

"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



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A special section dedicated to the Free Alex Saab Campaign



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By Rogelio Polanco Fuentes

Speech by Rogelio Polanco Fuentes, Member of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and Head of its Ideological Department, at the inauguration of the 1st International Meeting of Theoretical Publications of Leftist Parties and Movements held in Havana, Cuba in February 2023.

Cro . Roberto Morales Ojeda, member of the Political Bureau and Secretary of Organization of the Communist Party of Cuba;

Abel Prieto Jiménez, president of Casa de las Américas, venue for this event;

Dear delegates to the First International Meeting of Theoretical

Publications of Leftist Parties and Movements;

Leaders of the Party, the Government, Cuban mass and social organizations;

Compañeras y compañeros:

To the political leaders, editors, journalists, and social activists present today in Havana for this First International Meeting of Theoretical Publications of Leftist Parties and Movements, we are summoned by the urgency of the serious circumstances facing humanity.

The presence of a hundred delegates, from 68 publications, and from 36 countries shows the interest aroused by this opportunity to meet and discuss the need to think and act together. Thank you for accepting this call and for your militant solidarity.

The world is experiencing a structural systemic crisis: on economic, energy, food, environmental, social, and civilizational levels. There are no global responses in sight, because capitalism is not capable of nurturing them, but instead it is the cause of their exacerbation, as it only has before it the exacerbation of armed conflicts and the modernization and expansion of its

increasingly lethal arsenals.

The traditional forms of growth of the capitalist system and the rules of bourgeois democracy become inoperative: in order to sustain itself, the system violates them by spreading half-truths and plausible lies, committing fraud, eliminating popular governments in judicial or military coups, and the prosecution of the people's candidates in rigged trials. This era of "post-truth" insists on cynicism.

In turn, the digital division of the world has exponentially accelerated

WE ARE OBLIGED TO FORGE NEW VALUES & HOPES FOR OUR PEOPLES

inequalities. Global algorithmic platforms take with impunity the infinite wealth represented by the enormous accumulation of data. An anthropological change is brewing. The very existence of the human species is more in danger today than ever before.

As a reminder to our consciences, the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, reminds us, **"the battle is of ideas, because we need the truth; imperialism does without it."**

Faced with such colossal challenges, we should not foster theoretical spaces absorbed in bookish knowledge: the left needs revolutionary theory, it needs to understand the world – not to show off its knowledge – but to transform the world. The theoretical publications of the left are instruments for the fight for social justice.

We must study, participate, teach, and learn from others, and above all, communicate. And communicate our ideas well, in an era in which instantaneous, superficial, banal, and intellectual laziness besieges us.

We cultivate convictions, feelings, reason, and faith in victory, because without it, we will not be able to move

mountains. Our scientific truths do not depend on the prestige of the journals that host them: they are validated in the street, in the triumph of social justice.

This meeting should help us to identify our common objective, to share experiences and knowledge, to understand that isolated we will not achieve victory.

On the other hand, if we revolutionaries give up fighting for a different (anti-capitalist) world, and only demand the effective exercise of the "democratic" rules that the system allows, we will



remain trapped in its symbolic networks. If we abandon our symbols, the system will seize them and recycle them back to us empty of content.

We are obliged to forge new values and hope for our peoples, in the face of the right-wing and fascist wave that tries to drag them towards historic selfishness.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic showed that selfishness is an unequivocal symptom of the capitalist system, it also caused a spontaneous outbreak of popular solidarity in almost all countries.

Cuba consciously organized that solidarity: making our institutions work together in order to save lives. The scientific treasure created by the Revolution and by the genius of Fidel, the will of our science and health workers, the resistance of an entire people, and the perseverance of the revolutionary leadership, headed by our President, saved us. The creation of our own vaccines, the design of artificial respirators, and the development of a massive vaccination campaign that included children from the age of 2, made it possible for us to finally defeat the aggressiveness of the virus.

The few resources that the blockade, and the paralysis of the world economy, left our country were used entirely to save lives. Cuba also offered an

unusual example: from the global South, from a blockaded country, our health professionals traveled to the North to offer their solidarity services. Meanwhile, pharmaceutical transnationals profited from their vaccines and medical equipment at the expense of the poorest countries and citizens.

U.S. imperialism took the opportunity to increase the blockade and unilateral coercive measures against rebellious countries, such as Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and other sister nations. Like the knee of the police officer on the neck of that detained Afro-American citizen which caused his death, so Cuba was subjected to suffocation by the United States government in the hardest moments of the pandemic. But they could not and will not kill us. Here we are, firm and rebellious.

Compañeras y compañeros:

The 8th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba established missions of the Cuban revolutionaries as: the economic battle, the fight for peace, unity, and ideological firmness. The new generations that have assumed the leadership of the Revolution together with the historical generation have been forged in the principles that are the foundation of our revolutionary ideology: Martí, Marx, Lenin, and Fidel.

We face an unconventional war that tries to break the human will, fracture national unity, and show Cuba as a "failed state". The United States



Cubans in Havana took to the streets to celebrate International Workers' Day on May 5, 2023.

government continues to allocate millions in financial resources for political subversion and destabilization, all in an attempt to bring about its long-awaited "regime change." But their actions are doomed to fail. As Fidel predicted, Cuba will not be subdued either by force or by seduction.

Friends:

Our Party deeply thanks you for your presence at this meeting, which we hope to convene annually. We are sure that your valuable contributions will make it possible to elaborate, approve, and implement a joint and effective action plan for our anti-hegemonic struggles.

The image chosen as the visual identity of the first edition of this event, which incorporates the "share" icon (very familiar on digital social networks), evokes the emblematic photograph of one of the most relevant photographers of the Revolution, Roberto Salas. The original photo is titled "First day". It was taken on January 4, 1961, in front of the United States Embassy in Havana. The previous day, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower had announced the break of diplomatic relations with Cuba. The armed aggression was brewing.

But, faced with threats, a humble newspaper

vendor displayed the front page of the newspaper *Revolución* with a defiant headline: Long live free Cuba! The face of that Cuban is the symbol of the rebellion and self-assurance with which this people has faced the most complex moments in our history.

This is how those of us present here today face the adversaries of the people - the haters and propagators of lies, those who uncritically assimilate the cultural colonization that the empire imposes on us.

May our critical exercises of theoretical reflection always be accompanied by the transformative practice of daily politics, of popular resistance, of creative imagination, of birthing the new emancipatory horizons of the peoples.

Thank you so much.

From: www.cubadebate.cu

(Translation by Azza Rojbi & Tamara Hansen)

Rogelio Polanco Fuentes is the Head of the Ideological Department in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, member of its Secretariat and deputy to the National Assembly of People's Power. Graduate in International Political Relations, he was Director of the newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*, Ambassador of Cuba in Venezuela and rector of the Higher Institute of International Relations Raúl Roa García.



Rogelio Polanco Fuentes sits with Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel at the First International Meeting of Theoretical Publications of Left Parties and Political Movements, February 11, 2023.

Building A United

Antiwar Movement - across Canada & Worldwide!



Dimitri Lascaris speaks at the Vancouver event organized by MAWO, one of his 14-stop cross-Canada tour "Making Peace With Russia, One Handshake At A Time". June 26, 2023.

By Janine Solanki

US-led imperialist forces have the entire world an airstrike away with 800 foreign US and NATO military bases around the world. For over 20 years, US-led and backed wars, occupations and military interventions have targeted many countries worldwide, including Ukraine, since 2022, with the 2014 U.S. government orchestrated coup. Cuba, Venezuela and Iran face decades of crippling and inhumane sanctions and blockades, an act of economic warfare imposed by the US government on 40 countries worldwide. These are just some of the military and economic destruction done in the name of "building democracy," "global security," and "war on terror," which are smokescreens for securing US imperialist domination. This isn't possible by the US military alone, which is where the division of labour to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members comes in.

NATO, a brutal war machine

On the Twitter account of NATO, they describe themselves as "Working for peace, security & freedom for one billion people." In reality, NATO is a dangerous military alliance that is putting the peace, security and freedom of all 8 billion people on our planet at risk. NATO has a history of military operations that have devastated the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, and Libya. Today NATO is fuelling the war in Ukraine, pumping the country full of deadly weapons, including US-provided cluster munitions, which are banned in 123 countries, and depleted uranium ammo which causes generations of deadly cancers, horrific birth defects and other radiation related illnesses.

Alongside these wars, NATO demands that members increase military spending, taking funds away from important human needs in member countries such

as healthcare, education, housing and jobs. In the past 9 years, Canada's military spending has increased 95% from \$20 billion in 2014 to \$39 billion in 2023. This military spending breeds more wars not only on other nations but on the planet too.

Building antiwar, an anti-

imperialist united front

In Vancouver, for 20 years, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has been organizing antiwar activities on the basis of consistency, coordination and unity. This includes more than 450 antiwar organizing events and actions. MAWO has been a member of the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network (CWPJN) since its formation in 2020, with 45 antiwar, peace, and social justice organizations united across Canada. The network has organized days of actions, webinars and issued statements demanding an end to the war on Yemen and that Canada stop arming Saudi Arabia, calling for Canada out of NATO, and demanding Canada fund peace and not war.

In March 2023, the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network called for days of action to end the war on Yemen from March 25-27, joining peace and antiwar activists protesting worldwide and marking eight years of the brutal Saudi-led, US-backed, Canada-armed war on Yemen. On Saturday, March 25, antiwar activists in Vancouver joined together to demand #CanadaStopArmingSaudi in front of the CBC Vancouver building. The Vancouver action was organized by MAWO and Vancouver Yemeni community members and endorsed by Victoria Peace Coalition, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Iranian Community Against War, ILPS Commission 4, and Global Peace Alliance, BC.

On April 15, Mobilization Against War & Occupation joined with members of



MAWO Participates in Al-Nabka Rally for Palestine in Vancouver, May 14, 2023.

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By Alison Bodine

The scientific consensus is clear about the cause of this rapidly changing climate, – and the solution. – The world needs immediate action from the world's wealthiest countries to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and put an end to the exploitation of Mother Earth. The Trudeau Liberal government is not acting on this critical call. Despite the obvious signs of urgency, the government of Canada has continued business-as-usual policies of climate destruction that put the interests of oil and gas corporations above the urgent needs of poor, working and oppressed people. People in Canada need money for healthcare, education, housing, and social justice, not more oil pipelines, fracked-gas operations, offshore oil drilling and mega-dams that destroy the planet and trample on Indigenous rights. In British Columbia, the BC NDP Government of David Eby has also continued with climate destructive policies, especially in their cutting down of vital old-growth forests and the expansion of the fracked-gas (so-called “natural gas”) industry.

In the face of this destruction and the ongoing repression and brutality against Indigenous land defenders and climate activists, the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX) and the Coastal GasLink pipeline are facing growing

LET'S BUILD A UNITED FRONT FOR SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

opposition. Throughout the spring, Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver continued organizing and mobilizing to build a more united and stronger climate justice movement locally and internationally, with actions such as:

Alison Bodine, who is a central organizer of Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver, a board member of the West Coast Climate Action Network (WE-CAN) and has written extensively on the climate crisis and organizing for climate justice



Decolonial Solidarity Rally in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en land defenders in Vancouver, April 1, 2023.

April 19 – Climate Convergence central organizer Alison Bodine moderated a dynamic and engaging panel discussion following a successful showing of the film “Coextinction” organized by Reel Causes, Protect the Planet Stop TMX, Ecojustice, and Story Money Impact in Vancouver

May 5 – No TMX & CGL Pipelines! RCMP Out Of Wet'suwet'en Land! Intersection protest action at the intersection of Lougheed Highway & Willingdon Avenue in Burnaby

May 7 – May Day FreeSkool. Climate Convergence Workshop “Building the Struggle for Mother Earth with an Anti-Capitalist Perspective” with

Broadway and Commercial Drive in Vancouver

June 18 – Hug Burnaby Mountain! A dynamic afternoon on Burnaby Mountain demonstrating our unity against the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion (TMX). Organized with Protect the Planet Stop TMX, 350 Vancouver, BC Greens, BROKE, Decolonial Solidarity, Doctors for Planetary Health, Force of Nature Alliance, Georgia Straight Alliance, On2Ottawa, Sierra Club, Sue Big Oil, URXR Vancouver.

Ongoing – Climate Convergence also supports the ongoing Decolonial Solidarity “Adopt-a-Branch” actions against the CGL pipeline and in solidarity with Wet'suwet'en land defenders. These actions are held at RBC bank branches across the Lower Mainland. On the first and third Tuesday of each month, there is an action supported by Climate Convergence at the RBC branch at 6th Avenue and 7th Street in New Westminster.

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Panelists Daniel Cheater, Chief Ernest Alfred, Cedar George-Parker, and moderator Alison Bodine take a group photo after the successful screening of CoExtinction in Vancouver, April 19, 2023.



Alex Saab, hostage of the hybrid war against Venezuela



By *Francisco Dominguez*

June 12, 2023 was the third anniversary of the illegal kidnapping and imprisonment by the US of Alex Saab.

Because the brutality and cruelty of the US blockade was wreaking havoc on the economy and millions of the most vulnerable in Venezuela were being deliberately denied their human rights to the most basic necessities of daily life, President Nicolas Maduro tasked Saab with travelling around the world procuring food, medicines and fuel for his country.

Breaking every treaty, protocol, law and norm of international diplomacy, the US plotted to have Saab arrested while in transit to Iran to fulfil his diplomatic mission, by pressing the Cape Verde government to illegally arrest him on June 12 2020.

The plane Saab was travelling on was denied refuelling in Morocco and Senegal thus being forced to land in Cape Verde. In his book, *Never Give An Inch* (2023), Donald Trump's secretary of state Mike Pompeo admits as much: "No other nation has the global reach to interrupt an Iran-Venezuela plot in real time and convince a small island nation to hold a wanted man."

In March 2019, when Venezuela suffered a national blackout caused by a cybernetic

attack on the national grid, Pompeo tweeted: "No food. No medicine. Now, no power. Next, no Maduro."

The arrest of Saab was central to the US attempt to block the supply of food, medicine and fuel to Venezuela right in the middle of the Covid pandemic. The charges against Saab are rooted in the US's regime change policy against the Venezuelan government.

Saab's detention in Cape Verde was carried out without a warrant and with an Interpol red notice received by Cape Verde only after his unlawful arrest.

Additionally, he was appallingly treated as verified personally by the president of the National Human Rights Commission of Cape Verde Zeida Freitas, who observed that Saab had "bruises, cuts on his wrists and ankles, and loss of teeth." Worse still, he was denied access to medical care despite being a cancer survivor.

The Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) declared Saab's detention "arbitrary and unlawful" in March 2021, ordered his immediate release, an end to the extradition process and compensation for damages caused. The UN human rights commission (UNHRC) asked Cape Verde to suspend the extradition of Saab to the US while they looked at his case.

Despite this, and despite the fact there is no

extradition policy between Cape Verde and the US, Saab was extradited to the US.

The extradition was carried out before the October 17 Cape Verde elections, in which presidential candidate Jose Maria Nieves had announced that upon becoming president he would act as ordered by the Ecowas ruling. Nieves won the election with a 51.7 per cent majority, but it was too late for Saab.

Under heavy pressure, Cape Verde ignored Ecowas and the UNHRC, and on October 16 a special US military force extracted Saab to Miami, where Judge Robert Scola charged him with eight counts of conspiracy to launder money, later reduced to one, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

After a three-year investigation, a prosecutor in Geneva found no evidence of money laundering offences against Saab, therefore declaring his innocence. Furthermore, the alleged crime would have been committed outside US territory, over which Washington has no legal jurisdiction. Yet despite utterly failing to produce any evidence whatsoever, the Florida court (read: the US State Department) continues with the cruel farce of keeping Saab in prison.

Femi Falana, one of Saab's lawyers, hit the nail on the head when she declared: "Never before has politically motivated judicial overreach been deployed with such arrogance as in the way the US has treated Alex Saab."

The Saab affair, being a case of brazen lawfare, is significant in that it gravely jeopardises the international order and the viability of diplomacy. No diplomat, no matter the country, is safe.

In a letter to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Saab's wife Camilla Fabri wrote: "The charges against him must be dropped and his diplomatic immunity respected."

The only legal and moral course of action for the US government to take is to immediately and unconditionally release Venezuela's special envoy.

For more information on the campaign to free Alex Saab visit www.mstar.link/Saab

From: www.morningstaronline.co.uk

Francisco Dominguez is the secretary of Venezuela Solidarity Campaign (VSC) UK
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Free Venezuelan Diplomat Alex Saab from U.S. Jails! Fight the Media Blackout!

By Alison Bodine

For over 17 years, Venezuela has faced increasingly harsh sanctions and blockades from the United States. These inhuman and brutal sanctions restrict Venezuela's access to fuel, food, medicine and all kinds of necessities. The U.S. sanctions are responsible for at least 40,000 deaths from 2017 to 2018, reported by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, and many more deaths prior to and after this study.

In efforts to alleviate the effects of U.S. sanctions, the Venezuelan government sent Alex Saab, a Venezuelan diplomat, to Iran to negotiate new trade deals. On June 12, 2020, during a refuelling stop in Cape Verde while en route to Iran, Alex Saab was abducted and arbitrarily imprisoned at the command of the U.S. government. Over a year later, Alex Saab was illegally extracted by the U.S. government from Cape Verde to the U.S., where he continues to be imprisoned, bypassing his diplomatic immunity. On December 23, 2022, U.S. Federal District Court Judge Robert Scola released his decision not to recognize the diplomatic status of Alex Saab. This decision, and Alex Saab's continued detention, is a violation of international law and an injustice against Alex Saab and the people of Venezuela.

On June 14, the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela organized a one-day international conference titled "Lawfare Against Venezuela: Three Years After the Kidnapping of Diplomat Alex Saab" in Caracas, Venezuela. The conference included over 300 Venezuelan government officials, social movement

leaders, and organizers of the Free Alex Saab Movement, including Camilla Saab, the wife of Alex Saab, Yvan Gil, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela and freed Cuban Five political prisoner Rene Gonzalez. Alison Bodine was invited to attend as a speaker on behalf of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice and was one of over 50 international guests in attendance. Alison Bodine gave a rousing speech at the conference, which was also broadcast online and on Venezuelan national television, and which follows below.

Hello everyone, greetings. First, let me say, it is an honour to be here today to mark this

horrible anniversary of three years since the kidnapping and imprisonment of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab. So far this morning, I have been inspired to see and hear from so many people who are committed to this struggle: leaders in Venezuela, his family, and of course, Camilla Saab, his wife.

Media Blackout Against Alex Saab

More than a media disinformation campaign against Alex Saab, the overall character of the Western imperialist mainstream media coverage of the case of Alex Saab is a media blackout and very much the same situation we experienced with the Cuban 5 Heroes in the U.S. prisons for over 15 years.

Searching the website of the CBC - the Canadian Broadcast Corporation, the largest mainstream media in Canada, there are only three articles with mention of Alex Saab. One is from 2017 and is part of the attacks on his work in securing food contracts in Venezuela, and the other two are from after his kidnapping. The National Post, the largest newspaper in Canada, has more articles



A group of international delegates to the "Lawfare Against Venezuela" conference, June 2023.

about Alex Saab on their website, but they are all just reprinted from the Reuters and the Associated Press, short pieces all filed under their section on Crime Stories - which completely purposely ignores that the case of Alex Saab is political, not criminal in nature.

The Necessity for a Dynamic and United Campaign for Freedom for Alex Saab

For people in Canada, and especially in the U.S., our work must be to make Alex Saab and the ongoing lawfare against Venezuela a kitchen-table issue.

What does this mean? This means that we



Alison Bodine, Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign Coordinator speaking at the "Lawfare Against Venezuela" conference, June 2023

must use many different methods to bring Alex Saab, and the injustices that he faces, to poor, working and oppressed people in the U.S., Canada and internationally. This is important because Alex Saab's issue is about Venezuela; it is about the U.S. and Canada political aggression, sanctions, and blockade against the Bolivarian revolution.

In our work, we must appeal to all forms of alternative media to cover Alex Saab and, more generally as well the criminal U.S.-led sanctions and blockade against Venezuela. This means reaching out to community radio shows, alternative newspapers, podcasts, YouTube shows and all other forms of social media and local media.

For example, I am here representing the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, and we publish the Fire This Time newspaper. The case of Alex Saab is featured in every issue. I believe that all other publications that state that they are part of the struggle for a fairer and more just world must also consistently feature the case of Alex Saab. What it means is that progressive, alternative media and the media on the left need to make Alex Saab's freedom one of their main campaigns.

We need this constant coverage of Alex Saab in all alternative media to help us to build a movement in the U.S. and Canada, and Europe and elsewhere for an effective campaign for the freedom of Alex Saab. We fight for justice in the so-called U.S.-justice system, but we do not expect to find justice without a struggle. We will win justice and freedom for Alex Saab by appealing to working people in the U.S., Canada and internationally.

In this manner, a coalition of three organizations in Canada, the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela

Solidarity Campaign, the Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg, and Just Peace Advocates, have been organizing monthly online pickets for U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela and Free Alex Saab! Each month, this brings a platform

for supporters of Alex Saab to raise their voices through Zoom, but also Facebook and YouTube. Recordings of the monthly event are then also future shared on other social media platforms. And here, I want to say thank you to the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela for their continuous support of these actions.

But this work in alternative media and in alternative spaces does not mean we should dismiss or ignore mainstream capitalist media.

mainstream capitalist media is preventing people in the U.S., especially, from ever knowing about the injustices imposed by their government on

Alex Saab and the people of Venezuela. If people are kept in the dark, then they don't even have the opportunity to question the media's narrative or to

think critically about the U.S.'s continuous and gross violations of international law. We must break the media silence on Alex Saab. And then we have to fight to break that "one truth," that singular narrative about Alex Saab in the media. We must intervene in their deception and in their blackout.

We have a member of the Cuban Five Heroes

joining us here today. Seeing Rene Gonzalez here reminds me of the dedicated work of supporters of the Cuban 5 Heroes, who finally achieved the interview on the BBC in 2010, which he gave from within a U.S. prison. It reminds me how more than 15 years, every month, on every occasion we could get, we brought the case of our Cuban

5 Heroes to the public and media. Together with the people of Cuba and around the world, we won; we achieved their freedom!

But before they we released, in 2010, that BBC interview became a tool for people around the world to use to help reach more people about the case of the Cuban 5 Heroes. To win the freedom of Alex Saab, we need similar breakthroughs.

Through press releases, letters to the editor and even protests outside of mainstream media offices, petitions campaigns, either online or in person, and actions at U.S. Embassies and consulates, we can work to put pressure on the media to break their silence about Alex Saab and Venezuela.

At these conferences, we also can develop action programs according to local conditions and peculiarities. This is a

way to activate and motivate activists and progressive people and convince them of the importance of fighting for Alex Saab's freedom and ending the U.S. and Canada's hostility to Venezuela.

Join the Free Alex Saab Postcard Campaign to U.S. President Biden

To close my remarks for today, I want to bring to this conference another campaign, the Free Alex Saab Postcard Campaign to U.S. President Joe Biden. This postcard campaign was launched by the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign in March. It is an international postcard campaign with three goals:

1. It is a pressure campaign on U.S. President Biden and his administration
2. It is an excellent public education campaign
3. It allows for broader participation of different layers of people in the campaign to Free Alex Saab - including engagement with social media

We have already distributed and sent out more than 700 postcards to people in the U.S. and Canada, and we hope to send thousands more and extend the campaign to Latin America, Europe and worldwide.

From here in Caracas, Venezuela, let us declare our commitment to unify and strengthen the international campaign for Alex Saab! We will not stand for one more day of the torture and imprisonment of Alex Saab, and we will continue our work! We will win!

Stop the Blockade of Venezuela!

U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!

Free Alex Saab! Free Alex Saab! Free Alex Saab!

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

"Do not expect to find justice without a struggle"



Camilla Fabri Saab, the wife of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab, addressing the "Lawfare Against Venezuela" conference, June 2023



Alison Bodine with Camilla Fabri Saab at the "Lawfare Against Venezuela" conference, June 2023

We must appeal to them constantly to cover the case of Alex Saab, from all its important aspects. Whether in local or national media, mainstream news organizations have the ability to reach hundreds of thousands of people at once. Even though the coverage is manipulated to fit the imperialist narrative, it gives us activists and supporters of Alex Saab an opportunity to have his name heard. Each news media is different, but many newspapers publish a counter-opinion in their Op-Ed sections or letters from readers.

By not covering the case of Alex Saab,

Free Alex Saab



#FreeAlexSaab



Join the Free Alex Saab! Postcard campaign to U.S. President Biden!
email: fttvenezuelasolidarity@gmail.com

ALEX SAAB MESSAGE TO THE CONFERENCE IN VENEZUELA LET US WIN OUR FREEDOM!

I would like to read you a letter that I sent you on the occasion of today's forum. I thank you for honoring us with your presence today in Caracas to discuss, analyze and generate proposals that will help us to continue facing this immoral scourge that is the Lawfare.

It would take many days to tell you everything I have learned about this disastrous society that has made a pact with evil in several countries, the law, and some media. But I only have six or seven minutes and here where time seems frozen, without stopping, sometimes a simple story and too many days lived in only six minutes you can tell more.

This simple tale is a message from the character who has lost the most in this Lawfare novel. His confusion as well as the situation of many is completely real, I assure you that from every line of his message a forum could be

made. You just have to know how to look. His name is The Human Being.



He asks me to tell you that he is very worried because after so many years of lying, deceiving, slandering, and misinforming, seeking to dominate lives, he had managed, without realizing it, to tame his conscience as well. His reason could no longer distinguish between good and evil either. The Human Being says that at the beginning he thought "what difference does it make?" But recently he was told that one of those lives, even with three years of torture, isolation, slander, and dark loneliness, had not managed to be dominated by him, much less stop fighting. The Human Being tells that, alarmed by this failure, he angrily descended 20 meters to the dark room of sand and salt that is guarded from the sea by a madman to find the Life. But surprised, he found that this Life, having outwitted his security once again, embraced two soft and beautiful girls who called him Daddy, my three and a half year old Charly, my six year old Mimi. The Human Being says that when he saw that this Life had a real family, he pushed away his tamed conscience and gave Life a chance to speak.

Life told him that by taking food to beautiful, blockaded lives, he lost his freedom. And after seeing more than 70 pieces of evidence, several confessions and at least five sentences, Life asked

The Human Being, "What then? How many more times do I have to win? The distressed Human Being, now without his conscience tamed in him, petitioned his partner, the Law. Puzzled, shyly she reminded him that she was corrupt and serious. So it is that what was once fabricated once, will always be fabricated. He went to the media to announce this injustice, but Tucker Carlson was gone, and the others told her that evil paid more.

Then The Human Being, urged to free his conscience, remembered a story about a rebellious Law that besides being a simple Law, it was also a convention, and that if The Lives used it without isolating themselves, without excluding themselves, and if in spite of all the differences, they used it to dialogue, to stop conflicts, to find solutions for humanity, it would impartially be able to sit The Human Being down again and even the most domesticated consciences would be freed again. This Law is called diplomacy. A new opportunity.

In the world today there is talk that there are more than 2,500 political prisoners. With the indiscriminate increase of the use of Lawfare, I would dare to say that there are many more. But all cases must be seen independently because the suffering of a political prisoner and his family must be respected and not used as justification for impunity.

#FreeAlexSaab #FreeAlexSaab #FreeAlexSaab

¡SELLEMOS LA LIBERTAD!

Quiero leerles una carta que les envié con motivo del foro el día de hoy. Les agradezco por honrarnos con su compañía hoy en Caracas para conversar, analizar y generar propuestas que nos ayuden a seguir enfrentando este flagelo inhumano que es el Lawfare.

Harían falta muchos días para poder contarles todo lo que he conocido de esta funesta sociedad que pactaron con el mal en varios países, la ley y algunos medios de comunicación. Pero solo tengo seis o siete minutos y acá donde el tiempo parece congelado, sin dejar de andar, a veces con un simple cuento y demasiados días vividos en fugaces seis minutos se puede contar más.

Este cuento sencillo es un mensaje del personaje que más valor ha perdido en esta novela del Lawfare. Su confusión así como la situación de muchos es completamente real, les aseguro que de cada línea de su mensaje se podría hacer un foro. Solo hay que saber mirar. El se llama el ser humano.

Me pide que les diga que está muy preocupado porque después de tantos años de mentir, engañar, calumniar y desinformar

buscando dominar las vidas, había logrado sin darse cuenta, domesticar también su conciencia. Y ya su razón no podía distinguir tampoco entre el bien y el mal. ¿Dice el ser humano que al principio pensó qué más da? Pero recientemente le avisaron que una de esas vidas, aún con tres años de torturas, aislamientos, calumnias y oscura soledad, no habían logrado dominarla ni mucho menos dejar de luchar. Cuenta el ser humano que, alarmado por esta falla, bajó enfurecido los 20 metros donde estaba el cuarto oscuro de arena y sal que guardaba las vidas secuestradas que un loco custodiaba desde el mar. Pero sorprendido, encontró que esta vida, habiendo burlado su seguridad una vez más, abrazaba dos niñas suaves y hermosas que le decían Papá, mi Charly de tres y medio, mi Mimi de seis no más. Dice el ser humano que al ver que esta vida tenía una familia real, apartó de sí su conciencia domesticada y le dio un chance de hablar.

La vida le contó que, por llevar alimentos a libres, bellas vidas bloqueadas, perdió su libertad. Y luego de ver más de 70 pruebas, varias confesiones y al menos cinco sentencias, le preguntó al ser humano ¿Y entonces qué?

¿Cuántas veces más he de ganar? El ser humano afligido y ahora, sin su conciencia domesticada en él reclamó a su socia la ley por tal baja. Extrañada, ella le recordó que era recatadamente corrupta y seria. Así es que lo que una vez fabricado era fabricado, siempre será.

Se fue a buscar a los medios para denunciar, pero Carlson Tucker se había ido y los otros le dijeron que el mal pagaba más. Entonces el ser humano, urgido de liberar su conciencia, se recordó de una historia sobre una ley rebelde que además de ser una simple ley, también era una costumbre, y que si las vidas la utilizaban sin aislarse, sin excluirse, y si a pesar de todas las diferencias la usaban para dialogar, para frenar conflictos, para encontrar soluciones por la humanidad, ella imparcialmente sería capaz de sentar de nuevo a los seres y hasta las conciencias más domesticadas volvería a liberar. Se llama la diplomacia. Una nueva oportunidad.

En el mundo se habla hoy que hay más de 2500 prisioneros políticos. Con el incremento indiscriminado del uso del Lawfare, me atrevería a decir que hay muchos más. Pero todos los casos deben verse independientes, porque el sufrimiento de un preso político y su familia debe ser respetado y no usado como un título para lograr impunidad.

Alex Saab Will Be Freed!

By *Janine Solanki*

U.S. and Latin America

Since the establishment of the United States, successive U.S. administrations have viewed Latin America as their backyard of resources to plunder, labour to exploit and markets to control. Any movement or government that has defied U.S. dominance has faced a swift attack in the way of U.S. orchestrated coups to install U.S.-backed dictators, crippling sanctions and blockades, and covert or overt military assaults. The threats of U.S. imperialism haven't stopped the heroic fight for sovereignty and self-determination all throughout Latin America through the ages and continuing today.

Venezuelan Revolution Under U.S. Attack

For over 24 years, the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela, from the leadership of former President Hugo Chávez to the current President Nicolás Maduro, has defied U.S. hegemony to develop a society to benefit poor, working and historically oppressed people in Venezuela. However, the U.S. government has tried to defeat the Bolivarian Revolution through failed coup attempts, economic warfare including sanctions and blockade, and even the kidnapping of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab.

Alex Saab, A Political Prisoner

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 much needed 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 and, over a year later, was illegally extracted by the U.S. from Cape Verde, bypassing his diplomatic immunity. Alex Saab is currently being unjustly held in a Miami jail, where his detention is a violation of international law and continued injustice against the people of Venezuela.

Defending Alex Saab is a Task of the Working Class Movement

For over two years, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, the Venezuela Peace Committee in Winnipeg, and Just Peace Advocates have organized monthly online picket actions in defence of Venezuela, demanding an end to U.S./Canada sanctions and freedom for Alex Saab. These actions have received the support and participation of Venezuelan solidarity organizations and individuals across Canada, the U.S. and worldwide.

The March 28, 2023, virtual picket action featured speakers from Venezuela, the U.S. and Canada and also included the launch of a new "Free Alex Saab!" postcard campaign,



Alison Bodine, Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign Coordinator inviting participants to join postcard campaign at Monthly Virtual Picket Action. March, 28, 2023.

addressed to U.S. President Biden, with the aim of flooding the White House with postcards demanding the freedom of Alex Saab! This new postcard campaign is also a public education campaign, and supporters are encouraged to take selfies while mailing the cards to share on social media and to hand them out at actions and events. For more information and to participate in the campaign, send an email to fttvenezuelasolidarity@gmail.com or call/message +1-604-518-7361.

These virtual pickets are held monthly and continued on April 25, May 30 and June 27, reflecting the struggle of the Venezuelan people to defend their sovereignty and self-determination against continuous U.S.-led attacks and the responsibility of people in the U.S. and Canada to stand in solidarity

with Venezuela!

Building A United Front for Venezuela and Alex Saab

Free Alex Saab



Another important venue to discuss the case of Alex Saab has been Proletarian Internationalism, an online program organized by the Intercontinental Front of the FMLN in El Salvador. On May 10, this Spanish language program featured a conversation with Alison Bodine, the coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign. The topic of this episode of the program was "The Alex Saab Case - Violation and Disrespect of International Laws and Human Rights," and Alison Bodine had the opportunity to discuss the fight to free Alex Saab with audiences in El Salvador and beyond, where the program is broadcast both on the radio and online.

June 14, the Free Alex Saab Movement in Venezuela organized a one-day international conference titled "Lawfare Against Venezuela: Three Years After the Kidnapping of Diplomat Alex Saab" in Caracas, Venezuela. Alison Bodine was invited to attend as a speaker on behalf of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice and was one of over 50 international guests in attendance. The conference included over 300 Venezuelan government officials, social movement leaders, and

organizers of the Free Alex Saab Movement, including Camilla Saab, the wife of Alex Saab, Yvan Gil, the Foreign Minister of Venezuela and freed Cuban Five political prisoner Rene Gonzalez. Alison Bodine gave a rousing speech to the conference, which can be read in this issue of FTT on page 7.

Join us!

The struggle to free Alex Saab and to defend Venezuela against U.S. imperialist attacks continues! Find out how you can stand in solidarity with Venezuela! Upcoming events are listed on www.firethistime.net, and you can register for the next monthly picket action at <https://tinyurl.com/handsoffvzla> or follow the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign on Instagram @ftt.venezuela

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

Government of Canada ramps up anti-China rhetoric and racism



The Canada-China Focus, a project of the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies and the Canadian Foreign Policy Institute issued an open letter in March 2023. Fire This Time is reprinting an excerpt of this letter which we find to be an important and educational rebuttal to the growing anti-China rhetoric and xenophobia in Canada. Imperialist attacks on China have come together with an attack on free speech in Canada to suppress voices of dissent. Accusations, lies, and false narratives are part of the manipulation, which shapes public opinion, demonizing China and establishing Sinophobia. All and all, this curtailing of freedom of speech and assembly is an attempt by Canada, the U.S., and the other imperialists to ensure the dominance of a singular narrative on China—the pro-imperialist narrative. As well, these attacks prevent public discourse and transparency on China, as we have seen in the last two decades of the spread of Russophobia, Sinophobia, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. For the full open letter: www.ccfocus.ca

An Open Letter to the Right Honorable David Johnston, Independent Special Rapporteur, Government of Canada.

We are deeply concerned that discussions of foreign interference and national security can quickly become toxic as we have already seen in the accusations that a respected Chinese Canadian senator and a newly elected mayor are agents of the Chinese government. Such accusations can quickly lead to gross violations of people's

democratic rights and personal security.

During the Second World War, the Canadian government uprooted and dispossessed 23,000 Japanese Canadians because some people accused them of being spies or a fifth column for Japan, accusations that history has shown to be groundless. We have also seen how similar unfounded accusations damaged or destroyed the lives and reputations of distinguished Canadians such as Maher Arar, John Holmes, Paul Lin, or Herbert Norman.

We affirm that all countries including Canada have the right to demand respect for sovereignty and non-interference in their political affairs. We deplore any instance when nation-states, be they China, Russia, the U.S., or even Canada, contravene the principle of non-interference through election meddling, covert operations, or other inappropriate actions including the targeting of activists and their families.

At the same time, we are deeply concerned that government initiatives announced to help combat foreign interference risk creating more problems than they solve. For too many, “foreign interference” is simply a codeword for “Chinese” with all the racist overtones that have been imposed on that term.

Given Canada's own history of racism, colonialism, and the dispossession of Indigenous peoples, defining what or who is “foreign” may become extremely

problematic. Through their family connections, economic activities, and educational journeys, many Canadians are linked to people and institutions around the world in multiple, complex ways. Drawing lines between what and who is Canadian, and what or who is foreign can be extremely divisive.

The initiatives announced to date suggest that strengthening national security agencies such as CSIS and the RCMP will help combat foreign influence. Yet these agencies have documented histories of racism towards Indigenous, Muslim, and other racialized communities, of repressing dissent, and promoting environmental racism.

It is a real danger that this exercise will instigate further indiscriminate and unsubstantiated accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason. And the potential impact on international relations should not be underestimated.

Few if any states are immune from engaging in foreign interference, including Canada and its ally the United States. The latter has engaged in at least 64 fully documented attempts at covert regime change. As the New York Times recently declared, “By the standards of superpowers, China remains a homebody. Its foreign engagements, especially outside its immediate surroundings, remain primarily economic.”

First Nations Leadership Council Calls for Immediate Implementation of the Recommendations in the Representative For Children and Youth Report: **THE RIGHT TO THRIVE**



June 27, 2023

(xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C.) The First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) is deeply disturbed by the findings reported in the Representative for Children and Youth's (RCY) most recent publication entitled, *The Right to Thrive: An Urgent Call to Recognize, Respect and Nurture Two Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary and other Gender Diverse Children and Youth* (*The Right to Thrive*), which illuminates significant human rights violations, experienced by Two Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary and other Gender Diverse (2STNBGD) children and youth, as a result of antiquated, disinforming, discriminative, and deficient system of supports.

This report reveals that 2STNBGD children and youth in British Columbia (B.C.) experience inequitable access to essential gender-affirming care and support, although a fundamental right, reflected in The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and higher rates of suicidal ideation, self-harm, and suicidality, particularly for youth in care and those residing in staffed resources. Conversely, the RCY reports that 2STNBGD children and youth who are supported and affirmed, can experience positive life outcomes, like their cis-gender peers, highlighting the impacts of socio-political and structural inequalities, on an already disenfranchised and racialized population.



"Two-Spirit Project" By Neebinnaukzhik Southall – Chippewas of Rama First Nation From: www.neebin.com

"We cannot allow the denigration and discrimination of our 2STNBGD children and youth to go on," said Cheryl Casimer, First Nation Summit Political Executive. "The RCY's report exposes the perverse impacts of societal misconceptions and ideologies that must be addressed through institutional change. System-level reform is necessary to ensure equitable access to gender-affirming supports and care for 2STNBGD children and youth. The mental health of 2STNBGD children and youth should not suffer because of B.C.'s negligence."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) stated, "Last week, as we celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day, protesters gathered outside UBCIC's Vancouver office, and perpetuated discriminative beliefs pertaining to gender diverse people. This proclamation of ignorance, intolerance, and hate illustrates the critical concerns, highlighted by the RCY, in *The Right to Thrive*, including the violation of basic

human rights. Our gender diverse children and youth, deserve our love, support, and protection. Similarly, they deserve to have the opportunity to live healthy, safe, and supported lives, like their cisgendered peers."

"I want to acknowledge the tremendous strength and vulnerability of the 2STNBGD youth who shared their stories and experiences of living within the confines of a colonial and intolerant society, said BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee. Each of you are champions for change. Your stories underscore the urgency of systemic transformation to ensure

you are granted the respect, care, support, and opportunity to live and thrive in B.C., which your cis-gendered peers are provided. We hear you and it is now our responsibility to advocate on your behalf, calling on the government of B.C. to action your recommendations, as delineated by the RCY."

The First Nations Leadership Council is comprised of the political executives of the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN), First Nations Summit (FNS), and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC).

For further information, contact:

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Annette Schroeter, BCAFN
Communications Officer Phone: 778-281-1655

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC
President Phone: 250-490-5314

From: www.ubcic.bc.ca

By Aileén Carmenaty Sánchez

Since the beginning of our people's struggle, Cuba has had women of great values and principles, defiant women who have made history in many ways and according to their times.

If men played a decisive role in independence, so did women. Our Apostle José Martí was right when he wrote: "The campaigns of the peoples are only weak when the heart of the woman is not enlisted in it."

Mariana Grajales Vilma Espín, Celia Sánchez, Haydee Santamaría, Melba Hernández, Teté Puebla, among many others, constitute a great example of patriotism and sacrifice for the ideals of independence. Like them, many women took to the battlefield against the colonial and neocolonial yoke. Without each and every one of them, full independence would not have been possible.

Achieving equality between men and women was one of the purposes of the triumphant Revolution in 1959. To guarantee this premise, the Federation of Cuban Women was founded on August 23, 1960, an organization to which Vilma Espín dedicated her efforts throughout her whole life, in order to turn women into the bastion of the family and the

Revolution.

As part of the revolutionary work, Cuban women have assumed important positions in politics and in the State, in the economy, health, science and technology, education, diplomacy, sports, mass organizations, defense and security institutions, and often in the majority.

Among the achievements of Cuban women, as a result of the socialist system, are: equal pay with men for work of equal value; the right to a widow's pension, to land, to receive bank loans, to paid maternity leave and its consequent

benefits, which cover the worker before childbirth and until the baby is one year old, access to universal and free education, and respect for sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to abortion and free and responsible choice over their fertility. It should be noted that Cuba was the first country to sign and the second to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Families Code, approved in a popular referendum in 2022, constitutes an essential foundation for this work. Its content summarizes the Cuban struggles for gender equality, led by the Federation of Cuban Women. This Code recognizes the economic value of working at home; the importance of the equitable distribution of domestic responsibilities, without sexist criteria; the diversity of family models and respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of women.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States is an obstacle to the full development of the country, also constituting a form of direct and indirect violence that impacts the fundamental rights of Cuban women.

The participation of women in the candidacies for the 10th Legislature of the National Assembly of Popular Power, with 55.74%, shows their majority presence today in all spheres of Cuban social and economic life. These statistics are results of the existing policies to guarantee the development of women, expressed in the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba, and the promotion of initiatives for the elimination of gender gaps.

Once again, the words of the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro, are evident, when he proclaimed that: «Women constitute a true army at the service of the Revolution... Women are a Revolution within the Revolution... When men fight in a town and women can fight, these towns are invincible, and the women of this town are invincible».

Aileén is the Press and Culture Attaché of the Embassy of Cuba in Canada.



Final closing March in Havana for the Literacy Campaign which eradicated illiteracy in Cuba. December 21, 1961.

*** En Español ***

14 FIRE THIS TIME **Volume 17 Issue 4-5** **May & June 2023**

LETTER TO EDITOR IN CHIEF OF CBC RE: "As holidaying Canadians return to Cuba, Cubans themselves are fleeing in record numbers" by Evan Dyer

What a superficial, dishonest, and biased article published by the CBC, penned by Evan Dyer. After reading, it looks like information gathered from Facebook, where, as you know, anything goes. The CBC's mandate is to inform and enlighten, and this article does a grave disservice to that endeavor, and to the Cuban people.

Mr. Dyer, either out of sheer ignorance of the geopolitical context in which Cuba lives, or on purpose, fails to mention, even once, the system of punitive sanctions and ridiculous prohibitions which compose the Blockade (euphemistically called the "embargo") that the US imposes on Cuba for 63 years now. It is the longest siege in history. It is an economic war on Cuban families, a campaign of persecution and intimidation aimed, besides Cuba, at third parties, who in exercise of their sovereignty, choose or intend to establish any kind of ties with the island. It is the main obstacle for the development of the country.

Just imagine the damage that this undeclared war on Cuba has had throughout the decades. Now add the economic crisis that the whole world faces because of the pandemic, which has hit Cuba severely, a blockaded underdeveloped country. And just when one thinks that it could not get worse, then President Trump, advised by the most rancid ultra-right elements of his party, maliciously imposes 243 additional sanctions on Cuba (Biden has only just allowed Western Union to reinstate remittances to Cuba, although only from the US, and some travel to the island with restrictions).

Only very recently, the US restored visa services in their embassy in Havana, so those Cubans who in the middle of the current economic situation wanted to emigrate previously had to go to a third country, resulting in added costs and insecurity. The average Cuban faces incredible hardships while the government does its best to prioritize the essentials. The situation is bad. However, no hospital or school has been closed, and no one has been abandoned to their fate. There are no children sleeping in the streets in Cuba.

If he were really concerned about Cuba, Mr. Dyer should be asking Canadians to continue visiting Cuba to help its people and economy. Canadians who travel to Cuba regularly know better, and that's why they keep going to enjoy the warmth and the culture of Cuba. And, most importantly, Mr. Dyer should recognize the real problem that Cuba faces – the inhumane Blockade.

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

Statement by the Canadian Network on
Cuba, March 7, 2023.

www.canadiannetworkoncuba.ca



FREE MUMIA ABU- JAMAL!

By Natalia Marques

Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal is denied

Despite an international, high profile campaign for his release, Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeal was denied by Philadelphia Judge Lucretia Clemons on Friday, March 31.

Abu-Jamal has spent over 40 years in prison, convicted of killing a police officer after being politically persecuted for his work as a journalist and Black liberation fighter. The movement for his release has spanned decades and has grown to international levels, with high-profile figures such as NUMSA General Secretary Irvin Jim counted among his supporters.

As Angela Davis wrote in an open letter in February, on December 16, a judge ruled that over 200 boxes of materials must be handed to Abu-Jamal's defense after previously-unseen exculpatory evidence was mysteriously discovered in 2018. This evidence relates to Abu-Jamal's trial and included documents that indicate that a witness was bribed for her testimony, that the prosecutor removed Black people from the jury for racial reasons, and that the prosecution offered leniency to one of their key witnesses for crimes she had been charged with.

Based on this new evidence, Abu-Jamal's defense requested a new trial. This evidence was not available to the defense during the first trial, and could very well have affected the outcome.

Racist jury selection

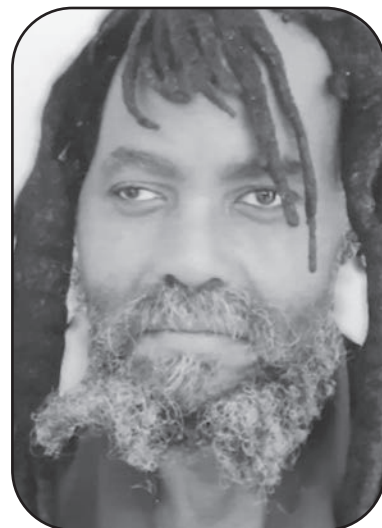
Evidence includes the trial prosecutor's notes in which he tracked the race of each juror during jury selection. The trial prosecutor also wrote the template that he created to select jurors, which he applied unevenly to potential jurors based on race. Documents submitted by Abu-Jamal's defense indicate that the prosecutor "deemed certain characteristics important for selecting jurors but struck prospective Black jurors who were more favorable with respect to those criteria than non-Black panelists whom he did not strike." The prosecution hid those notes for over 35 years.

Abu-Jamal's supporters have pointed to an official Philadelphia District Attorney's Office training tape from 1986 that revealed that prosecutors were trained on how to strike Black people from the jury without revealing racist intent in order to avoid a Batson challenge, or a challenge to jury selection on racial grounds. In the infamous tape, senior prosecutor Jack McMahon is filmed telling his trainees, "in selecting Blacks [to the jury], again, you don't want the real educated ones."

The new evidence could have given Abu-Jamal his best chance at release, after having endured medical neglect and torture during his decades-long stay in prison. Judge Lucretia Clemons dismissed Abu-Jamal's appeal largely on procedural grounds. As journalist and longtime Abu-Jamal supporter Noelle Hanrahan wrote, "Everyone in Philadelphia knows that his trial judge Judge Albert Sabo was a stone cold racist. Everyone knows that witnesses were bribed. Judge Lucretia Clemons stated that even if the jurors KNEW witnesses were bribed, it would not have affected their decision. Now, come on. Really?"

Abu-Jamal's supporters vow to continue fighting despite the setback.

From: <https://peoplesdispatch.org>



In April 2023 Mumia turned 69 years old, he has spent over 40 birthdays unjustly in U.S. prison. Photo from a French activist delegation who visited Mumia in March 2023.

Biden: Take Cuba off the SSOT List NOW!

By Janine Solanki

For 61 years the Cuban people have endured a vicious blockade by the United States, intended to bring down the Cuban Revolution and to bring Cuba back under the domination of U.S. imperialism. The U.S. government didn't anticipate that the Cuban people are prepared to defend their revolution and advance it, despite the enormous challenges imposed by the blockade.

The blockade is a Genocide

Now, after 6 decades of blockade, the importance of lifting the U.S. blockade on Cuba is especially urgent. Former U.S. President Trump took a "maximum pressure" stance on Cuba and imposed 243 new sanctions on Cuba, making the blockade the most restrictive it has ever been. In a move that Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodríguez characterized as "lethal," Trump placed Cuba on the U.S. State Department's List of State Sponsors



Tabling at EastSide Pride promoting the Cuba postcard to U.S. President Biden on June 24, 2023.



puts its people's needs first. One of Cuba's many achievements is developing one of the best healthcare systems in the world. This was exemplified by Cuba's response to the Covid-19 pandemic, which included developing 5 vaccines highly effective against Covid-19 and sending thousands of doctors abroad to over 40 countries, a heroic act of Cuban revolutionary internationalism! For decades Cuba has inspired the world with their example of how to build a better world, and peace and justice loving people world-wide have defended Cuba against U.S. imperialism!

C u b a postcard campaign

To respond to Cuba's most urgent campaign today, Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB), NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition & Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) have initiated a new postcard campaign, demanding that U.S. President Biden remove Cuba from the U.S. State Department's list of State

International Day of Action to remove Cuba from the so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism" (SSOT) list picketing at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver after the monthly car caravan on June 25, 2023.

of Terrorism (SSOT), just nine days before Trump left office and in the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two years into his presidency, U.S. President Biden has failed to reverse this illegitimate and immoral designation. Being on this list means that many international banks and financial institutions won't process Cuban transactions, which makes international trade even more difficult and expensive, and denies Cuba access to vital food, medicines and other countless other essentials.

Cuba advances regardless of the U.S. inhuman blockade

Despite this critical situation, Cuba continues to advance and show the world what is possible with a revolution that

Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT). This important new postcard campaign has been endorsed by IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Seattle/Cuba Friendship Committee and Unblock Cuba Europe. Since the postcard campaign was launched in February, over 6000 postcards have been printed, and thousands have been handed out and mailed to groups and individuals around the world for further distribution in their cities. FCAB is encouraging Cuba supporters to sign the postcard on an ongoing basis to flood the White House mailbox with our just demand to remove Cuba from the SSOT list! If you would like more information or to order postcards, please email: nobloqueovancouver@gmail.com

International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference

The postcard campaign was officially launched at the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference, which took

Continued on page 21

WHY DEFENDING & ORGANIZING THE UNJUST & INHUMAN 60 YEARS OF BLOCKADE ON CUBA IS A PRIORITY & REVOLUTIONARY TASK OF THE WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT

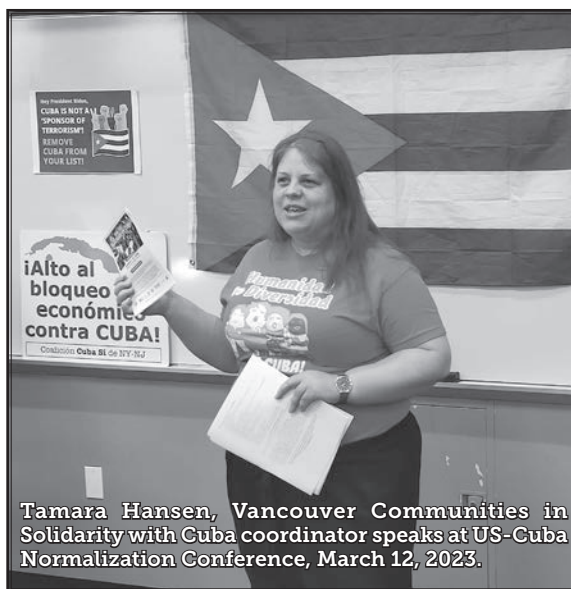
By Tamara Hansen

During the closing plenary of the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference in New York City, March 11-12, 2024. Tamara Hansen, an organizer with the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition and coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, spoke about why the Conference Action Plan was tightly focused on the issue of ending the criminal U.S. blockade on Cuba and for Washington to remove Cuba from its so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list (SSOT). The conference Action Plan stands as an important document of the commitments of conference attendees to take the ideas established at the conference and to use them to reinvigorate and guide us in the important work ahead towards a future where all U.S. sanctions and blockades on the people of Cuba are ended. Below is an excerpt of Tamara's talk.

Hi folks, my name is Tamara Hansen, I'm the coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba. I just wanted to address the spirit in which this plan of action was brought together because I

think that it's really important that we have been focusing on the blockade. We've been focusing on the work of getting Cuba removed from the list of so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism," and we're targeting those issues very specifically.

While this conference has talked about the gains of the Cuban revolution for women, for youth, for LGBTQIA+ communities, for labour, etc., and we have addressed those gains. We really wanted what comes out of this to be concrete action towards ending the blockade because while we are inspired by all of the gains of the Cuban Revolution, what Cuba has been telling us is that we need more work towards ending the criminal U.S. blockade. Sometimes that work is not – I don't know of a better way to say it – as "sexy" as talking about the other issues. But this is a real urgent issue for Cuba, this is a big challenge that Cubans are facing in their daily lives today. We really need to home in on this campaign and come up with strategies to enforce it, to make it more engaging, and to make it



Tamara Hansen, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba coordinator speaks at US-Cuba Normalization Conference, March 12, 2023.

more accessible for different communities to get involved.

So, I'm looking forward to supporting and organizing so many important upcoming days of action with the call-ins to the White House, with the postcard campaign, with the rally on June 25th in Washington DC, and just coming together more so that we can continue amplifying our voices, continue building a stronger campaign against the blockade. The other reason that we want to continue focusing on the unjust U.S. blockade and the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list is that this is where we can build a broader base of unity, to build a united front. We have representatives of local government, who might not be able to talk about the gains of the Cuban revolution, but they can speak out against this U.S. policy. We have people like Carlos Lazo and so many other Cuban Americans who maybe aren't ready to talk about the gains of the Cuban revolution with us, but they are ready to talk about ending sanctions on Cuban families. We want to create a plan of action that can bring more people into our work, which can be a broad umbrella for integrating new folks into this work, and I think that's what the spirit of this Conference Action Plan is.

To read the Conference Action Plan in English or Spanish visit: <https://www.us-cubanormalization.org/> or scan the QR code.



VCSC and FCAB members with Sandra Ramirez from the Cuban delegation.

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01

By Tamara Hansen

►► Cubans Speak in Vancouver!

On **May 25**, more than 120 people attended an event promoting an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba and demanding the U.S. government remove Cuba from the list of so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism."

The event, titled "Cuba Today: A Revolution in Motion," was co-organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver (FCAB - Vancouver). The event was endorsed by the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC), Socialist Action BC Branch, Communist League, Communist Party Canada-Marxist Leninist Greater Vancouver (all organizations members of CNC), as well as the Calixto Garcia Brigade and the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice.

The territorial welcoming ceremony was performed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Elder Martin Sparrow. The program included a blanketing ceremony for

Cuban speakers by Syilk & Nlaka'pamux Knowledge keeper Shona Sparrow and Snuneymuxw and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Elder Kelly White.

This special event featured two Cuban scholars, Raúl Rodríguez Rodríguez, Director of the Center for Hemispheric Studies and the United States and Rafael

Cuban leaders at the event, all delegates to the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference, an important international event for researchers and academics. Tamara Hansen, Coordinator of VCSC, was the moderator of the event. The dynamic program is available to watch online if you visit: <https://fb.watch/lnVmhjYSFQ/>

VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA & FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE - VANCOUVER EDUCATE, AGITATE, ORGANIZE, AND ACTION



Tamara Hansen, Coordinator of VCSC speaks at "Cuba Today: A Revolution in Motion!" event with Cuban delegates to the LASA Conference in Vancouver, Canada on May 25, 2023

Emilio Cervantes Martínez, Director of History and Marxism-Leninism for Cuba's Ministry of Higher Education. They spoke alongside Leima Martinez Freire, the Director of the North America Desk of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP). The speakers presented a range of topics and took the time to answer audience questions. There were also 12

►► Vancouver Plays Chess for Cuba & Che Guevara's 95th Birthday!

Chess was an activity that Comandante Che Guevara valued and enjoyed. In honour of Che's birthday every year, the Che Guevara Studies Center in Cuba holds chess tournaments in Cuba. This year they also called upon Cuban supporters and solidarity groups globally to join in playing chess to commemorate Che!

A dozen solidarity groups worldwide held Chess tournaments for Che and Cuba, including one in Vancouver.

On Saturday, **June 10**, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) organized an afternoon of friendly chess matches, art, prizes, and fun. This event celebrated Che Guevara's 95th birthday while demanding the U.S. government end the over 60 year brutal, criminal, and unjust blockade of Cuba and remove Cuba from the list of so-called "State Sponsors of Terrorism." The event was endorsed by the Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade-Vancouver (FCAB-Vancouver).

For more than three hours, 30 enthusiastic people participated, ranging from 6-80 years old. Everyone battled on the Chessboards to celebrate Che's birthday and support Cuba. The program included a talk by Tamara Hansen,



"Cuba Today: A Revolution in Motion!" event with Cuban delegates to the LASA Conference in Vancouver, Canada on May 25, 2023

Coordinator of VCSC, who explained the history of U.S. hostility toward Cuba. How since the Cuban revolution of 1959, the U.S. government has tried to use its inhuman blockade to slow down the Cuban people's commitment to advancing their revolution and spreading humanity through international solidarity. Despite this, Cuba continues to struggle and win! She asked participants to join activities in solidarity with Cuba in Vancouver, and a good number of participants sign up to get involved.

►► **Two webinars celebrating Cuba's New Families Code & "For all Families, Love is the Law"**

From May 3 to 20, 2023, Cuba held its 16th annual Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia. This year the motto was, "For all families, love is Law." Dynamic activities took place in cities across Cuba, including a variety of events: from drag shows to academic dialogues, to social and artistic activism, to music and dance concerts. The days began in 2008, initiated by Cenesex (Cuba's National Centre for Sex Education), with the purpose of developing comprehensive sex education and guaranteeing the sexual rights of all people without discrimination. This year's theme also celebrates Cuba's new Families' Code, which after rigorous and widespread discussion, was passed into law 8 months ago in a popular referendum. Join us for a special webinar as we discuss recent events in Cuba and the gains of the queer community!

In North America, two webinars set out to inform and celebrate what Cuba has achieved and continues to struggle for in terms of the rights and diversity of families in Cuba today and the LGBTQIA+ movement (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual +).



Mariela Castro, center, is the director of Cuba's National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX). Here she is participating in Havana's "Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia" on May 12, 2018.

On **May 28**, the Canadian Network on Cuba (CNC) hosted a webinar featuring Mariela Castro, the national director of Cenesex and a member of Cuba's National Assembly. This webinar featured a comprehensive report from Castro about the important gains Cuba has made and the path forward after the passing of the new Families Code. Another speaker was Thunder Bay resident Paul Pugh who attended a January 2023 labour delegation to Cuba and shared his experiences. The event was hosted by CNC Co-Chairs Samantha Hislop and Julio Fonseca.

On **May 29**, the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition organized a bilingual webinar featuring three speakers: Isel Calzadilla Acosta, the Coordinator of the Isabelas (Cuba's first group of lesbian and bisexual women); Moon Vázquez, a Puerto Rican lesbian activist on the Steering Committee of US Women and Cuba Collaboration and lead organizer of the

US-Cuba Lesbians and Allies Project, and Azza Rojbi, a North African queer activist and board member of Fierté Canada Pride and the Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver. Azza is also on the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper.

All of the speakers brought a personal touch to their talks connecting their experiences in Cuba with the international movement for Queer liberation. The webinar also featured music, discussion, and a special video greeting from Mariela Castro. The webinar was hosted by Tamara Hansen, and a special invitation for folks to get involved in Cuba projects was given by Erin Feely-Nahem, both women are founding organizers with the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Coalition.

The dynamic program is available to watch online in both English and Spanish if you visit the following websites or scan the QR Code!

English: <https://youtu.be/KzW54DWiTPo>



Spanish: <https://youtu.be/cwpp57xw4uw>



Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba's "Chess for Che & Cuba" as part of International Day called by Che Institute in Cuba, June 10, 2023. Vancouver, Canada

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01

Continued from page 4

Metro Vancouver's Muslim community to organize a rally in defence and support of Palestine on Al-Quds Day in downtown Vancouver on the steps of the Vancouver Public Library. This action supported the struggle of Palestine for self-determination and protested the escalating violence and killings of Palestinians at the hands of racist Zionist Israeli settlers and Israeli forces.

On **April 20**, MAWO held a Metro-Vancouver antiwar action with the demands "Money for Social Needs, Not for War!" "Self-Determination for Palestine!" "US/Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!" "Lift the Blockade on Yemen!" "No New Fighter Jets – Stop the F35 Deal!" The action was held in Surrey between a busy skytrain and bus transit station, a mall and Simon Fraser University Surrey campus, attracting the attention of commuters and students. This action was endorsed by Victoria Peace Coalition, Global Peace Alliance BC, Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice and Iranian Community Against War.

On **May 14**, Vancouver's Nakba Day action marked 75 years since the brutal Zionist expulsion, massacre and ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their lands following the declaration of the Zionist state of Israel on the land of Palestine. MAWO mobilized to support and join this march and rally, organized by local Palestinian solidarity groups, including the Palestinian Youth Movement and Samidoun.

On **June 20**, MAWO organized two events with visiting antiwar,

environmental and social justice activist Tamara Lorincz, who had recently returned from antiwar trips in Europe and the International Summit for Peace in Ukraine held in Vienna. Activists protested outside of Liberal MP Hedy Fry's office in downtown Vancouver, calling attention to her pro-war stance in her role as head of Canada's delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly. The second event was a conversation and gathering with Tamara Lorincz at the SFU Harbour Center, where Tamara gave an insightful presentation followed by a fruitful discussion with participants.

Dimitri Lascaris tour, a great success

The Canada-Wide Peace & Justice Network sponsored a cross-Canada 12-stop tour, "Making Peace with Russia, One Handshake at a Time," with lawyer and journalist Dimitri Lascaris. The tour reflected on Dimitri Lascaris' experiences and perspectives from his recent peace trip to Russia. The Vancouver stop of the trip included two successful events: On **June 25**, a picnic in Surrey's Holland Park organized by Global Peace Alliance with the support of MAWO, and on **June 26**, Dimitri Lascaris' lecture at the SFU Harbour Center in downtown Vancouver, organized by MAWO, where a full house of 75 people gathered to hear Dimitri Lascaris.

Join MAWO! ☺

To find out more about MAWO events and actions and to get involved, visit www.mawovancouver.org or follow on Facebook @mawovancouver and Twitter and Instagram @MAWOVan



Antiwar, Social Justice and Environmental Activist Tamara Lorincz speaks in Vancouver, June 20, 2023.

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.

"'Divide and rule' is a basic method of oppressive action that is as old as imperialism itself. Since the colonizer subordinates and dominates the rank-and-file natives, it is necessary to keep them divided in order to remain in power. The oppressor cannot permit himself the luxury of tolerating the unification of indigenous people, which would undoubtedly cause a serious threat to the status-quo rule. Accordingly, oppressors prevent any method and any action by which the oppressed could be awakened to the need for unity. Concepts such as unity, organization and struggle are immediately labeled as dangerous. These concepts are dangerous to the oppressor because he knows they are necessary for actions of liberation. It is in the interests of the colonizer to continuously weaken the oppressed, to isolate them, to create and deepen rifts between them."

Excerpt from Prison of Grass (Fifth House Publishers, 1989)

Continued from page 5

Building a consistent, creative, and effective climate justice movement that is ready to fight for “System Change, Not Climate Change!” is more necessary than ever before. Climate Convergence holds an organizing meeting twice a month, and all people interested in joining the fight for climate justice are encouraged to attend. For information and to get involved in Climate Convergence, visit www.climateconvergence.ca, on Twitter and Facebook: @climate604 and on Instagram: @climateconvergence.

*Follow Alison on Twitter:
@Alisoncolette*



Climate Convergence Intersection Action Demanding "No To TMX & CGL Pipelines!" in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, May 5, 2023.

Continued from page 16

place March 11-12, 2023, at Fordham University School of Law in New York City. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver are active organizers in the International U.S.-Cuba Normalization Conference Committee, and 4 organizers from Vancouver travelled to New York to participate as organizers, speakers and MCs. The two-day conference brought together over 700 participants online and in-person from throughout the U.S., Canada and internationally, around the demands of “Take Cuba off Washington’s List of State-Sponsors of Terrorism!” “End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba!” and “End All U.S. Anti-Cuba Economic and Travel Sanctions!”. Alongside speakers from the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico, the conference was honoured to welcome guest speakers from Cuba, including from the Cuban Mission to the United Nations and a delegation from the Cuban Federation of Women (FMC). To read Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba coordinator Tamara Hansen’s talk at the conference, see page 17.

“1 Cent 4 Cuba” Campaign

Another important ongoing campaign against the U.S. blockade is the “1 Cent 4 Cuba” Campaign, initiated by Cuba solidarity groups in Europe and Canada, including Cuba Support Group Ireland, Rock around the Blockade (Britain), Cubanismo (Belgium), Netzwerk Cuba (Germany), Asociación Suiza-Cuba (Switzerland), Movimiento Estatal de Solidaridad con Cuba (Spain) and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity

with Cuba and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (Canada). Due to the U.S. State Department listing Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, many international banks will not process transactions that reference Cuba. This campaign aims to flood UK and European banks with small transactions (as little as 1 cent) that use Cuba in reference words or destinations, triggering the banks’ sanctions mechanisms to not process the transaction. Each small transaction, and subsequent complaint process, causes a burden of (costly) administrative work for the bank, creating a financial protest by making the international banking blockade on Cuba costly and time consuming to enforce. You can learn more about the campaign and how to participate at <https://1c4cuba.eu>

On April 16, the 1 Cent 4 Cuba campaign held an international online public meeting to discuss and expand the campaign. This important event was co-moderated by Nina Gonzalez, Coordinator of the Cuba Support Group Ireland (CGSI) and Azza Rojbi, Coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade- Vancouver, and featured Cuban speakers Professor Hassan Pérez Casabona, Historian at the Centre of Hemispheric and United States studies at the University of Havana, and Dr. Dagmar García Rivera, Research Director of the Finlay Institute of Vaccines (IFV) in Cuba and one of the scientists who led the team developing Cuba’s renowned Soberana Covid 19 vaccine.

NNOC #OffTheList International Day of Action

On June 25, an #OffTheList International Day of Action was initiated by the U.S.-based National Network on Cuba

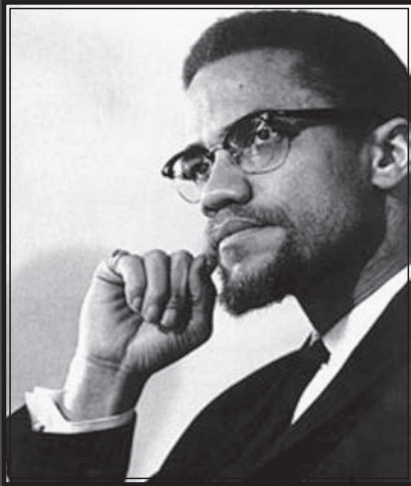
(NNOC) to call on U.S. President Biden to immediately remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list (SSOT). Vancouver joined this International Day of Action, and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade-Vancouver held its monthly Car Caravan followed by a picket action at the U.S. Consulate in Downtown Vancouver. The monthly Car Caravan against the U.S. blockade is a campaign started by Cuban American activist Carlos Lazo and the Puentes de Amor (Bridges of Love) organization from Miami, Florida, in the early days of the pandemic, as a way to keep protesting the U.S. blockade while keeping social distance. The campaign continues in Miami and many other cities and is held monthly in Vancouver. The June 25 Car Caravan in Vancouver was a sight to see, as cars decorated with Cuban flags and signs demanding “Lift the U.S. blockade on Cuba!” caravanned through the streets to downtown Vancouver and pulled up together in front of the U.S. Consulate. The protesters then continued the protest, with picket signs and banners, chanting and picketing with the demand to take Cuba off the SSOT list now!

Join us! ☺

Join the next upcoming event in solidarity with Cuba! Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba is online at www.vancubasolidarity.com, and you can follow us on Facebook @VanCubaSolidarity and Twitter and Instagram @vancuba_vcsc. You can also visit Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade at www.vancubavblockade.org and follow on Twitter and Facebook @NoBloqueoVan.

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

"By Any Means Necessary..."



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

"Now, mind you, the power structure is international, and as such, its own domestic base is in London, in Paris, in Washington, D.C., and so forth. And the outside or external phase of the

revolution, which is manifest in the attitude and action of the Africans today is troublesome enough. The revolution on the outside of the house, or the outside of the structure, is troublesome enough. But now the powers that be are beginning to see that this struggle on the outside by the Black man is affecting, and infecting the Black man who is on the inside of that structure. I hope you understand what I'm trying to say.

The newly awakened people all over the world pose a problem for what's known as Western interests, which is imperialism, colonialism, racism, and all these other negative -isms or vulturistic -isms. Just as the external forces pose a grave threat, they can now see that the internal forces pose an even greater threat. But the internal forces pose an even greater threat only when they have properly analyzed the situation and know what the stakes really are."

Excerpt from "After the Firebombing – Ford Auditorium" – Detroit, Michigan – February 14, 1965

The Newspaper Of
FIRE THIS TIME
MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
www.firethistime.net
 Volume 17 Issue 4-5
 May-June 2023
 Published Monthly

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

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For Fire This Time in your area across BC, Canada, and Internationally contact Publicity and Distribution Coordinator Andrew Barry
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Fire This Time Newspaper is written, produced and distributed entirely by volunteer labour and printed in Burnaby, Greater Vancouver, Canada

ISSN-1712-1817

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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.



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OUR HERITAGE



Evelyn Reed

(October 31, 1905 - March 22, 1979)

Revolutionary leader and
women's revolutionary theorist

"It is not nature, but class society, which robbed women of their right to participate in the higher functions of society and placed the primary emphasis upon their animal functions of maternity. And this robbery was perpetrated through a two-fold myth. On the one side, motherhood is represented as a biological affliction arising out of the maternal organs of women. Alongside this vulgar materialism, motherhood is represented as being something almost mystical. To console women for their status as second-class citizens, mothers are sanctified, endowed with halos and blessed with special "instincts," feelings and knowledge forever beyond the comprehension of men. Sanctity and degradation are simply two sides of the same coin of the social robbery of women under class society.

But class society did not always exist; it is only a few thousand years old. Men were not always the superior sex, for they were not always the industrial, intellectual and cultural leaders. Quite the contrary. In primitive society, where women were neither sanctified nor degraded, it was the women who were the social and cultural leaders.

Excerpt from "The Myth of Women's Inferiority" (1954)

Battle of Ideas Press

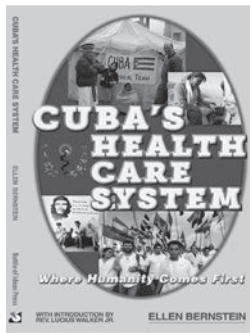
CUBA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WHERE HUMANITY COMES FIRST

BY ELLEN BERNSTEIN

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

Ellen Bernstein has served as Associate Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) since 2003.

She has been a key staff member of IFCO's project Pastors for Peace, and has been deeply and integrally involved in IFCO's historic work with Cuba.



September 2010, paperback, 149 pages, illustrated, \$6.00
ISBN 978-0-9864716-2-9 | Copyright © 2010 by Battle of Ideas Press
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Hey President Biden,
**CUBA IS NOT A
'SPONSOR OF
TERRORISM'!**
**REMOVE
CUBA FROM
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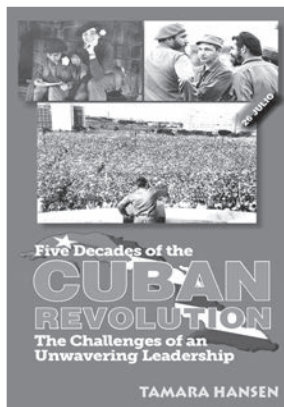
POSTCARD CAMPAIGN CUBA IS NOT A SPONSOR OF TERROR!

New postcard campaign initiated by Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB) & NY-NJ Cuba Si Coalition calling for Cuba to be removed from the State Sponsors of Terrorism List.

For more details, check out www.vancubavsbokade.org or email NoBloqueoVancouver@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.

April 2010, paperback, \$10.00
314 pages, illustrated,
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Revolution & Counter Revolution in Venezuela



In the struggle between revolution and counter-revolution
in Venezuela which side are you on?

Alison Bodine

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.

October 2017, paperback, \$10.00
190 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9864716-5-0
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- Pinata
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**Vancouver Monthly
Car Caravan to: Lift the US
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**President Biden take Cuba off the
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Part of #OffTheList International Day of Action
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In Solidarity With:



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#OffTheList
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 #PuentesDeAmor
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 Vancouver (Vancouver, Canada)



Isel Catzadilla Acosta
 Coordinator of the Isabelas,
 the first group of lesbian
 and bisexual women in Cuba
 (Santiago, Cuba)



«Por Todas las familias, el amor es ley»
«For all families, love is the law»

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