

# FIRE THIS TIME

Volume 18 August - September 2026

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## STOP GENOCIDE IN GAZA NOW!



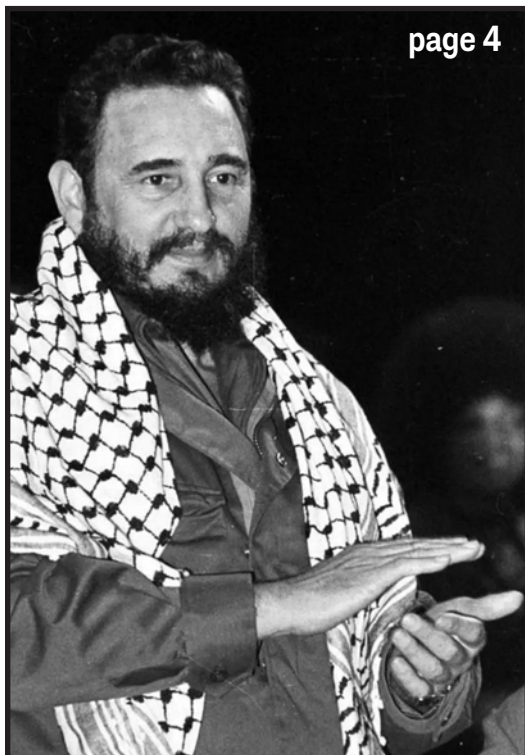
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## FREE MADURO AND CILIA.

#LOSQUEREMOSDEVUELTA





# DECLINE OF IMPERIALISM, U.S./ ISRAEL WAR AND GENOCIDE, AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS

## BUILDING A MASS MOVEMENT TO STOP WAR, OCCUPATION AND GENOCIDE

**By Janine Solanki**

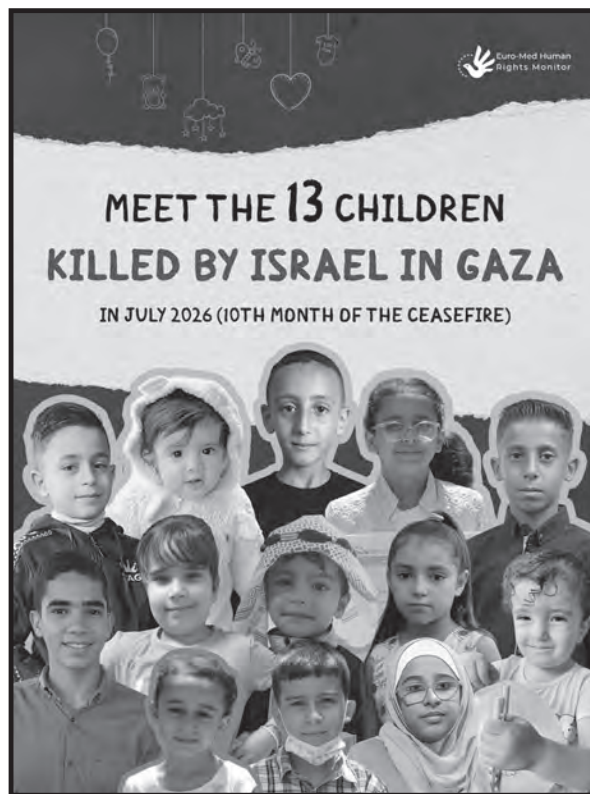
When the Zionist Israeli genocide against Palestinians in Gaza began on October 7, 2023, antiwar activists, organizers and many new to the movement answered the urgent call to come to the streets in solidarity and defence of Palestine. After over 100 years of resistance, October 7 marked the critical moment in the struggle for the liberation and self-determination of Palestine. Now, after nearly three years of genocide in Gaza, the unfathomable brutality of the Zionist and imperialist war machine has been laid bare, as Zionist Israeli and the US conduct genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity on a daily basis. From the continued genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, to escalating violence and land annexation in the West Bank, to an expanding war drive against Lebanon, Iran, Yemen and Iraq, the time to resist war and genocide is now. Despite the horrors people worldwide have witnessed on their social media feeds and news clips, the last three years have also been incredibly inspiring. A consistent and militant worldwide movement continues to bring people onto the street, with millions taking part worldwide. Flotillas have sailed the Mediterranean Sea with activists fully aware that they risked capture, torture and potentially death at the hands of Zionist forces. Over 3070 people were arrested in Britain, many elderly and disabled, for the simple act of civil disobedience by holding signs saying “I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action”. Students held encampments at universities across the US, Canada and worldwide, and especially in the US, the “belly of the beast”, students and activists have faced unlawful arrests, detentions

and deportation threats. Italian dock workers staged major port blockades and general strikes to show their support for Palestine, and to halt weapons shipments to Israel. People of all ages, all religions, all ideologies have been compelled to stand on the side of humanity, and the side of Palestine. With the many different interpretations of the best demand to use, the best action program to practice, Palestine has united the world on the fact

### The humanity under attack

The Palestinian struggle for freedom and liberation has radicalized millions upon millions of people worldwide, thousands of miles away from Palestine and Gaza. The struggle in Palestine and throughout the wider region has pushed hundreds of millions of working and oppressed people to participate in political action, and to examine their own oppression, the necessity to fight for our democratic and human rights, especially in imperialist countries. We are clearly witnessing that the worldwide mass movement to support the Palestinian struggle and Palestinian rights is moving to a higher stage of a powerful anti-imperialist movement. Hundreds of millions of people have not only questioned and scrutinized the genocidal acts of Israel but also of the US, Canada, and Europe too.

In nearly three years of genocide in Gaza, the world has seen how far the US imperialists will go to keep Israel afloat, even while the Zionist project is disintegrating. The world public opinion is firmly against Zionist Israel after seeing the brutality of the Zionist regime. Israel has seen record numbers of people fleeing and a rare negative migration balance, as well as a “brain drain” of skilled professionals. Reports from April 2025 show that over 100,000 Israelis have stopped showing up for military reserve duty. In a society that tries to normalize soldiers doing target practice on children, Israelis are increasingly turning to drugs as addiction rates are on the rise and high-risk substance use has reached one in four Israelis. Israel’s false veil of security, safety and so-called invincibility was forever broken when October 7, 2023 proved that there cannot be “peace” on occupied land, and there is



Infographic series from [euromedmonitor.org](http://euromedmonitor.org) introduces the 13 Gazan children killed by Zionist Israel in July 2026, during a supposed ceasefire.

that divisions have to be overcome to work together against the brutality inflicted on the steadfast Palestinian people in Gaza. We have been part of a moment that transcended political ideologies and united so many people on the basis of humanity and justice.



no going back.

The question becomes, why are the US and other imperialist countries, including Canada, not only complicit in genocide but are directly funding and arming Israel, supporting Israel politically and brutally cracking down on activists in their home countries? Why has the US not only supported Israel's genocide in Gaza and expansion of land grabs and raids in the West Bank, but also launched a war on Iran? Why has Zionist Israel overextended itself to occupy parts of Syria, occupy southern Lebanon and launch ongoing bombing campaigns against Lebanon? Why are the US and Saudi Arabia opening further attacks on Yemen and Iraq?

### **October 7, 2023, absolute change of paradigm**

October 7, 2023 might have started with the existential resistance of Palestinians for whom life under occupation was becoming impossible, to an existential crisis of imperialism itself. US imperialists have shown how desperately they need their foothold of Israel in West Asia, a military base, a fake state which has been instrumental in the last 20 years of the US conducting wars and occupations against Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Libya. However, as the Palestinian resistance has shaken the US hold on West Asia, the necessity of US imperialists to gain total hegemony of West Asia has become indisputable for the U.S. imperialism in decline. The US imperialist ruling class are feeling the decline in their influence, both politically and economically, while the rising economic powers of Russia and China have imposed a second Cold War on the US - one that can decisively shake and unseat the US dominant position in the world.

### **Iran, the critical point and game changer of West Asia and the world**

One major unrefutable obstacle to US control of West Asia is Iran, which for 47 years since the Iranian revolution of 1979 has exercised self-determination, sovereignty and independence strongly. Even under crippling US, EU and UN sanctions, Iran has developed into a modern state socially, politically, militarily, culturally and technologically, which sends a message to all West Asian



**Top to bottom: Vancouver, Canada; Seoul, Korea; & Sanaa, Yemen all rally in the streets for Palestine**

home front disrupt the imperialists from conducting their genocides and wars in "peace."

### **Building a robust mass protest movement against war and imperialism**

For political organizers, the true task is not just to mobilize people in protests. Of course, that would be easy; nonetheless, it would be ineffective in the long run. The critical question is how to take a spontaneous movement and direct it towards an organized movement, with clear political understanding and healthy, disciplined organizations that can respond to the period we see unfolding before us. Where the mass movement from spontaneous transforms into a conscious movement with the natural development of its own organic leadership. When we understand that this war is existential to US imperialism in decline, we understand that this is our long-term movement confronting expanding wars, occupations, bombing campaigns, and genocide, as the US is not going down without a fight.

The challenge to build an organized, educated, and constantly mobilized movement is no small task. It requires that, together with consistent protest and action, organizers work to educate the movement politically to sustain a long-term movement. Why? Because the imperialist ruling classes and their corporate backers are fundamentally organized, disciplined, and mobilized against us. They are institutionalized, structured, programmed, connected, disciplined and deployable at any time from police to secret police, from army to navy, and from parliament to cabinet.

*Continued on page 9*



# CELEBRATE 100

## 100 YEARS OF COMANDANTE FIDEL CASTRO

**By Tamara Hansen**

On August 13, 2026, many working and oppressed people will join people in Cuba, Canada, and around the world to mark the 100th birthday of Comandante Fidel Castro

Ruz, leader of the Cuban revolution. While Comandante Fidel is no longer here with us physically, his ideas and revolutionary spirit live on as much needed guidance for all those who claim the title of revolutionary today.

Through the ups and downs of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro's consistent revolutionary leadership, method, and vision inspired the Cuban people to push forward with its revolutionary socialist project. Since 1959, Cuba's challenges have been confronted and overcome through the mobilization, pressure, and dedication of the Cuban people, but also through the clear foresight of Comandante Fidel and Cuba's revolutionary government. While many debate and dispute the role that a single individual can play in history, Fidel's tremendous impact on world events is indisputable.

Comandante Fidel taught us to defend the right of oppressed nations to self-determination, especially against U.S.

imperialism. During the 90 years of his extraordinary life, Comandante Fidel outlasted 10 U.S. presidents (11 if counting President Obama). He also



Fidel Castro's speech, on May 1, 1962, at the Plaza de la Revolución in Havana.

survived over 600 assassination attempts orchestrated by the U.S. government and the CIA. Comandante Fidel's unwavering leadership has encouraged the Cuban people to stand with dignity for over 65 years against the unjust and illegal U.S. blockade on Cuba. Cubans continue to stand defiant and independent today in the face of 8 months of an intense and genocidal oil blockade and siege by the Trump administration on Cuba's economy and people.

Millions of people around the world respect and admire Fidel Castro for his decisive and revolutionary role not only in Cuba but internationally with his steadfast

*#100AñosConFidel*

*#Fidel*

*#Fidel99*

*#FidelVive*

*#NuestroFidel*

*#100YearsWith Fidel*

support of Palestine, Western Sahara, and the liberation struggles of oppressed people everywhere. Comandante Fidel dreamed the impossible and then did the work to make it happen. This is illustrated in his leadership in just a few key examples: Cuba's victorious literacy campaign, the Henry Reeve Brigade and

Cuba's medical internationalism, and the battle against South African apartheid forces at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola, Africa.

Comandante Fidel conducted a lifelong struggle to provide us with a framework of revolutionary leadership. He did not want to be held up as an unattainable dream, but as a down-to-earth leader that we should all aspire to be more like.

Fidel showed

us what we can achieve when we join the working-class struggle with moral integrity, while prioritizing unity and humanity.

Now is the time for all of us to work together to keep up the fight against U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and capitalism. We must continue the fight towards the better world we know is possible and necessary. This is how we best honour 100 years with Comandante Fidel and the legacy of this tireless, humble, and one of a kind revolutionary.

# CANADA'S SHAMEFUL ABSTENTION DURING CUBA VOTE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Canadian Network on Cuba vehemently condemns the decision by the Canadian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to abstain on the vote to decide whether to proceed with a debate on “the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.”

On Tuesday, July 7th, the world overwhelmingly voted in favour of holding the debate, with 136 countries voting in favour of opening up the discussion despite procedural outbursts from the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. This result once again demonstrates that the vast majority of the world still recognizes the U.S. blockade on Cuba for what it is: a genocidal act of war that violates every principle of international law and the UN Charter.

While 9 countries voted against holding the debate, including the United States, Israel and Ukraine, Canada was among the 30 countries who abstained. This shameful and cowardly act is but another sign that the Carney government, despite its lip service to Canadian sovereignty and independence from the United States, is in fact in lock step with U.S. foreign policy. This capitulation to U.S. demands comes amidst stalled talks on renewing USMCA but it is unclear what influence this has had on Canada's abstention.

Last week, Cuba's Foreign Affairs Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parilla reported that the United States government has been working behind the scenes to pressure countries on how to vote, and to follow

the talking points provided or remain silent altogether. A three-page letter was circulated to U.S. embassies around the world by Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, titled “E n g a g i n g UN member states on July 7 UN General A s s e m b l y open debate on Cuba.” The letter warned that countries who dared to speak honestly about the blockade would “create friction in our bilateral relations.”

Canada's diplomatic relationship with Cuba since the 1959 revolution has been complicated, but the vote of July 7 is part of a disturbing trend towards a reversal of Canada's historical position. It also raises concerns about the annual UNGA vote to condemn the U.S. blockade on Cuba that takes place every October. For all 31 years that this vote has taken place,

Canada has always aligned itself with the overwhelming majority of the world in condemning the blockade. If this were to change in 2026, it would represent a devastating blow to Canada-Cuba relations and to Canada's independence.

# Despite Rubio's Pressure, UN Holds Cuba Debate

[illegible]

It is important that Canadians let their elected officials know that we stand with Cuba against the unprecedented attacks by the Trump administration on Cuba's sovereignty. We must remind them that what the U.S. does to Cuba, they can do to any country, including Canada, unless the world collectively takes a stand.

The Canadian Network on Cuba will be rolling out its No War on Cuba campaign this summer and into the fall, leading up to the UNGA vote on condemning the blockade on October 31st. Join us in calling on our government to do the right thing and once again condemn this genocidal act.

*From: canadiannetworkoncuba.ca*





# Join the Struggle!

By **Tania Rojas**  
& **Janine Solanki**

Metro Vancouver United for Palestine (MVUP) is a coalition of organizations, activists and individuals working together for Palestine. Formed in December 2024, MVUP emerged to rebuild the Palestine solidarity movement in Metro Vancouver and meet the need for united, consistent and focused action for Palestine. MVUP brings together people of all faiths, backgrounds and political ideologies in a united front against genocidal Israel and Zionism.

MVUP's work has continued to evolve in response to the expansion of the U.S. and Israeli aggression across Palestine and West Asia. As U.S. imperialism escalated its campaign of aggression against Iran, Lebanon and Yemen, MVUP extended its organizing and activities in solidarity with countries under imperialist attack and their united response called the Axis of Resistance to the imperialist military attacks.

As long as Gaza remains under siege and genocide, as long as the West Bank remains under attack, as long as the Zionist occupation of Palestine continues, as long as Lebanon faces bombardment and occupation, and as long as the United States threatens and attacks Iran, the responsibility of those standing in solidarity is clear. MVUP has an important role within the international movement in solidarity with the countries under attack in West Asia. The task is to organize, educate, mobilize and bring more people into the movement while building a force capable of challenging imperialist wars and occupations, and contributing to the worldwide struggle for justice, liberation and peace.

## We're on the street, we're in action

Over the past few months, MVUP has

expanded its organizing beyond weekly rallies. On April 12, 2025, the coalition joined tens of thousands of people across Canada for a National Day of Action for Palestine. MVUP organized a bus and carpools for more than one hundred people from Vancouver to Victoria to join the rally and march outside the BC Legislature, demanding an end to Canada's support for the Israeli genocide in Gaza. On September 16 and 23, 2025, coalition members and supporters joined activists in more than 100 cities worldwide for coordinated one-day hunger strikes in solidarity with Gaza and the Palestinian people.



MVUP activists march in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery on July 4, 2026.

A major recent initiative was "Two Weeks of Action: Two Years of Genocide, Two Years of Resistance", held from October 4-18, 2025. The two weeks included regular weekly rallies alongside a poetry night, a film and discussion night, a webinar, a walk for Gaza, and two banner drops over popular bridges in Vancouver.

MVUP has also worked alongside international coalitions and movements through coordinated international days of action. The coalition joined the International Day of Action to Stop U.S./Israeli War on Iran, the International Day of Action marking 78 years of the ongoing Nakba, International Al Quds Day, and actions marking Palestinian Land Day. Through these coordinated efforts, MVUP has joined hundreds of organizations and people around the world

in demonstrating that the struggle for Palestine is an international struggle.

## Our strategy: Building a powerful mass movement in Canada and worldwide

These actions are not isolated events. They are part of the broader task of building a sustained and united movement capable of confronting genocide, occupation and imperialist aggression wherever it appears. As the attacks on Palestine, Lebanon, Iran and Yemen continue, the task before the



movement is to keep organizing, keep growing and keep bringing more people into the struggle.

The MVUP struggle and organizing does not have millions of dollars for media campaigns. Still, it has something far more powerful: millions of people around the world standing for Palestine, Iran,

Lebanon, and Yemen. Zionists and imperialists, particularly the U.S., who are bombing and killing tens of thousands of innocent people and using their media to manipulate, deceive, and justify their criminality, fear the power of a united and sustained mass movement built through continuous organizing and mobilizing week after week and month after month. The strategy of the antiwar and anti-imperialist movement must be to build a worldwide mass movement robust in numbers and in political demands and vision to defeat Zionist Israel and imperialists, including their ringleader, the U.S. We are the majority, we're strong, and we're determined to fight and win. We're not paralyzed by historical amnesia. We clearly remember the defeat of imperialism in Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Algeria, South Africa, Iraq, Afghanistan,



Yemen, and mighty Iran. The sumud of Palestinians and the heroic resistance of Iranians remind people everywhere that liberation is won through unity, united action, united front, perseverance, consistency, and an unwavering commitment to justice and to defeating genocidal Israel and imperialist powers.

### Until victory, we will fight back

In Vancouver, the commitment to sustained action endures. On August 15, 2026, MVUP will join the Palestinian Youth Movement's International Week of Action for Journalists Murdered in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. As journalists continue to be targeted for documenting the occupation, genocide and war, the action will stand in solidarity with those risking their lives to bring the truth to light and to demand accountability for these crimes.

MVUP rallies are every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Bring a friend. Bring family. Bring a neighbour. Help build antiwar and anti-occupation solidarity in Metro Vancouver. Join the struggle for justice, liberation and peace!



Every Saturday Echoes of Truth join the MVUP rally to educate the public about the 168 children killed in the U.S. bombing of a school in Minab, Iran. Scan the QR code below to sign the letter of Stars of Minab:

# MINAB 168 IRANIAN CHILDREN KILLED

*Every child is a star.*

*Every star is a story.*

*A memorial for the 168 elementary school girls of Minab, IRAN, martyred in missile attacks by the U.S. and Israel. Sign the "Stars of Minab" letter. Raise your voice. Never forget.*



## US MILITARY SKIPPED STANDARD INTELLIGENCE REVIEW AFTER STRIKE ON MINAB SCHOOL IN IRAN

- CNN EXCLUSIVE



AL MAYADEEN  
ENGLISH



SOM  
Stars Of Minab



Show your  
support for the  
children of Minab

Scan to sign the petition



From Al Mayadeen English on July 17, 2026, "CNN reported that the US military has not conducted a standard intelligence review into the strike that hit the Shajareh Tayyebah school in Minab, Iran, despite initial assessments indicating that the US was responsible for the attack.

According to three sources familiar with the matter, the first two stages of a "battle damage assessment" were completed within a week of the strike, but a third-stage review, which typically involves a comprehensive analysis of satellite imagery and intelligence data to determine the broader impact and possible failures by the DIA, had not been ordered as of early July."





Vancouver, Canada on July 4, 2026

## CANADA MUST WITHDRAW FROM NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO) AND CANCEL THE NATO WAR BANK

As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's summit in Ankara, Türkiye comes to a close on July 8, 2025, the Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network is calling for Canada to withdraw from the U.S.-led military alliance and to cancel plans to establish NATO's war bank, the Defence, Security and Resilience Bank (DSRB).

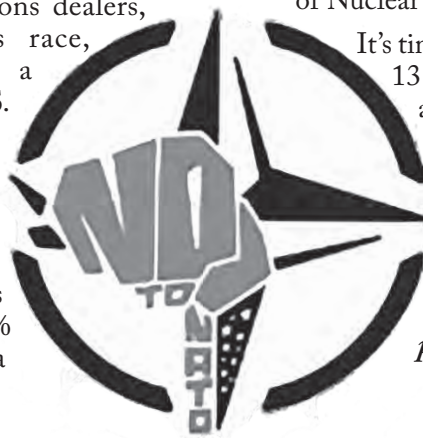
NATO is recklessly driving up Canada's military spending for weapons procurement and warfighting capabilities while more Canadians are living in poverty and are homeless.

According to NATO's latest Defence Expenditures report, Canada's military spending has increased from \$23 billion in 2015 to \$63 billion in 2025, which has diverted public funding away from crucial social programs and climate action. To reach NATO's 2% GDP target, the Carney government has issued layoff notices to thousands of federal employees and slashed funding to programs and services that help Canadians.

The Carney government has irresponsibly endorsed the NATO Defence Pledge to further increase military spending to 5% of GDP by 2035. The Parliamentary Budget Officer estimated that the 5% pledge

would mean spending \$159 billion/year on the military and would weaken the government's economic position.

NATO's shameful demand for higher military spending and more weapons is enriching weapons dealers, fueling an arms race, and threatening a global war. As U.S. Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker stated, "NATO is returning to its war-fighting roots. Allies must turn the 5% commitment into a capacity to fight."



NATO is not a defensive alliance, but a war machine that has destroyed the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Ukraine and violated the United Nations' Charter.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has admitted that NATO is using Ukraine as a proxy in a war against Russia. NATO allies armed Israel in its genocide against Palestinians. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte recently revealed that allies allowed the U.S. to use their European bases to conduct illegal air strikes against Iran.

As a NATO ally, Canada is complicit in this warmaking that has caused mass civil death and destruction. Moreover, NATO prevents Canada from having an independent foreign policy and sovereign control over its budget and territory. This costly, carbon-intensive military bloc is also impeding international cooperation and exacerbating the climate crisis.

Canada must not create the NATO war bank to ramp up weapons production and arms exports. Canada should instead invest in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement to protect people and the planet. Canada should also sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

It's time for Canada to invoke Article 13 of the North Atlantic Treaty and get out of NATO. It's time to abolish the U.S.-led, nuclear-armed alliance, end the wars, and build peace with all countries including Russia and China.

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



Hamilton, Canada on July 4, 2026



Working people, oppressed people and activists too; without a cool head, patience, non-violence, political clarity, consistency, an action program and leadership, the movement risks disruption, demoralization, and confusion.

The importance of leadership in the antiwar and Palestine solidarity movement cannot be overstated. It requires organizers not to just plan the actions they like to do or find excitement in the moment. They must consider their responsibility to maintain the confidence and trust of those attending actions, to both respond to the situation of politics internationally while taking the best course of action to bring people together locally. On the one hand, organizing without militancy and without protest makes for toothless activities that do not effectively oppose the war and genocide, and demoralize activists who don't see an avenue to protest the injustice they witness on their screens every day. On the other hand, organizing disruption actions without a large enough movement and clear and disciplined planning can be a grave mistake that isolates the movement and opens the space for police and other government agencies to intervene. In any movement building, numbers are the decisive factor, and an organizer must ask themselves if their action serves to unite and bring people together, or divide and fracture the movement.

The biggest enemy of a movement is division, and every movement has seen attempts to divide it, both from those who do not understand the importance of unity and from those whose motivations are highly suspicious. Organizing to protect the movement against bad actors goes hand-in-hand with the importance of building a movement that is not poisoned by suspicion, fear, and distrust, but rather builds an atmosphere of collaboration, unity and motivation. Gossip, division, slander and smear campaigns are the tools and methodology

of the police and government, not of the working class and oppressed people. The best way to combat movements falling to division and sectarianism is to organize on the basis of inclusivity and unity, to put aside differences to work within common ground and interest, in a united front. While there will always be disagreements, whether political, organizational or personal, these should be dealt with politically and conducted to foster a culture of respectful dialogue and



A man pulls a boy on a cart on a destroyed street in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip on May 2, 2024.

critical analysis.

### **We are realists; we dream the impossible**

All of these critical tasks for the leadership of antiwar organizations come down to a simple and important formula. The question that should inform every action, every demand, every chant comes down to, "What puts our movement in a better position to bring more people together, to advance our political understanding, and equip our movement with the tools that will keep us organizing, mobilizing, and fighting in the long run? In a broader and more strategic outlook, we must ask ourselves, "What puts the working and oppressed people in a better position to fight against the ruling class at home and imperialism abroad?"

When we build a consistent, strong and united Palestine solidarity and antiwar movement, free of division, with political clarity, we are strengthening our ability to fight back against Zionist and imperialist attacks on Palestine, on Iran, on Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and on all of West Asia. We are building a movement that defends activists and organizers here at home within imperialist countries, advancing all of our civil and democratic rights, which are under attack. We are seeing a

turning point in the world today, and at this critical juncture, Palestine has ignited the struggle, and Iran has intensified it, for self-determination, liberation, justice, humanity, and dignity. Together we can and will win a better world.



**CHECK OUT**  
the next issues of  
**Fire This Time** for  
a series of articles  
on **Revolution and**  
**Counterrevolution**  
in West Asia from  
Palestine, to Iran,  
to Lebanon, and  
Yemen by **Fire**  
**This Time** political  
editor **Ali Yerevani**.

## **Battle of Ideas Press**

Revolution & Counter Revolution  
in Venezuela



### **By Alison Bodine**

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October 2017, paperback, \$10.00  
190 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9864716-5-0  
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# US HANDS OFF VENEZUELA! DECLINING U.S. IMPERIALISM ATTACKING LATIN AMERICA! YANKEE GO HOME!

**By Alison Bodine**

In the early hours of January 3, 2026, the U.S. Trump administration launched a brutal bombing attack on Venezuela, killing more than 100 people. 32 of the people murdered in the United States invasion that day were Cuban citizens serving in Venezuela. In a blatant violation of international law, U.S. forces also abducted Venezuelan President Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores. During the criminal attack, more than 150 U.S. military bombers, fighter jets and helicopters launched deadly strikes against seven sites in Venezuela, targeting military and civilian infrastructure.

This escalation to direct war against Venezuela came after over 11 years of severe economic sanctions on the country, and months of increasing U.S. military build-up in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean. By January 3, 2026, the U.S. had imposed a naval blockade on Venezuela, and U.S. airstrikes against fishing boats in the region had killed at least 115 people.

The January 3, 2026, U.S. assault and the kidnapping of Venezuela's Presidential couple was a violation of Venezuela's self-determination and sovereignty, and international law.

## **The Kidnapping of President Maduro and Cilia Flores**

Despite what the U.S. government claims, when President Maduro and Cilia Flores were violently abducted from Venezuela by U.S. Special Forces, they were elected representatives of the sovereign will of the

people of Venezuela. President Maduro was democratically elected as President to his third term in office in July 2024. Cilia Flores has served as a member of Venezuela's National Assembly for several terms since the year 2000. She was democratically elected to her most recent term in 2021.

Since their kidnapping, President Maduro and Cilia Flores have been imprisoned in the Manhattan Detention Center on trumped-up "narco-terrorism" and drug and weapons charges. Charges to which they have both pleaded not guilty. Following multiple delays in the legal process to date, during the most recent legal hearing on July 22, 2026, U.S. District Court Judge Alvin Hellerstein announced that the trial would begin on June 1, 2027. This signifies that the U.S. government intends to keep the Venezuelan President and First Lady behind bars for at least another year as they attempt to build a case around their bogus and flimsy charges.

To add insult to injury, it was not until April 2026, three months since their kidnapping, that the U.S. government allowed the government of Venezuela to pay for President Maduro and Cilia Flores' legal defence. This would be a clear violation of their rights to legal representation, as was successfully argued in court by President Maduro's Attorney Barry Pollack, who was also the attorney for WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange.

Regardless of whatever "evidence" the U.S. government eventually cobbles together, the imprisonment of the democratically

elected President and his wife has been illegal since they were kidnapped from Venezuelan territory. International law is clear - the U.S. government

has no legal basis to kidnap and imprison the President of any country. In doing so, the Trump administration has once again demonstrated its willingness to flagrantly violate not only the human rights of the Presidential couple, but the sovereignty of nations.

## **Escalating U.S. attacks on Venezuela, Latin America and the Caribbean**

By the time of the January 3 U.S. attack on Venezuela, a dangerous U.S. military escalation in the Caribbean, concentrated on Venezuela's shores, was already well underway. Since August 2025, the Trump Administration had been amassing warships, fighter jets, and military personnel throughout the Caribbean, reaching a total of more than 10,000 troops in the region by November of that year. By December 2025, the U.S. warships formed a naval blockade off Venezuela's coast, attempting to stop all shipments of Venezuelan oil.

On September 2, 2025, the U.S. launched the first of many deadly airstrikes against fishing boats operating off Venezuela's shores and in the region. As of August 2026, these extrajudicial killings by the United States in the Caribbean and East Pacific have killed over 250 people. The Trump Administration has claimed that these fishermen were targeted because they are drug traffickers linked to criminal organizations it has labelled as "Foreign Terrorist Organizations". However, each one of these attacks is an act of state-sponsored murder, where the victims have been denied due process.

Although the January 3 bombing and invasion of Venezuela was the culmination of increasing U.S. attacks on Venezuela's sovereignty and self-determination, the scope of the U.S. threats was not limited to Venezuela alone. Through its military build-up against Venezuela, the U.S. was also positioning itself for increasing interventions, wars and occupations elsewhere in Latin America and the Caribbean, which today is also evident in the increasingly blatant U.S. intervention in elections in the region, and the escalating U.S. war on Cuba. The broader





scope of these increasing imperialist attacks is further evidenced in the policy documents of the U.S. government itself.

On November 27, 2025, John Bolton, who was ambassador to the United Nations under former U.S. President George W. Bush and a national security adviser under Trump's first term, wrote an opinion piece in the Washington Post which began with "The Venezuelan people have every reason to overthrow Nicolas Maduro's repressive, corrupt, failing regime. The pervasive presence and influence of Russia, China and Iran in Venezuela add compelling national security reasons for the United States and other Western Hemisphere neighbours to help. Maduro's dictatorship has no redeeming social value."

The United States is beginning to lose its total control over West Asia, which can be observed in the failure of the U.S. to defeat Iran in the current war and the continued resistance of Palestinians against U.S./Israeli genocide. Hence, the U.S. attempted to increase its grip on Latin America and the Caribbean, which the United States considers to be its "backyard". The need to establish hegemony in the Western hemisphere is especially vital to the U.S. in the face of the increasing presence of China, Russia and Iran in the region.

### **Venezuela in the Crosshairs**

Venezuela has been in the crosshairs of United States imperialism since 1998, when the country established its sovereignty and independence from U.S. foreign policy with the election of Comandante Hugo Chávez. Since then, U.S. administrations from George W. Bush to Barack Obama, to Joe Biden and current President Trump, have all attempted to overthrow the government of Venezuela and reverse the Bolivarian revolutionary process that it represents. The U.S. government has used attempted coups d'état and assassinations, covert and overt military operations, sanctions and blockades, and, as of January 3, 2026, bombing, military invasion, and kidnapping.

Former U.S. President Obama cleared the way for a brutal sanctions campaign against Venezuela when he passed an Executive Order declaring Venezuela a "unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." With this declaration,

*Continued on page 21*

## **Return Venezuela's Stolen Wealth for Full Quake Recovery**

We extend our full solidarity and condolences to the Venezuelan people as they grapple with the human tragedy caused by the twin earthquakes of June 24, 2026. We applaud emergency aid to rescue those under the rubble and meet the needs of the living victims.

This natural disaster comes on top of the U.S. invasion and kidnapping of the president in January, several months of extrajudicial killings in Venezuela's territorial waters, years of deadly U.S. sanctions, and the theft of Venezuela's assets overseas.

In order to allow Venezuela to rebuild and recover from this disaster, we demand that the United States:

- Fully and permanently lift all sanctions on Venezuela;
- Return Venezuela's oil revenues to the Venezuelan government;
- Unfreeze all of Venezuela's overseas assets—including billions in gold and other currencies held at the Bank of England and elsewhere;
- Free President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores from the U.S. jail where they are being illegally held as political prisoners; and
- Refrain from using disaster relief as an excuse for military occupation.

The U.S. government's pretense of friendship to Venezuela rings hollow, after years of U.S. sanctions and military aggression have caused several tens of thousands of deaths. U.S. assistance for reconstruction will be paltry compared to the massive heist it has perpetrated against the country through assets theft and sanctions. What Venezuela needs for post-earthquake reconstruction is the return of the billions of dollars the U.S. government and its allies have stolen.

**It is time to return to Venezuela what rightfully belongs to Venezuela.**

**Leading Organizers from the Following Organizations and the individuals listed below support this statement to return Venezuela's stolen wealth.**

**ADD YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP  
TO CIRCULATE THIS STATEMENT.  
ADD YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP TO  
CIRCULATE THIS STATEMENT.**



### **Organizations:**

SanctionsKill/Americas Without Sanctions, United National Anti-war Coalition (UNAC), Venezuela Solidarity Network, Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition, National Network on Cuba, Black Alliance for Peace, Task Force on the Americas, CODEPINK, US Peace Council, Veterans For Peace, CUNY for Palestine, Popular Resistance, Resist US-Led War Movement, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Diaspora Palante Collective, Rights Action U.S./Canada, Alliance for Global Justice, Anti War Action Network, Cuba and the Bolivarian Alliance Committee WILPF-US, Louis Riel Bolivarian Circle of Toronto, Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Struggle for Socialism Party, People's Power Assembly, Just Peace Advocates/Mouvement Pour Une Paix Juste, Canadian BDS Coalition, International BDS Allies, Brooklyn Against War, Bronx Antiwar, Workers World Party, Rights Action – U.S./Canada, International Action Center

### **Individuals:**

Nick Estes, The Red Nation; Cira Pascual Marquina, Popular Educator and Author; Ricardo Vaz, Venezuelanalysis; Jesús Rodríguez, Orinoco Tribune; Cindy Domingo, US Women and Cuba Collaboration; Steve Ellner, Associate Managing Editor of Latin American Perspectives; Joe Emersberger, writer; Lucy Pagoza, Voices of Resistance on WBAI; Gloria Guillo, Uncontrolled Opposition Podcast;

(This statement was initiated by the SanctionsKill Campaign.)



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF COMANDANTE FIDEL CASTRO



FIRETHISTIME.NET





# Veterans for Peace: Don't Attack Cuba!

*Fire This Time is printing this educational statement from Veteran For Peace (VFP) which condemns the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's recent so-called report "Cuba: the capital of 21st century communism." It is important to hear voices from within the United States who are speaking out clearly against the criminal foreign policy of the U.S. government. VFP especially represents the voices of U.S. war veterans who have decided to take a courageous stance towards opposing the U.S. government's imperialist war drive.*



t a k e  
this very  
seriously.

Veterans For Peace condemns the recent report by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, accusing Cuba of interfering in the internal affairs of the U.S. and, conversely, accusing U.S. peace and solidarity activists of being agents of a foreign country, Cuba. Talk about turning things on their head!

It is the U.S. that has waged an economic war against Cuba for 64 years with a blockade that prevents it from normal trade relations with the U.S. and other countries, stunts its economic development, and denies it access to medicines and other essentials.

It is the U.S. CIA that organized a failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961, setting the stage for the 1962 Cuban missile crisis that almost led to a nuclear war. It is the U.S. that is currently enforcing a deadly oil embargo on Cuba, and it is the U.S. president and secretary of state who are openly threatening a U.S. military invasion of Cuba. What has Cuba ever done to the U.S.? Cuba is being punished for declaring its independence from U.S. imperialism and for attempting to develop a socialist economic model that is not based on exploitation and profiteering.

We reject the Trump administration's sudden return to "anti-communism" as a means of undermining the credibility of its political opponents — whether from the Democratic Party or actual left-wing organizations. If this is an attempt to intimidate those who are organizing for a just and peaceful world, it will not work. We will not be intimidated. If Trump's and Rubio's sudden obsession with "communists" and "political terrorists" is telegraphing their intention for a clampdown on dissent in the U.S., we

Will the racist ICE\* attacks on people of color be expanded to suppress all political dissent? Will the private prisons built with ICE's billions become concentration camps for peace activists? Will the pretext of foreign interference be used to cancel or undermine the midterm elections? Will illegal and unpopular U.S. wars abroad be accompanied by fascist repression in the United States?

As veterans and active duty military, we swore an oath to "defend the U.S. Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic." We take this oath very seriously — more so than ever as the domestic enemies of our democracy ominously rear their ugly heads. We will resist.

Many Veterans For Peace members have visited Cuba, and we have made friends in Cuba. We are very concerned that the U.S. blockade — made even more devastating by Trump's oil blockade — is causing great suffering in Cuba, including many needless deaths. We reiterate our longtime demand for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Veterans For Peace will not be intimidated. We stand in solidarity with Cuba and with all those who struggle for human rights and democracy in the U.S. We will support active-duty military members who refuse to participate in an illegal invasion of Cuba. We also encourage service members to refuse illegal orders to support racist ICE raids or to suppress our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and assembly in the U.S. Peace at Home, Peace Abroad!

*\*ICE: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*

*From: [veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)*

## OUR HERITAGE



**Haydée Santamaría**  
1922-1980

*Haydée Santamaría is a fundamental leader of the Cuban Revolution. She and Melba Hernández were the two women who participated in the assault on the Moncada Army Barracks on July 26, 1953. Led by Fidel Castro, the assault was a military failure, but it is credited as the spark that lit the flame of the Cuban Revolution. Haydée survived prison and was a founder of the 26th of July Movement, which led the Cuban Revolution to victory in 1959. She founded and directed, "La Casa de las Américas", which became the most important cultural institution in Latin America. Haydée was also an original member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.*

"I AM NOT GOING TO SAY that we went to Moncada to make a socialist revolution. It is not so. We went there with the idea of making a change, so that better men might govern and so that men would not steal, but not exactly to make that change. Once there, I felt the change to be urgent. But if we went there without intending to make a radical change, it was to make some change, and it was to tell our people, our country: "There are those who die for the flag," for the same flag we have today, for the flag we love today.

We knew little about profound changes; we could not determine what the change would be when it came; but we knew that Fidel would determine what it would be like, and that we would make it what our people wanted it to be.

And we knew that our flag would continue to be our flag.

We went to Moncada as disciples of Martí. Today we are Marxists, but we have not abandoned Martí, for there is no contradiction."

*From "Moncada: Memories of the attack that launched the Cuban Revolution" (Lyle Smart Inc, 1980)*



# Celebrating Cuba's Moncada Day & The Gains of the Cuban Revolution!



By Tamara Hansen

On July 26, 2026, over 40 people gathered at the Britannia Community Centre in Vancouver, Canada, in Celebration of el Día de la Rebelión Nacional de Cuba or Cuba's National Rebellion Day. Also known as Moncada Day! The event was co-organized by Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver. Earlier in the day, organizers and supporters also participated in the monthly Vancouver Car Caravan for Cuba, driving through East Vancouver to share the demand to end the over 65-year U.S. blockade on Cuba.

## What is Cuba's Moncada Day?

On July 26, 1953, a young 26-year-old Fidel Castro led a group of revolutionaries in an initial attack against the U.S.-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Gathering at dawn, the young revolutionaries' target was the Moncada Army Barracks in Santiago de Cuba. They hoped to seize weapons and inspire the Cuban people to begin a revolution. While they did not achieve their goal that day, their heroic actions – and Fidel Castro's rousing courtroom speech, "History will absolve me" – inspired the Cuban people to push forward to the triumph of the revolution in 1959!

After years of struggle, on January 1, 1959, the U.S.-backed dictator fled Cuba, and the Cuban Revolution began with agrarian reform, literacy campaigns, housing projects, the creation of a universal healthcare system, support for the struggle against oppression and colonialism internationally, and much more. Over the past 73 years, Cuba's Moncada Day has become an important annual celebration in Cuba and around the world, as we celebrate the gains of the Cuban Revolution.

## A special Moncada Day in Vancouver,



Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba Moncada Day event on July 26, 2026.

## Canada...

The event began with an opening song and call to action by Coast Salish Elder, Kelly White. Kelly is a long-time social justice and Indigenous rights organizer and activist. Kelly has stood on the front lines in solidarity with Cuba and the worldwide revolution for many years. The event MC, Tamara Hansen, Coordinator of VCSC, also acknowledged that the event was held on the unceded and traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish & Tsleil-Waututh nations, and that while we fight for Cuba's self-determination, we must also continue supporting the struggle of Indigenous nations in Canada for their self-determination.

Folks enjoyed the potluck and shared some delicious food and conversation.

The event featured powerful poetry by revolutionary Nicaraguan organizer, Mayra Climaco, and VCSC's own Max Tennant. The audience then enjoyed a special taste of folk music with Electric Celt, with Andrew and Nicole dynamically performing a mix of Irish, Jazz, and contemporary protest songs. Cuban performer Lily Lao also shared some powerful Cuban classics as the audience sang along.

Speakers included Luis Paral from the Cuban community in Vancouver; the coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver;

and Janine Solanki, the coordinator of Metro Vancouver United for Palestine – MVUP. Each connected the history of Moncada Day to current challenges facing the Cuban people, including the Trump administration's attack and siege on Cuba, as well as Cuba's strong position against genocide in Gaza and for the self-determination of Palestine.

Soon it was time for the piñata and salsa dance lesson as the audience was invited to get active in the program. We then did the last call for raffle ticket sales, and some lucky folks went home with some amazing revolutionary Cuban prizes. The audience was finally serenaded by local environmental activist Hisao Ichikawa, who shared his interactive song in defence of Mother Nature!

As the evening drew to a close, everyone chanted: "¡ Viva Cuba! ¡Siempre es 26! ¡Viva la revolución Cubana!" Long live Cuba! It's always 26! Long live the Cuban revolution!

Everyone was invited back next month for 1 day of 2 actions for Cuba in Vancouver! Sunday, August 30 will be next month's Car Caravan, starting at 12:30 pm, and at 2:30pm there will be a picket action in front of the U.S. Consulate demanding an end to the criminal blockade on Cuba! The picket will feature speakers who have recently returned from travel to Cuba; join us!





*Ideas expressed by President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez in the 7th Ordinary Session of the Nacional Assembly of the People's Power, July 30, 2026. These highlights come from the Cuban Presidential Facebook page.*

### **Homage and Legacy of Ramiro Valdés**

"Ramiro, one of the symbols of the Revolution, a reference for an invaluable legacy of values and ethical, moral, and patriotic qualities that must be taken into account in such crucial moments for our Nation."

"Ramiro leaves us with an extraordinary legacy: dedicated in body and soul to the great work of what he was the founder of, working and fighting until his last breath, confirming to us that for a revolutionary, there is no rest, neither in action nor in dreams that inspire action."

### **International Context: Neofascism and Genocide**

"Since the military aggression against Venezuela and the kidnapping of its legitimate President on January 3 of this year, the conception of a world based on laws is being completely erased."

"The neofascist regime installed today in the U.S. reiterates, without remorse, some of the horrors that in the first half of the 20th century unleashed German fascism in its expansionist ambitions."

"We must not forget that part of the world turned its back when the horrors of genocide in Gaza unfolded... It is necessary and urgent to become aware of the gravity of the facts: any of our nations could once again become Gaza."

### **Cuba as "Situated Fortress": The Energy Siege**

"The months that have passed... have been

marked by an extremely complex and threatening scenario, typical of a besieged fortress."

"The genocide is being reenacted, over nine million Cubans, through an economic blockade and an energy blockade, which have brought the suffering of the Cuban people to extreme levels."

"They do not speak of the Executive Order signed by the U.S. president on January 29, 2026, in which he threatens

democratic manner, in consultation with the people, without compromising the independence, national sovereignty, or the social achievements of the Revolution."

"The 176 measures approved for economic and social transformation are entirely consistent with the Guidelines for Economic and Social Policy... today we can say that 120 of them are already ready to be implemented."

"The transformations we are implementing today are not for more capitalism, but to defend and advance in the socialist construction. A socialism that places the human being at the center of its work."

"They represent the necessary balance to preserve the social achievements that define us as a Revolution; while we open spaces for initiative and creativity that the economy needs to prosper."

"There will be no privatization of health, education, science, culture, or strategic services for the Nation. What exists is the political will to recover them all, to generate income and wealth to bring them to levels of superior, free, and universal quality."

### **Dialogue and Relations with the United States**

"The government of the United States is perfectly aware of Cuba's willingness to find, through dialogue, a solution to bilateral differences and move toward an understanding relationship based on respect for our sovereign rights."

"The transformations are not adopted to please the U.S., they do not respond to any kind of demand arising from the limited dialogue process we have carried out during this period. They are the fruit of a sovereign decision by Cuba."

"Facing this eventual scenario [of threat],

## ***"The Path is Difficult, the Situation is Complex, But the Will to Overcome is Unbreakable"***



President Miguel Díaz Canel Bermúdez in the 7th Ordinary Session of the Nacional Assembly of the People's Power, July 30, 2026.

to penalize any nation that supplies fuel to Cuba."

"Due to this arbitrariness, Cuba has only received one ship of fuel in the last seven months... The blockade of diesel or fuel oil has prevented the National Energy System from having, each day, about 1,400 MW."

"We are witnessing the most extensive and profound expression of relentless commitment... to disconnect the economy from a small island nation's economy."

### **Economic Transformation**

"We have undertaken the transformations that the moment demands, under the leadership of the Party, in a collegial and



we remain not impervious. We do not want a war with the U.S., we are a people of peace."

"Knowing the truth, the North American people will undoubtedly be on the right side."

### Popular Power, Ethics, and Social Justice

"For its implementation, it is key to develop the concept of genuine Popular Power, which involves accountability, community actions aimed at solving problems, transparency, and participatory budgets."

"The gradual economic recovery must lead us in the same way to social recovery, prioritizing the most vulnerable and the most urgent sectors."

"An increasingly elevated ethical conduct is required among all those who hold leadership responsibilities, guiding every decision we make."

### Military and Foreign Policy Threat

"The Revolution is being threatened militarily by the U.S. fascist regime... it would only bring terrible and unpredictable consequences for regional peace."

"It is about building a pretext for a military aggression against Cuba, based on the ridiculous and pathetic narrative



Graffiti reads "Fidel among us" in Cuba.

that this small, underdeveloped island is a threat to U.S. national security."

"In the Latin American and Caribbean region, a palpable political shift toward the far right is being observed... manifestations of subordination under pressure from U.S. imperialism."

### Conclusion and the Centenary of Comandante Fidel

"The path is difficult, the situation is complex, but the will to overcome is unbreakable. We are not a nation in dispute or a colony; we are a sovereign people."

"That is what Fidel left us: the conviction that no situation, no matter how complicated, can be without a possible

solution. And that solution we find when we unite intelligence with heart, when we work with dedication."

"A few days separate us from a date of profound significance for Cuban revolutionaries and for the entire world: the centenary of the Commander in Chief."

"Fidel thought about the extraordinary survival of Fidel, who ten years after his physical disappearance, continues to call us, to demand from us, to push us to change everything that needs to be changed, for ourselves and through our own efforts."

"What is truly transcendent is the way his enemies... continue to point to him as the guide of the world's left, the same one they say no longer exists."

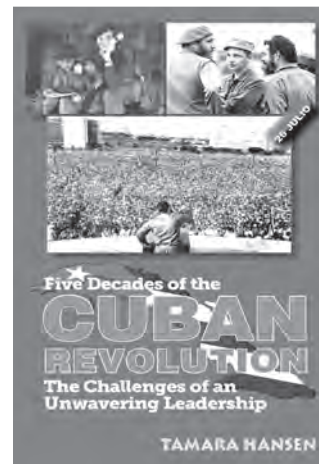
"Fidel is no longer just ours; he is growing and multiplying. Fidel Lives and promises to continue fighting battles for a better world!"

From: facebook.com/PresidenciaDeCuba



## 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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# AGAINST WASHINGTON'S WAR OF STARVATION AGAINST CUBA

## JOIN THE CAR CARAVAN FOR CUBA IN VANCOUVER

**By Tania Rojas  
& Andrew Barry**

The first half of 2026 has brought the most intense escalation of the U.S. blockade on Cuba in more than 65 years. Since January, the U.S. has imposed a total oil blockade on the island and threatened crushing tariffs on any country that dares sell or ship oil to Cuba. Washington even titled this escalation "Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of Cuba." As absurd and cruel as that sounds, the result has been recurring nationwide blackouts and extreme shortages, with dire consequences for every facet of life in Cuba. Hospitals, nurseries, schools, universities, medical clinics, transportation, and agriculture have all been affected. Cuba's Foreign Ministry called it what it is: a "ruthless act of economic aggression which multiplies the extraterritorial effects of the blockade."

Adding to these injustices, Cuba remains on the empire's arbitrary and unjust list of State Sponsors of Terrorism, a designation Trump reinstated on his first day back in office in January 2025. This designation, with no basis in reality, has been used to further isolate the island from the international financial system and global trade. On top of the oil blockade and the terrorism designation, Cubans now face daily threats from Trump and U.S. administration officials about military intervention to overthrow their revolutionary government.

That same hateful anti-Cuba rhetoric is behind the 100-page State Department report released this July, titled "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism". Among its many deceptive and fictitious pages, the U.S. is now aiming to criminalize Cuba solidarity and peace organizations. The Trump administration is accusing

peace organizations, labour unions, faith groups, academics, journalists, and solidarity activists in the United States of participating in a vast Cuban influence operation for the crime of opposing the blockade and believing Cubans deserve to live free of economic sanctions and the threat of war.

### **Solidarity forever**

Faced with this intensifying offensive, Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB-Vancouver) has deepened its solidarity work on the streets of Vancouver. FCAB-Vancouver has been organizing monthly car caravans



**Picket at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver on May 31, 2026.**

in solidarity with Cuba for over five years, and March 29, 2026 marked the fifth anniversary of the Vancouver Monthly Car Caravan for Cuba. Since the first caravan on March 28, 2021, FCAB-Vancouver has organized more than 60 consecutive monthly actions for Cuba in Vancouver.

On the last Sunday of every month, cars decorated with Cuban flags and banners denouncing the U.S. blockade drive through Vancouver's streets, with signs demanding an end to the blockade and calling for Cuba's removal from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. The caravans continue to draw shouts of "Viva Cuba!", honking from passing cars, raised fists in solidarity, and thumbs-ups from pedestrians.

Washington's escalation is why the monthly action has expanded. As the

U.S. government deepens its blockade and sharpens its military threats against the Cuban people, the caravan now drives to the U.S. Consulate for a picket action, bringing the demand to end the blockade directly to the doors of U.S. government representatives in Vancouver.

These monthly actions are part of an international movement of solidarity with Cuba. FCAB-Vancouver is also active on social media, consistently campaigning against the U.S. blockade and promoting Cuba solidarity actions in Vancouver and internationally. One

of these campaigns is the global petition "Cuba is Not Alone." Supporters can add their voice by signing at [www.firmoporcuba.com](http://www.firmoporcuba.com).

### **Cuba's sovereignty, our solidarity**

Closing the National Assembly's session on July 30, 2026, President Miguel Díaz-Canel told the Cuban people: "We are not a nation in dispute, nor a colony; we are a sovereign people who have decided our own

destiny. History has taught us that, in the darkest moments, when the empire tightens its grip and the difficulties seem insurmountable, the Cuban people find in their unity the strength to prevail."

That message speaks directly to the present moment. Friends of Cuba around the world stand with the Cuban people as they fight for self-determination and sovereignty against imperialist coercion.

**Lift the blockade on Cuba now!**

**No war on Cuba!**

**Remove Cuba from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism!**

**¡Abajo el bloqueo!**

**¡Cuba sí, bloqueo no!**





# STOP GOVERNMENT ATTACKS ON ACTIVISTS & ORGANIZERS

## DEFEND THE SOAS 2! RESISTANCE IS NOT TERRORISM



Rally to defend the SOAS 2 in London, England. The SOAS 2 are facing terrorism charges for their activism in support of Palestine.

*Fire This Time* is reprinting this interview published by *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! (FRFI)* with Sarah, one of the SOAS 2, a Palestine activist and FRFI supporter facing terrorism charges for her principled support of the Palestinian people. The interview was done in advance of her trial, which started on June 22, 2026, at the Old Bailey in London, England. In imperialist countries around the world, many activists and organizers are coming under attack for their solidarity with Palestine. This interview outlines the importance of fighting back against government attacks on the right to organize and speak out against war and genocide. *Fire This Time* stands in solidarity with all campaigns working to defend freedom of speech and organization of Palestine solidarity activists worldwide.

In an update on their website, FRFI explains that on 1 July the jury in Sarah's trial was discharged and the court directed that there will be a retrial, beginning on September 14, 2026. We encourage folks to continue following and supporting the SOAS 2 and other similar cases.

**FRFI:** Can you tell us a bit about what your alleged crime is and what you've been charged with?

**Sarah:** I was charged under Section 12 of the Terrorism Act which criminalises expressions of support for proscribed organisations and the specific allegation here is that I expressed support for Hamas. The alleged 'offence' was a speech that I delivered outside my university back in October 2023, over two and a half years ago.

In this speech, I spoke on behalf of the

SOAS Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! student society, and I expressed support for the Palestinian resistance and for the right of the Palestinian people to armed struggle when they fight back against occupation and genocide. This is

known Zionist organisation, they do the police's work essentially in finding people who they claim have committed 'crimes', usually it's just standing up for the Palestinians, against Zionism and against police repression.



Sarah, at the centre with her hand making a peace sign, is one of the SOAS 2.

a really basic right that occupied peoples have, that they can wage armed struggle for their liberation – it's in the Geneva Convention, and so resolved by the UN General Assembly. You can go check it out.

This speech was filmed and shared online by Zionists who doxxed me, put my full name, my university and other details on Twitter for everyone to see. UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI) specifically reported me to the Met Police. UKLFI is a well

Four months later, in January 2024, I was arrested during a dawn raid on my home. My devices were seized, political literature was seized, my keffiyeh was seized. I was taken to the police station, interviewed and released on bail. I was on bail for over a year, until March 2025, when I was charged under Section 12 of the Terrorism Act. On the same day that I was charged, another one of our comrades was also arrested for a similar offence, while supporting me at the police station. That's how we became the SOAS 2.

It's now been over a year since I was charged and my trial is just a month away on 22 June at the Old Bailey, so we're now mobilising for that, building a political defence campaign and carrying this through to the end.

**FRFI:** Can you tell us a little more about the Terrorism Act and what it's designed to do.

**Sarah:** That's a really important question, because this terrorism legislation doesn't come out of nowhere. The Terrorism Act



2000 was not the first piece of terrorism legislation in this country. That was the 1974 Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), brought in by a Labour government specifically to crush support for the Irish liberation struggle. Under the PTA, innocent Irish people were arrested, brutalised by the police and thrown into prison. This was part of the state's efforts to repress an anti-imperialist movement both in the Occupied Six Counties of Ireland and on the streets of Britain.

In 2000, under the Tony Blair-led Labour government, those powers were expanded so that the state also had the power to proscribe not just Irish organisations, but also Kurdish, Palestinian, Tamil and Basque organisations, and its powers of repression were greatly enhanced.

Today what we're seeing is that the Terrorism Act 2000 is being used systematically to repress pro-Palestine protesters. It's really important that we oppose terrorism legislation as a whole, and not just speak of it being misused, because its very objective in the first place is to target anti-imperialists, to target people who stand in solidarity with liberation movements. That's what it's there for. It was never about keeping us safe. Our demand is for the Terrorism Act and all such legislation to be scrapped.

**FRFI: You're not the only one who's been targeted under these terrorism laws, and if you do get convicted, this will affect the rest of the Palestine movement.**

**Sarah:** Absolutely. Part of why we built this political campaign is because we understand that the consequences of a conviction go much further than my personal life. It attacks our ability to speak out in support of Palestine, in support of the Palestinian resistance in particular and the right of armed struggle. It represses our ability to mobilise, to protest, to maintain and build up the movement that we have on the streets.

Anyone who stands with the Palestinian people, with Palestinian liberation, we expect them to be outside of the Old Bailey Central Criminal Court from 22 June, in the same way that I and a lot of our comrades from Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! have consistently been outside the courts, outside the prisons, outside the police stations, when people from across the movement have been targeted by the state. This is not just a case of individuals being targeted by the state, it's an issue of a political movement being targeted by the state and it's really important that we frame it in that way.



Protest to drop charges against the Irish hip hop group Kneecap in June 2025.

**FRFI: Besides protesting on 22 June outside the Old Bailey, are there any other ways that people can support you and support the SOAS 2?**

**Sarah:** Yes, there are many ways to help us and to help support the campaign. If you can't be there physically on 22 June and the days following, you can donate to our campaign on our website. It always costs money organising these campaigns, bringing out banners and placards, printing leaflets, organising transport. There's a lot of hidden costs people don't realise. You can also circulate our petitions, circulate our social media posts to bring awareness to our campaign and what we're doing on the streets, and follow us on social media.

For more on the SOAS 2:  
[defendsoas2.org](http://defendsoas2.org)

*From: [revolutionarycommunist.org](http://revolutionarycommunist.org)*

## MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES!

### Indigenous struggle against colonialism



Howard Adams (Métis)  
1921 - 2001

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

In Canada, racism originated in the imperialist fur-trading industry, and over the centuries it has become deeply entrenched in Canadian society. As a result, assimilation of natives into mainstream society is today not a possibility, at least not in a capitalist society:

Assimilation diminishes the exploitative possibilities. This social situation is not especially a derivative of human idiosyncrasy or wickedness, but rather it is a function of a peculiar type of economic order which, to repeat, has been developed in the west among Europeans. The exploitation of native peoples is not a sin, not essentially a problem of morals or of vice; it is a problem of production and of competition for markets. Here, then, are race relations... They are labor-capital-profits relationships; therefore, race relations are proletarian-bourgeois relations and hence political-class relations.

If natives had become integrated into Canadian society it would have been impossible to separate them from other people as a class of special workers. However, as long as Indians were isolated as a special group, they were easily exploited as trappers; isolation or segregation of native people was therefore essential for the fur industry.

*Chapter 1 – The Basis of Racism (page 14)*



the U.S. government imposed criminal sanctions, which are documented to have resulted in the deaths of 40,000 people in Venezuela from 2017-2018 alone (Center for Economic and Policy Research - CEPR). In the seven years between 2015 and 2022, the country lost \$642 billion due to sanctions, as reported by the Anti-Blockade Observatory in Venezuela. Today, 1,040 U.S. sanctions continue to prevent Venezuela from engaging in normal international trade relations.

### **Earthquakes Strike Venezuela – A Disaster Compounded by U.S. Attacks**

The north coast of Venezuela was hit by two massive earthquakes on June 24, 2026. These earthquakes registered 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale and came just 39 seconds apart. As of July 22, 2026, the Venezuelan government has confirmed that there were 5,398 deaths and 16,470 injuries because of this rare and devastating seismic event. In total, 856 buildings were affected, and 190 of these collapsed completely.

The devastation of the earthquakes was compounded by U.S. sanctions and attacks on Venezuela. First, the earthquakes hit at a time when President Maduro was in jail in the United States. Although the government of Venezuela is in the hands of acting President Delcy Rodríguez, these are still extraordinary times for the people of Venezuela. Second, at the time of the earthquakes, Venezuela's economy was still only 36% of what it was in 2012 (William Castillo, Anti-Blockade Observatory), before the U.S. economic war against Venezuela intensified. Clearly, this scale of economic losses has an impact on the upkeep of infrastructure and the government's readiness to confront a disaster of this scale. Last, but not least, despite the rhetoric of the Trump administration claiming that the U.S. is assisting Venezuela's response, U.S. sanctions against Venezuela remain fully in place. At a time of national emergency response and recovery, the sanctions have tied the hands of the Venezuelan government and severely limited its disaster response ability. It is especially clear at times such as these that U.S. sanctions are a form of collective punishment, illegal under international law.

Following the earthquakes, the U.S. pledged \$300 million for disaster recovery. This amount pales in comparison to the

estimated \$20-30 billion in Venezuelan assets that are frozen in accounts abroad, including \$2 billion in Venezuela's gold stolen by the Bank of England. Furthermore, according to a Financial Times report in July 2026, \$13 billion in revenues from the sale of Venezuelan oil has been collected by the U.S. since January 2026. Also, according to Financial Times research, the U.S. government has provided no transparency into where that money, which rightfully belongs to Venezuela, has gone.

The Trump administration has also claimed to be providing humanitarian relief to Venezuela through issuing general licenses. These general licenses essentially grant permission to certain entities to violate terms of specific U.S. sanctions, but these licenses are not a lifting of sanctions. There is no doubt that criminal U.S. policies against Venezuela caused additional earthquake deaths and destruction.

### **U.S. Out of Venezuela!**

Following the January 3, 2026, U.S. bombing, invasion and kidnapping, and the devastating twin earthquakes of June 24, 2026, our task as peace and justice-loving people in solidarity with Venezuela is clear. We must act with urgency to reaffirm and strongly support Venezuela's right to self-determination and sovereignty. This means building a united front with all those who agree with the demands for U.S. Out of Venezuela! End the Sanctions and Return All Stolen Assets Now! Free President Maduro and Cilia Flores!

The importance of solidarity with Venezuela today stems from the fundamental necessity of poor, working and oppressed people to stand together in defence of the human and democratic rights of all oppressed nations and peoples and against the U.S.-led imperialist war machine. Our responsibility, as people outside of Venezuela, is to focus our work to organize, agitate and educate on the main cause of constant pain for the people of Venezuela – the continued intervention, sanctions and attacks of the U.S. government.

**US Hands Off Venezuela!**  
**End the Sanctions and Return All Stolen Assets Now!**  
**Free President Maduro and Cilia Flores Now!**

## **¡NO AL BLOQUEO! APOYE LA SALUD MATERNA E INFANTIL EN CUBA**

Tras la Revolución, Cuba construyó un sistema universal de atención primaria que logró una de las tasas de mortalidad infantil más bajas del mundo en desarrollo. Sin embargo, la grave crisis económica que atraviesa el país, agravada por más de seis décadas de bloqueo económico impuesto por Estados Unidos, ha provocado un preocupante retroceso. La mortalidad infantil se ha más que duplicado en los últimos años y continúa aumentando debido a la escasez de equipos médicos, medicamentos y otros recursos esenciales.

Las restricciones económicas han dificultado el acceso de Cuba a suministros, financiamiento, combustible y tecnología médica. Esta situación se ve agravada por la inseguridad alimentaria, las limitaciones en la atención prenatal y la emigración de médicos y enfermeras. Como consecuencia, ha aumentado el número de embarazos de alto riesgo y de recién nacidos con bajo peso, anemia y otras complicaciones prevenibles.

Para ayudar a revertir esta situación, Global Health Partners y Saving Lives han lanzado la Iniciativa de Salud Materna y Neonatal, destinada a suministrar equipos médicos vitales e intervenciones preventivas que protejan la salud de madres y bebés en Cuba.



Apoye la Iniciativa de Salud Materna y Neonatal realizando una donación en [ghpartners.org](https://ghpartners.org).

Escanee para expresar su solidaridad con Cuba ante sus representantes en el Congreso





## Donate to help combat Cuba's fast-rising infant mortality rate!

For 65 years successive United States governments have maintained a draconian economic blockade against Cuba. In the last year the Trump administration has taken this to new levels of intensity.

Countries that have sold oil to Cuba have been forced to stop or else face heightened tariffs on the goods they sell to the U.S. or even physical hijacking of their oil tankers.

Cuba's lack of oil means that most foreign airlines (including Canadian airlines) have stopped flying to, and bringing tourists to Cuba, a key industry for Cuba's economy.

Help us work to alleviate one of the cruelest impacts of Washington's economic war against Cuba: the country's rising infant mortality rate.

The unfounded designation by the U.S. of Cuba as a so-called "State Sponsor of Terrorism" has forced virtually all foreign banks to stop processing transactions from Cuba.

Many countries in the Americas and Caribbean, who have paid Cuba for the thousands of doctors they have provided, have surrendered to U.S. pressure and sent the much-needed Cuban doctors home.

And now Trump has threatened to turn the economic war into a military attack on Cuba. Sending humanitarian medical aid is an important way we can defend Cuba and its people, but it is not enough. We must organize against U.S. threats & war on Cuba



### NO WAR ON CUBA!

**Let's show the Cuban people our friendship & support in the face of an unjust blockade that is strangling the country's healthcare system.**

Scan to donate now: [ghpartners.org](http://ghpartners.org)



Scan the QR code to send messages to your Congressional representatives to stop a military attack on Cuba



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[www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net)  
Volume 18 Issue 1  
August-September 2026  
Published Monthly

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ISSN-1712-1817

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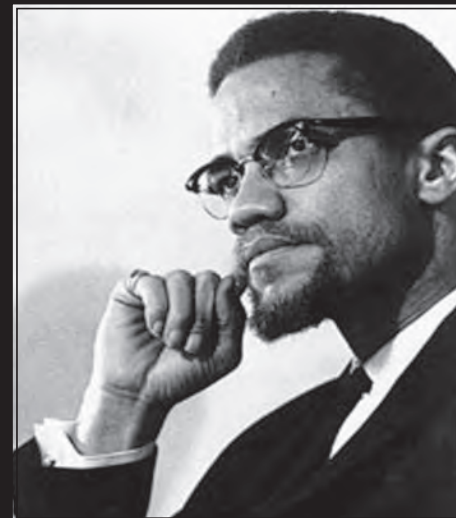
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## MALCOLM X SPEAKS

"Did the Zionists have the legal or moral right to invade Arab Palestine, uproot its Arab citizens from their homes and seize all Arab property for themselves just based on the "religious" claim that their forefathers lived there thousands of years ago? Only a thousand years ago the Moors lived in Spain. Would this give the Moors of today the legal and moral right to invade the Iberian Peninsula, drive out its Spanish citizens, and then set up a new Moroccan nation...where Spain used to be, as the European Zionists have done to our Arab brothers and sisters in Palestine?"

In short the Zionist argument to justify Israel's present occupation of Arab Palestine has no intelligent or legal basis in history...not even in their own religion. Where is their Messiah?"

*From the article "Zionist Logic" in  
The Egyptian Gazette (September  
17, 1964).*

**OCTOBER 14TH - 22ND 2026!**

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JOINING THE PALESTINIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION FOR JOURNALISTS MURDERED IN GAZA, WEST BANK & LEBANON



**US: STOP BOMBING IRAN!**  
**END THE GENOCIDE IN GAZA!**  
**ISRAEL: STOP BOMBING LEBANON!**  
**US/SAUDI: HANDS OFF YEMEN!**  
**US/SAUDI: HANDS OFF IRAQ!**



**WEEKLY ACTION EVERY SATURDAY: Next AUGUST 15, 2026**

**VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**

**1 - 2 PM - ART & AWARENESS DISPLAY**  
**2 - 4 PM - RALLY & MARCH**



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## NO WAR ON CUBA!

- ▶ **END THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA!**
- ▶ **CANADA: DEFY TRUMP - SEND OIL, FOOD, AND MEDICINE TO CUBA!**

**2 ACTIONS FOR CUBA IN VANCOUVER!!**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 30, 2026**



**1**

**12:30pm Monthly Car Caravan for Cuba**  
 For location call: 604-780-4029

**2**

**2:30-3:30pm No War on Cuba! Picket Action**  
**U.S. Consulate**  
 1075 W Pender St, Downtown Vancouver



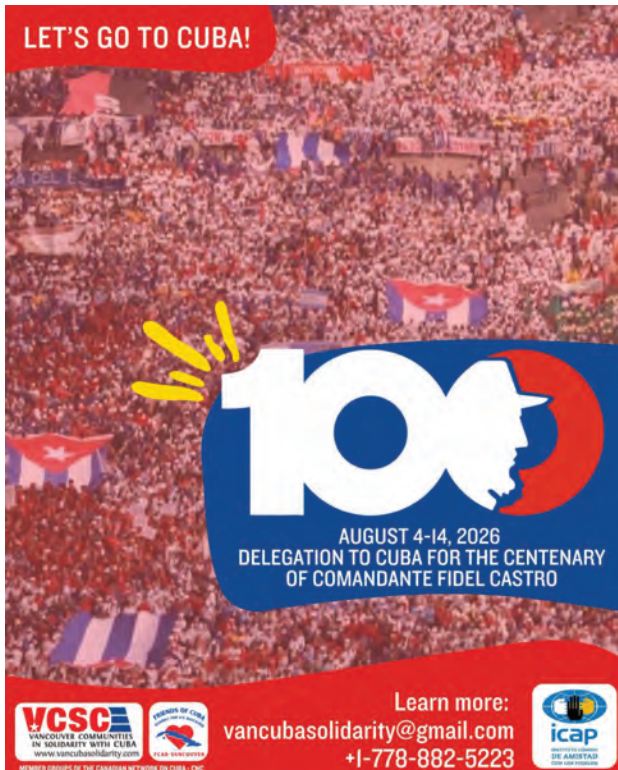
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