbia. A highlight for this week was on October 29, when over 300 people came together in New York City for a march from Times Square to a rally outside of the United Nations. Larger rallies were also organized in Chicago, Minneapolis and San Francisco, which echoed the 'UNVote4Cuba' demands to End the U.S. Blockade Against Cuba! Take Cuba Off Washington's List of State Sponsors of Terrorism! and End All U.S. Anti-Cuba Economic and Travel Sanctions!

This united week of action coincided with the U.N. General Assembly's annual vote demanding an end to the "the Economic, Commercial and Financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba," – which took place over two days on November 2 and 3, 2022. For the 30th year, this vote resulted in a tremendous victory for Cuba, as 185 countries voted with Cuba, demanding the

U.S. government lift the blockade on Cuba. This means that the mass majority of countries around the world, and therefore a mass majority of the nearly 8 billion people on this planet, stand with Cuba against the cruelty of the U.S. Only the U.S. and Israel voted against it, and Brazil and Ukraine abstained.

For a dynamic and international conclusion to the 'UNVote4Cuba' week of action, the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Committee, a coalition of leading Cuba solidarity organizers in the U.S. and Canada, organized a very successful 26-hour-long online picket action against the U.S. blockade on Cuba on November 2 and 3, 2022. Hundreds of people from 50 countries and nations and every continent added their voices to the picket and demanded the United States end the over 60-year inhuman policy against Cuba.

As the online picket moved across the globe, activists, organizers, intellectuals, and artists joined in expressing their solidarity with Cuba. This included special presentations from the Colombian Movement in Solidarity with Cuba, Europa for Cuba, the Venceremos Brigade, the Saving Lives Campaign, the 1 Cent 4 Cuba Campaign, the Orinoco Tribune, the Hatuey Project, Puentes de Amor and the



Cuban Institute of Friendship with the People's (ICAP) among many others. Speakers throughout the 26 hours included Pedro Pedrosó, Ambassador, Permanent

Representative of Cuba to the United Nations; Héctor Igarza Cabrera, Cuban Ambassador to Canada; Fernando Gonzalez, Cuban 5 Hero and President of ICAP; Yanier Castellanos, Consul General of Cuba in Toronto; Ben Norton, journalist and editor of the independent news outlet Multipolarista; Medea Benjamin from CODEPINK; Quebec-based author Arnold August; Miami Caravan organizer Pete Seidman; prominent Cuba solidarity activists in NYC Ike Nahem and Erin Feeley-Nahem, author Dr. Rosemary Mealy, and Dr. Samira Adrety from IFCO/Pastors for Peace, among many others.

The 26-hour long picket (extended from 24 hours to include the overwhelming amount of solidarity greetings received in support of Cuba!) was broadcast from Vancouver, Canada, with the support of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC), Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver and Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice.

Following the success of the 24-hour online picket action, the united 'UNVote4Cuba' week of action, and Cuba's great victory at the United Nations, it is clear that the world stands with Cuba! Now, as people living in the U.S. and Canada, we must work to extend this victory and defeat the cruel U.S. blockade against Cuba once and for all!

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

## A CALL TO ENDORSE AND PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL US-CUBA NORMALIZATION CONFERENCE NYC MARCH 11-12 2023 - At Fordham University School of Law, NYC

A month ago, the Cuba solidarity movement organized a successful Week of Action against the U.S. blockade of Cuba to coincide with the November 3rd U.N. General Assembly 185-2 vote to condemn the blockade.

Now we, the International US-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition, are issuing this Call for a broad, united, inclusive, and non-sectarian gathering—in person and hybrid with extensive live-streaming—in March 2023.

The International Cuba Conference will take place during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (formerly International Women's Month) — CSW67 — activities. This UN-sponsored annual event will include a delegation of Cuban representatives and leaders, organized by the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC), who will be able to participate in the International Conference.

We call on the broad opposition to the U.S. economic sanctions and political bellicosity against Cuba, deepened under the Trump and Biden Administrations, to endorse this Call in a spirit of unity and struggle around the following demands:

Take Cuba off Washington's List of State Sponsors of Terrorism!  
End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba!  
End All US Anti-Cuba Economic and Travel Sanctions!

We urge your organization to endorse this International Cuba Conference. Moreover, we encourage your organization to participate directly in the weekend gathering as we step up united action against the U.S. anti-Cuba blockade. Please distribute this Call to your members and list serves.

Endorsements should be sent to: [endorse@us-cubanormalizationconference.org](mailto:endorse@us-cubanormalizationconference.org)  
More Info: [www.us-cubanormalizationconference.org](http://www.us-cubanormalizationconference.org)





 Canadian Network on Cuba

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canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/brigade/

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BANNER DROP  
**Wednesday**  
**January 25<sup>2023</sup>**  
**4pm**

near Braid Sky Train Station, New Westminster  
contact for exact location: 604.518.7361 | [climateconvergence604@gmail.com](mailto:climateconvergence604@gmail.com)  
[www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca)


January 31, 2023  
4PM PT/7PM ET

With Special Guest  
CAMILIA SAA3 the wife of Alex Saab, Venezuelan diplomat unjustly held in U.S. Jails

**Letter Writing Night to Alex Saab**  
and Monthly Online Picket Action. A night of reflection, solidarity and updates from the Free Alex Saab Campaign.

[codepink.org/AlexSaab\\_1312023](https://codepink.org/AlexSaab_1312023)

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## Monthly Car Caravan to LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!




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**#UnblockCuba**

**Vancouver, BC, Canada**  
**Sunday January 29**  
**12pm**

For location call 604.780.4029

**Friends of Cuba Against the US Blockade - Vancouver**  
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