Deadly hazards of capitalist profit system

Global heat soars, wildfires spread toxic smoke

By Gary Wilson

The beginning of July saw the hottest days on record globally. Daily heat records were sent on July 3, 4, and 5.

“This record is the visible part of a huge amount of silent and often unnoticed suffering and dying of people and ecosystems,” says Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College London. “We live in a dramatically different world to just a few years ago.”

At the same time, many parts of the U.S. are being blanketed with some of the worst air quality recorded, caused by particularly severe wildfire activity in Canada. It is likely that smoke will continue its penetrations, as Canada’s fire season is expected to run until at least October.

Canada is currently experiencing its worst wildfire season on record. As of June 29, 2023, over 3,000 wildfires in Canada have burned over 19 million acres of land. This is more than ten times the average number of fires and acreage burned during this time of year.

The fires have been particularly destructive in Quebec, where over 2 million acres have burned. The smoke from the fires has made air in parts of Canada and the U.S. among the most polluted in the world.

On June 29, Chicago and Washington, D.C., had the worst air quality in the world, while Detroit and Minneapolis were in the top 10, according to IQAir.com.

The smoke from the Canadian wildfires has laid a thick blanket over parts of the Midwestern and Eastern U.S. Over 120 million people, or more than a third of the U.S. population, were under air quality alerts. It’s a major health hazard. The unhealthy air quality conditions, while rising or falling on a daily basis, are expected to last for several months, if not longer.

Because the shroud of smoke, solar power generation in parts of the Eastern U.S. plummeted by more than 50%. According to the region’s grid operator, solar farms powering New England were producing 56% less energy at times of peak demand compared with the week before.

Reports in the big business media generally mention weather conditions and climate change as factors, including:

- Drought: Much of Canada is experiencing a severe drought, which has dried out vegetation and made it more susceptible to fire.
- Warm temperatures: The average temperature in Canada has been above normal this year, contributing to the severity of the fires.
- Wind: Strong winds have helped to spread the fires and make them more difficult to control.

Continued on page 2
Not a spy balloon, but the propaganda sticks

By Gary Wilson

On Feb. 4, the U.S. Air Force carried out an elaborate operation to shoot down a Chinese weather balloon.

At 2:39 p.m. Eastern time, an F-22 Raptor from the 1st Fighter Wing at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, fired an AIM-9X Sidewinder into the approximately 90-foot-wide balloon, causing it to fall towards the Atlantic Ocean, according to U.S. military officials.

Because no tensions were rising, the Pentagon managed the daily news reports. The generals were in charge.

But it was all propaganda. All the news coverage in the U.S. called it a spy craft, never a weather research balloon, as China said.

Deadly hazards of capitalist profit system

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• Climate change: Climate change makes wildfires more likely and severe in Canada. As the planet warms, the risk of drought and extreme weather increases, creating the perfect conditions for wildfires to start and spread.

Nothing to argue with there. But it leaves out another key factor: the industrialization of Canada’s forests. A reference to this can be found in a careful reading of a New York Times report, “How Could This Happen?: Canadian Fires Burning Where They Rarely Have Before”:

“A combination of factors, fire officials said, laid the groundwork for the spread of wildfires in the Chibougamau area... Built on mining and the logging industry, Chibougamau is one of the few bold names on maps of Quebec’s vast, thinly populated northern regions.”

Canada is now mostly tree plantations and “managed forest,” which is more like a mono-crop farm than a forest, and much more prone to catastrophic burns. Clearcut logging and mono-crop replanting make wildfires worse.

A report by Lambert Strether documents this.

First, from the Natural Resources Defense Council:

The logging industry relies heavily on replanting efforts that create tree stands that are less biologically and structurally diverse and less resilient to future disturbances like extreme weather and climate change than the trees that have been removed. This exacerbates clearing impacts because even when these forests regrow, many have been turned into monoculture tree plantations that do not have the same ecological health as intact, multispecies forest ecosystems.

One 2012 study argued that “the widespread application of even-aged, single species management at all scales of boreal forest management increases with fundamental ecological processes that maintain ecosystem integrity in boreal forests.”

In the report “Forest Herbicides, Monocultures Drive Wildfires, Harm Wild Species,” the Edmonton Journal says:

Forest companies using herbicides are spraying dead trees and succeeding with eradication of aspen if the fire unexpectedly shifts,” the Journal explains.

But “forestry companies consider aspen a weed when growing conifers, spruce or pine. So roughly 30,000 hectares a year of forest are sprayed with glyphosate, the active ingredient in RoundUp.”

That’s roughly half the size of Edmonton, or 40% of the 80,000 hectares of forest harvested annually in Alberta alone, according to the report.

By killing off all the broad-leaved species, the companies create a monoculture, “making a forest that is not just a tree plantation instead of a forest,” the paper adds.

The Halifax, Nova Scotia, Examiner reported in “The NS wildfires are not ‘natural’ disasters: climate change, forest management, and human folly are all to blame. What’s really changed is the condition of our forest,” [professional forester Wade] Prest tells me. “It’s no longer diverse. Our original forest was probably mostly mixed. It tended towards a softwood mix in some areas, and to hardwood mix in others,” Prest explains. Prior to European settlement, he says Wabanaki-Acadian forests would have good canopy coverage, and underneath the canopy, it would be generally damp most of the time, without a lot of sunlight getting through to the forest floor.

And that in itself would be what would stop the fires from either starting or being wide-spread,” Prest says. Certainly, the forest has changed.

“I’ve always been critical of industrial forestry practices, and have vigorously promoted the natural Acadian forest as a model for ecological, social, and economic sustainability for Nova Scotia,” Prest says.

The Halifax Examiner report adds:

One of the greatest defenses that we have against fire risk is diversity... not just of species composition but also age and physical attributes. [Mike Lancaster, coordinator of the Healthy Forest Coalition in Nova Scotia] notes that after World War II and the Vietnam War, there was an explosion in the development of herbicides that were used to kill off deciduous species and manage forests for softwood species industry was looking for.

“Every Regina group is fighting against clear-cutting, logging and the forest industries,” the Edmonton Journal reports.

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Queer Liberation March defends trans lives

By Melinda Butterfield

Thousands of people flooded the streets of lower Manhattan on Pride Sunday, June 25, for the fifth annual Queer Liberation March. This year’s theme was “Trans and Queer, Forever Here,” in defiance of the more than 500 anti-trans, anti-LGBTIQ+ bills and growing street violence targeting the community coast-to-coast.

Chants of “Queers don’t deny it! Stonewall was a riot!” and “Bottoms and tops, we all hate cops!” rang out as the marchers wound their way from Foley Square up Sixth Avenue to Washington Square Park. The Reclaim Pride Coalition launched this “No Cops, No Corporations” alternative to the traditional New York Heritage of Pride Parade five years ago to honor the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion.

Activists from Women in Struggle-Mujeres en Lucha held a banner and gave out hundreds of leaflets for the Oct. 7 National March to Protect Trans Youth and Speakout for Trans Lives. Socialist Unity Party members also distributed hundreds of Struggle-La Lucha newspapers with the headline, “March on Florida: Resist the ban on trans lives.” The Reclaim Pride Coalition is an endorser of the Oct. 7 National March. For more information, to add your endorsement and get involved, go to ProtectTransKidsMarch.org.

Longshore worker on meaning of Juneteenth

By Alia Lighter

The morning of June 19, 2023, Local 19 led a Stop Work action in honor of Juneteenth. On June 19, 1865, the calvary rolled into Galveston, Texas, and freed those slaves after 2 1/2 years of the employer refusing to abide by the Emancipation Proclamation. This is a day long celebrated by African Americans, but only recently became a federal holiday and popular to celebrate in the mainstream. Local 19 has had an action every year since 2020.

The march left the Local 19 hall at 10 a.m., 120 strong, a dozen of which were children. Various unions and organizations brought their banners to follow behind ILWU Local 19’s: OWLs, Transit Union Local 587, and IATW Local 121. Various others brought their signs and swag, including the IBU, Freedom Socialist Party, Reproductive Justice, UFCW 3000, UFCW 21, and NW Carpenters Union. We walked about 1 1/2 miles while chanting, “Jeff Berry, say his name, Anthony Lemon, say his name. Ronnie Thomas, say his name! PMA say their names!” These are the names of three Black men from Local 19 that died from COVID-19 due to systemic racism. We worked valiantly through the pandemic and took heavy losses. We will not forget.

For marching about 40 minutes, participants were greeted with the sounds of CT Thompson and the Classic Soul Band crooning “A Change Gonna Come,” along with water and refreshments. Those already at the rally bumped the number of participants up to about 200. After two more songs from the band, the 2-hour program began, which would include 16 speakers with song breaks in between.

Speakers climbed handcrafted stairs onto a secure flat rack with a banner below that read in big orange letters, “ALL WORKERS WIN WHEN SLAVERY ENDS.” Ricky Reyes spoke from WA NA WARI, an organization that promotes Black ownership of the preservation of their culture. Ricky said, “When we look at all the people who do this work a lot of the time none of them really look like us. They don’t come from our own communities where we want to look at how Black folks can take history keeping into our own hands and collect stories about us for us and archive them in our own communities.”

I include this quote because there I was, sitting in the front row being reminded of my whiteness as a lead organizer of this Juneteenth event. I think we need to constantly remind ourselves, those of us that are white, to uplift Black folks and people of color, let them lead, and continue to educate ourselves.

The Black Prisoners Caucus, formed over 50 years ago inside Washington State prisons, spoke, “They created the 13th amendment, which supposedly freed people, but they slid in that clause that allowed prisoners to work for free. Does anyone know how much a prisoner makes in Washington state?” 30 cents.

After six months, you get a raise. You know how much the raise is? $0.06 ... and you top out at $0.42!” They requested help from the labor movement. Incarcerated people making pennies an hour is a labor issue.

Professor of the University of Washington Department of Labor Studies Moem-Ho Jung said, “Every fall I ask my students at UW this question: Who was the most responsible for the abolition of slavery? Usually more than half write down the answer that we are taught to believe and that answer is Abraham Lincoln. He supposedly freed the slaves by signing the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863. The answer that generations of Americans can historians have tried to ignore and dismiss is — the people most responsible for the abolition of slavery were the enslaved Black people themselves.” He called it one of the greatest slave rebellions in world history and quoted W. E. B. Du Bois, who said it was the general strike of a half million Black workers.

Thanks to the different unions and organizations who showed up for this event. Along with all the wonderful speakers and the band. To be successful in our labor movement, we need to incorporate community and other organizations in addition to other unions. The Juneteenth Committee to Stop Police Terror and End Systemic Racism is longshoreman-led but comprised of different unions and organizations, and that is what made this event possible. The full video of the march and rally can be found on our Instagram @stoppoliceterrorseattle.

“Trans and Queer, Forever Here,” is what made this event possible. Thanks to our committee members and chair, Gabriel Prawl – Vice President of Local 52, who has been an invaluable resource to me personally and who has taught me what a good leader is. He is extremely well qualified and has a decades-long record of passion and experience in the labor movement. These Juneteenth events would not be possible without a leader of his caliber. The full video of the march and rally can be found on our Instagram @stoppoliceterrorseattle.

Alia Lighter, from ILWU Local 19, is a member of the Seattle Juneteenth Committee to Stop Police Terror and End Systemic Racism organizing committee.
By Stephen Millies

The Declaration of Independence is Philadelphia's proudest claim to fame. It was written by the Virginia slave master and future U.S. president Thomas Jefferson, who sold his own flesh and blood — the product of his rapes — upon the auction block. Almost three-quarters of the signers of the declaration were enslavers. Using genocidal language, the document declared that the enslaved impeded the just pre-Civil War administration of President James Buchanan. Typically vicious in 1863 was the New York Herald, the Fox News of its time.

But at least during the Civil War the ranks of Philadelphia's business and professional slave-abolitionist Matthias Baldwin, whose factories eventually turned out 50,000 steam locomotives.

New York's worse record

New York City had a worse record than Philadelphia. Less than a week after the Battle of Gettysburg, a pro-slavery insurrection broke out in New York City on July 13, 1863. Two buildings filled with Black children were set on fire. To this day, it's uncertain how many African Americans were lynched.

This pogrom in Manhattan was no more spontaneous than the protests would be in 1972 in Boston of racists trying to uphold busing of schoolchildren to desegregate public schools. Both were the result of racist agitation supported by important social and political forces. The particularly vicious in 1863 was the New York Herald, the Fox News of its time.

At City Hall Park, New York Gov. Horatio Seymour actually addressed members of this lynch mob as "My Friends!" Behind Seymour — who would be the (pro-slavery) Democratic presidential nominee in 1868 — was a host of millionaires. Among them were the railroad lawyer Samuel Tilden, who later became the Democratic presidential candidate in 1876, and the president of the New York Central and Hudson River, an exponent of the Emancipation Proclamation. Probably the most important figure in 1863 was Mayor George Washington Plumer, who was the Democratic National Committee. He was son-in-law of Louisiana senator and owner John Slidell.

Slidell was described by Civil War historian Bruce Catton as "running the just pre-Civil War administration of President James Buchanan. Usually considered the worst president in U.S. history, Buchanan's administration resulted in the surrender of the Union army bases to the slave masters.

Slidell also played a major role in setting up the Confederacy. When he was en route to Europe seeking diplomatic recognition for the slave masters, Slidell was taken off a British vessel by a U.S. Navy captain. War almost broke out between the two countries as a result.

None of this harmed Slidell's reputation within the capitalist class. Belmont Park, just east of New York City, and the Belmont Stakes, a part of horseracing called "triple crown," are named after him. Belmont's son became head of New York City's first subway, the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, the I.R.T.

In 1992 — 129 years after the so-called "Draft Riots" — another racist pogrom, known as the "Crown Heights riot," broke out in New York City. Ten thousand mostly drunken cops cheered Rudolph Giuliani as he declared the worst riots in New York's history.

But at least during the Civil War the ranks of Philadelphia's business and professional slave-abolitionist Matthias Baldwin, whose factories eventually turned out 50,000 steam locomotives.
The secrets that the Pentagon Papers didn’t reveal

By Stephen Millies

The death of Daniel Ellsberg on June 16 should be a reminder that every big business war requires wholesale lying. In 1971 it was Ellsberg, along with Anthony Russo, who brought the Pentagon Papers into the open. The documents revealed the falsehoods that successive presidential administrations told to sell the U.S. war against Vietnam. Among them was the lie that say no Vietnamesee boats attacked U.S. naval vessels in August 1964. That alleged incident was the excuse for the “Gulf of Tonkin” congressional resolution that President Johnson used to escalate the war massively. Both Ellsberg and Russo faced decades of jail time for telling the truth. Their revelations came when the black liberation movements were shaking the capitalist power structure. It was because of these movements, along with disagreements within the capitalist class itself, that charges were dropped against the two whistleowers.

Julian Assange

Julian Assange is not so lucky. The journalist faces decades in prison for exposing U.S. war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lies aren’t enough to conduct bloody wars for Big Oil. Anti-war voices and movements have to be suppressed. Troops were jailed by the white supremacist President Woodrow Wilson for opposing World War I. Among them was the socialist Eugene Debs, who received nearly a million votes when he ran for president from prison. The U.S. Army spied on the grand-father of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. for denouncing lynching in a sermon.

Before the U.S. entered World War II, the feds framed the socialist leaders of Teamsters Local 544 in Minneapolis for attempting to overthrow the government. And during World War II, Elijah Muhammad and over 40 other members of the Nation of Islam were railroaded to prison. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wanted Black newspaper editors jailed for exposing racism in the segregated U.S. armed forces.

Thousands of draft resisters were jailed or exiled during the Vietnam War. One of these heroes is Ed-die Oquendo, who formed Blacks Against Negative Dying (BAND) in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. 

Open The files on Dr. King and Malcolm

Exactly one year after Dr. King declared that the United States was “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world,” he was gunned down in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Coretta Scott King said, “There is abundant evidence of a major, high-level conspiracy in the assassination of my husband.”

The official story of Malcolm X’s assassination is also unbelievable. Two of the convicted assassins, Muhammad Aziz and Khalil Islam, were exonerated on Nov. 18, 2021. They had been framed in a 1966 show trial.

Did Israel succeed?

The short answer is no. Though Israel killed 12 Pales-tinians and wounded four children – and wounded 120, it didn’t claim that any were top “wanted” fighters. The U.S. Army that 300 Palestinians have been detained, yet again without any news suggesting that any of these people were top commanders in the Palestinian Resistance.

Another indication of Israel’s failure to achieve major objectives is that the invading Israeli forces couldn’t penetrate deep inside Jenin, especially the refugee camp. The battle of the Damaj neighborhood was a perfect illustration of this.

What do Palestinians say?

As soon as Israeli forces began their withdrawal from Jenin, thousands of Palestinians marched in the streets of the Jenin refugee camp and several West Bank cities to celebrate what they saw as the victory of the Palestinian Resistance. Large crowds participated in spontaneous marches in Jenin refugee camp, Ramallah, Jericho, and Nablus, and the participants chant-ed slogans glorifying the Resistance and its steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation forces. Islamic Jihad Secretary-General Ziad al-Nakkahle said the Palest-inian people had achieved a “great victory” by defeating the Israeli aggression on Jenin and its camp. Al-Nakkahle said that the Jenin battalion courageously and hero-ically led this great victory.

Al-Nakkahle called for Palest-inian solidarity to strengthen the Jenin camp so that it remains an “inspiring title for revolution, chal-lenge, jihad, and resistance.”

Are these claims founded?

Palestine Chronicle editors thor-oughly analyzed many statements issued by the various Resistance groups during the Israeli attacks. The Resistance made several major claims.

One, the Israeli military was re- pelled repeatedly in its attempt to enter the center of the camp.

Two, Resistance fighters were united throughout the operation and engaged with Israeli forces at very close proximity.

Three, the Resistance blew up sev- eral Israeli military vehicles, killing and wounded soldiers. According to video footage circu-lating on social media, local and inter-national news reports, and even some Israeli ofﬁcial statements, the claims of the Resistance seem to be accurate.

Like Gaza, Palestinian Resistance per- ceives that preventing Israel from achieving its declared objec-tives is a victory.

But why did Israel bomb Gaza?

To demonstrate unity, a Gaza-based group launched several small rockets at an empty area inside Israel. Israel claimed that “all” rockets were intercepted by its Iron Dome defenses. The Gaza rockets, however, were not intended to cause harm, but to...
State sponsor of peace: Cuba and the Colombia ceasefire

By Scott Scheffer

The bipartisan nature of imperialist aggression toward Cuba has never been more evident as President Joe Biden carries forward the Trumpist assault on Cuba via the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list. In the closing weeks of his term, Donald Trump shut down what seemed to be the beginning of a U.S. rapprochement with Cuba started by the Obama-Biden administration. Obama removed Cuba from the SSOT list, but Trump reversed that decision and added 243 more economic sanctions.

While campaigning for the White House, Biden had promised to "promptly reverse the failed Trump policies" against Cuba. Nearly three years later, Cuba is still suffering under the weight of the U.S. trade blockade, now worsened by the SSOT. Some 70 international banks cut ties with Cuba within weeks of Trump's actions, making it all but impossible for Cuba to buy badly needed goods on the international market.

Joe Biden taking no action to separate his administration's policy toward Cuba from Trump's is an affront to the sentiment of the entire world. UN votes have condemned the U.S. trade blockade thirty times in annual lopsided votes in which the U.S. has never mustered more supporters in favor of the blockade than in the single digits while the rest of the world voted to end it.

Likewise, polls taken a few days after Obama's 2014 visit to Cuba showed that a majority of people in the U.S. support normalization of relations and an end to the failed campaign of economic punishment.

Cuba and Colombia ceasefire

Cuba has been hosting talks to bring an end to the bloodshed in Colombia. The U.S. support normalization of relations with Cuba this week to participate in the closing days of Trump's term. The lie was exposed on June 9 when the ELN and the government of Colombia agreed to a ceasefire.

In 2022, former guerrilla fighter Gustavo Petro was elected president of Colombia. Within days he canceled arrest warrants against ELN fighters and resumed negotiations. He traveled to Cuba this week to participate in the ceremony announcing the important breakthrough.

This follows previous agreements between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Each of these guerrilla armies has fought a long struggle to end the aggression and domination of the U.S. and build a new Colombia that would eradicate the deep, widespread poverty in Colombia.

Their forces have numbered at times in many tens of thousands of fighters, and they have held wide swaths of Colombia's territory. In exchange for the cessation of armed struggle, the agreements have yielded concessions that offer hope for the needs of 40 million Colombians. It was the U.S. that had been funding, training, and providing arms to the Colombian military and death squads paramilitary forces for decades. The U.S. aimed to pacify the powerful people's struggle in Colombia and transform the country into a U.S. watchdog in Latin America.

Under previous pro-imperialist administrations, Colombia launched failed attacks to sabotage the revolutionary process in Venezuela and sent troops to Ecuador to attack ELN combatants. Colombia's continued alignment with the U.S. meant more sabotage, clandestine actions, and warfare against neighbors.

The election of President Petro, and the supportive role played by Cuba, the peace negotiations in Havana are a threat to U.S. designs on Colombia. Keeping Cuba on the SSOT list serves two purposes for the U.S. - to strangle the Cuban economy and to try to salvage their campaign to deny people their freedom and turn Colombia into the Israel of Latin America.

Reagan, Clinton funded right-wing paramilitaries

Cuba was initially added to the SSOT by the Reagan administration as tens of thousands of workers, peasants, religious activists, and guerilla fighters were murdered in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Bolivia during the 1980s. In 1994, U.S. President Bill Clinton launched "Plan Colombia," which was hyped as a mission to eradicate the drug trade. Officially it ended in 2015. Billions of dollars that could have housed house-toschool workers, or provided medical care at home, financed this campaign of terrorism. U.S.-funded, right-wing Colombian paramilitaries murdered homeless people on the streets and Colombia led the world in the murder rate of drug traffickers. The UN reported that 260,000 Colombians were killed, 88% were killed by the Colombian military and paramilitaries. They also reported absolutely no change in the drug market. The CIA has been pegged in scandals involving the import of cocaine.

Plan Colombia is only one episode in the long history of U.S. terror against Latin America and others worldwide. Cuba's refusal to extradite peace negotiators to face the wrath of a U.S.-funded client government was righteous. Cuba is not a terrorist state.

Activists across the U.S. are taking action to demand that Biden pick up a pen and write a letter instructing Congress to take Cuba off the State Sponsors of Terrorism list. Check out NNOC.org to find out where, when, and how you can get involved.

Los Angeles protesters: Take Cuba off ‘Terror’ list

By Scott Scheffer

A hundred or more people joined a June 25 protest in Los Angeles to demand that the White House take Cuba off the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list. The turnout included a broad range of progressive organizations in L.A.

Cuba was put on the SSOT list in the closing weeks of Donald Trump's term in the White House. At the same time, he added 243 more trade sanctions to the sixty-year-old U.S. blockade against revolutionary Cuba.

The SSOT is especially damaging to Cuba's economy. Some 70 international banks cut ties with Cuba within weeks of Trump's action, leaving little chance of being able to buy badly needed goods on the international market. The U.S. levies fines against banks that break the SSOT restrictions, which can collectively add up to billions of U.S. dollars. Even big European banks that had previously facilitated trade between Cuba and other countries now do so.

Cuba supporters throughout Los Angeles joined the effort to spread the word starting in April in response to a call put out by the National Network on Cuba for actions in as many places as possible on June 25. The L.A. action was initiated by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, the Rouge Working School, and the June 25 Ad Hoc Committee.

Individuals and organizations joined the effort to build an event that was intended as a message to Biden: Get Cuba off the SSOT and end the U.S. blockade.

Among the organizations that helped organize and participate in the protest were Black Alliance for Peace, Union del Barrio, Code Pink, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Raza Educators, Peace and Freedom Party, L.A. U.S. Hands off Cuba Committee, and Healthcare for US.

Los Angeles Joiners: Take Cuba off 'Terror' list.  

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It is a synthesis of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.

McClunb is the author of 'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View'. Published in 1982, during the first wave of the modern LGBTQ2S+ movement, McClubin's unparalleled achievement was to offer a historical analysis of how LGBTQ2S+ oppression developed.
LGBTQ+ Cuba delegation report back forum

By Verde Gil Jimenez

June 22, New Orleans — NOLA participants of the Cuba delegation, U.S. Friends Against Homophobia and Transphobia, gave a report back on their recent experiences in Havana. This forum was part of the National Network on Cuba’s Off the List Action Weekend. Verde Gil Jimenez — a young communist, transmasculine organizer from Cuba — joined the panel live and gave the following presentation.

“Hello colleagues. My name is Verde. I am a Cuban trans activist and a member of the Union of Young Communists. I’m 25 years old. I am a graduate of social communication. I currently work at the Central University of Las Villas as a social researcher. I live in a city in the center of the island called Santa Clara. I was a coordinator of the Trans cuba Network for a year and currently coordinate the Grupo Trans Masculino de Cuba (GTMC).

Transmasculine activism is a fairly recent development in my country. We are quite few and inexperienced. So we are slowly taking steps.

We created the Gender Group at the beginning of the year 2023 with the intention of it being a place of support and training for the transmale community because although there was a National Network of trans people for 20 years, its agenda was almost exclusively on the demands and experiences of transfemale people.

In less than a year with our group, we have achieved the following:

- Participated in: workshop on liberating masculinities with a feminist approach; in the conference against homophobia and transphobia (Cenesex); in the conference on maternity and sexual and reproductive equity (Cenesex); in a theological workshop on gender and diversity (Momentum Estudiantil Cristiano); in a photograph exhibition on non-hegemonic masculinities, in a course on sexual education with second-year students of the medical school.
- We have created spaces for the art of male drag.
- We have held forums on various topics in our WhatsApp chat.
- We have held exchanges with different official and alternative media to visualize trans issues.
- On March 31, we held a film debate on trans childhoods.
- We have delivered donations of binders and clothing to trans people from the three regions of the country.
- We have organized recreational activities for familial trans.
- We have developed educational products on how to accompany trans students and practice the corresponding rights.
- We have a Facebook group called AFAF (assigned female at birth).
- Permanently offer counseling and personalized advice to face difficulties, legal advice, and medical guidance on the transition process.
- We are currently organizing a community safe safe to raise the visibility and visibility of those that most trans people face in Latin American countries.
- It is true that the project of the Cuban Revolution, from its beginnings, sought to vindicate the role of women in society and supported the historically oppressed and marginalized sectors. In this sense, it is a very young project to banish all machismo, homophobia, transphobia, and sexism from our culture. They are very deep cultural roots from the colonial era.

We are celebrating that in recent times, after the constitutional reform of 2019, our country has generated a normative production that recognizes a series of rights for the benefit of trans populations (despite the fact that the term trans people is not expressly mentioned in any text).

It is of special importance the recognition from the Constitution of the right to equality and non-discrimination based on gender identity and the right to the free development of personality.

The family code is also outstanding, which allowed equal marriage and recognition of parental responsibility and the progressive autonomy of childhood. This progressive code grants an arsenal of protections in the family environment that favors affective, safe, and respectful environments for all people and family models.

In addition, there are pending reforms that have also announced that they will recognize more guarantees for trans persons concerning identity law, labor code, education law, health law.

But we know that political will and the writing of laws are one thing, and the materialization of those rights is another. Unfortunately, there is still a lot of transphobia in our country, based on a high level of ignorance about trans identities and naturalized machismo.

On the other hand, the economic crisis generates serious infrastructural obstacles for these rights to be effective. This crisis has been aggravated by phenomena such as the COVID-19 pandemic, in which our country devoted its greatest efforts and resources to saving people’s lives by producing three excellent vaccines that are a lesson in humanism for the entire world.

Another of our permanent obstacles, and in recent years strengthened by the resurgence of neo-fascist governments, is the genocidal blockade of the U.S. government towards Cuba that causes losses of unquantifiable figures and hundreds of limitations in the provision of essential products: pharmaceutical, commercial, scientific, and cultural development.

I take this opportunity to request the end of the economic blockade and denounce the cruel policy of the North American government towards our country. Their aggressions also fall on the lives of LGBTQ+ populations. Trans people are also victims of North American politics.

For the short time that our group has been in existence, we believe that we are achieving good results and that, most importantly, we no longer feel alone.

Regarding the problems of trans people in Cuba, they are similar to those that most trans people face in Latin American countries.

It is true that the project of the Cuban Revolution, from its beginnings, sought to vindicate the role of women in society and supported the historically oppressed and marginalized sectors. In this sense, it is a very young project to banish all machismo, homophobia, transphobia, and sexism from our culture. They are very deep cultural roots from the colonial era.

We are celebrating that in recent times, after the constitutional reform of 2019, our country has generated a normative production that recognizes a series of rights for the benefit of trans populations (despite the fact that the term trans people is not expressly mentioned in any text).

It is of special importance the recognition from the Constitution of the right to equality and non-discrimination based on gender identity and the right to the free development of personality.

The family code is also outstanding, which allowed equal marriage and recognition of parental responsibility and the progressive autonomy of childhood. This progressive code grants an arsenal of protections in the family environment that favors affective, safe, and respectful environments for all people and family models.

In addition, there are pending reforms that have also announced that they will recognize more guarantees for trans persons concerning identity law, labor code, education law, health law.

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One of the fundamental demands of trans people is access to comprehensive medical coverage for the trans student.

I am referring to specialized consultations and access to hormonal therapies and gender reaffirmation surgeries.

In Cuba, for decades, there has been a commission of experts for these issues led by Cenesex. But the economic crisis greatly affected our public health and has generated a serious lack of medical supplies and human resources. We are living in very difficult times because one of the most important achievements of the Revolution is being affected.

Currently trans people:

- Cannot attend to the specialized psychological consultation because there are no mental health specialists to attend to us.
- Cannot perform endocrinological medical check-ups to start or sustain hormone therapy because there is a lack of reagents for blood tests.
- There has been no sale of hormones in pharmacies for more than three years because, apparently, Cuba lost its trading partner to import hormones.
- Cannot have gender reaffirmation surgeries practically impossible. In the case of transmasculine people, for nine years, mastectomy’s have not been performed because there are no doctors trained in this type of surgery.
- In addition, services are still centralized in the capital. That is, a person from any region must travel to Havana to receive these attentions.
- One of the consequences of all this is that trans people buy hormones on the black market from unreliable suppliers and at costs that triple the average salary. And that people consume these drugs without medical supervision.

The saddest thing is knowing (firsthand) that before the Donald Trump government and the COVID-19 pandemic, several of these obstacles did not exist. At that time, there were sales of hormones in the pharmacy at insignificant prices, and we had psychological and endocrinological care, perfectible but systematic.

We are clear that it is very difficult for our government and our institutions to worry about issues of social minorities when they have to invest in urgent issues that affect the vast majority, such as food sovereignty (food production). It is very difficult to advance in the midst of a multidimensional crisis and a constant imperialist siege. Because it would be unfair not to warn that although all the problems are traversed by our economic barriers, some of them could be solved more easily, and this is not the case due to a lack of awareness and will.

To name a few:

- Lack of training and awareness about trans people by legal operators (jurists, notaries, lawyers, judges, mediators). Here we highlight the persistent barriers to legal name change for trans people. Bureaucraticism, corruption, and ineptitude of civil status registrars.
- The still non-permission to wear a school/work uniform according to the gender identity of the student/worker.
- The lack of a Comprehensive Sexuality Education in which the various sexual orientations and gender identities are discussed from an early age. As well as the lack of programs to accompany the trans student.
- Provisional shelters for victims of gender-based violence in the family.
- Scarce and stereotyped representation in the national cultural industry (film, television, theater, cartoons, etc.)
- Lack of updated regulations that clarify how trans people entering compulsory military service or sports teams or prisons will be integrated and respected.

Due to all these problems, we believe that...
By Stephen Millies

The New York City Council unanimously approved a resolution on June 22 calling for an end to the cruel U.S. economic blockade of Cuba. The next day a news conference was held in front of City Hall to celebrate this victory.

Omorenye Clay of the December 12th Movement and Chief of Staff to Council member Charles Barron chaired the briefing. He called it an “important victory” that the Council representing 8.5 million people came out in favor of ending the blockade.

“This blockade must stop,” declared Council member Charles Barron, who was the resolution’s prime sponsor. Other elected officials who spoke included Council members Alexa Avilés and Julie Won. Barron pointed out that resolution 0825-A also demanded that Cuba be taken off the bogus U.S. State Department list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism.” Barron said that the apartheid state of Israel should be on the terrorism list instead.

It’s Cuba that’s been the victim of U.S. government-sponsored terror. Among the thousands of Cubans killed were the 73 Cubana de Aviación Flight 455 passengers, who were murdered by a bomb on Oct. 6, 1976. The CIA director at the time was future President George H.W. Bush. The bombing was retaliation for Cuban soldiers helping to defend Angola against the neo-Nazi armies of the South African government.

Barron told of meeting two of his constituents from the Brooklyn neighborhood of East New York who are being trained as doctors in Cuba for free. Rosemarie Mealy, PhD, JD, who worked tirelessly as a member of the New York / New Jersey Cuba SI Committee to get the resolution passed, said that she was in “for the long haul.” She said the U.S. government "was intent on starving the people of Cuba."

The more than 60-year-long blockade not only curbs U.S. trade with Cuba. It also penalizes other countries trading with Cuba, hindering imports of food and medical supplies, including syringes used in vaccinations.

Coast-to-coast movement

Ninety-one cities have come out against Washington’s cruel blockade of Cuba, including the city council of Washington, D.C.

Unions have also come out in defense of Cuba. The Professional Staff Congress, representing thousands of workers at the City University of New York, has demanded the blockade be lifted. A PSC representative spoke at the news conference.

Brother Shep McDaniel, an original Black Panther, described Cuba as a Pan-African nation. He saluted Cuba for giving refuge to fellow Panther Assata Shakur. The FBI has placed a two-million-dollar bounty on this freedom fighter who became a medical doctor in Cuba.

Attorney JoAnn Gibbs announced that Gail Walker, the executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), had been arrested in Senator Robert Menendez’s office. Walker and two other activists, who were also detained, were simply trying to meet with Menendez, who wants to strangle Cuba.


A representative of the Democratic Socialists of America spoke. Two DSA members of the City Council supported the resolution.

NYC says NO! to the U.S. blockade of Cuba

Permanent Representative Gerardo Penalver Portal and Ambassador Yuri Gala Lopez and Mission staff with New York City Council member Charles Barron, Chief of Staff Omowale Clay, and Cuban solidarity activists celebrate the unanimous New York City Council resolution opposing the blockade on Cuba. Photo: Roger Wakeman, December 12th Movement.

Bill Dores of Struggle-La Lucha newspaper praised all those who worked to get the resolution passed. He thanked Charles Barron “as the only elected official who had the courage to go to Gaza and break the Israeli blockade.”

Dores said President Biden “should stop following in the footsteps of Trump … and in the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson who sanctioned Haiti when they overthrew slavery … "The sanctions on Cuba are sanctions on low rent housing, they are sanctions on free health care, they are sanctions on free college education. … [Cuba] has no rent guideline board that raises the rent for corporate landlords in Cuba.

Afterward, a delegation from the Cuban Mission to the United Nations, including Deputy Foreign Minister Gerardo Penalver Portal and Ambassador Yuri Gala Lopez, gathered with Council member Barron and solidarity activists in the City Council offices at 250 Broadway. Hands off Cuba! End the blockade!

LGBTQ+ Cuba delegation forum

Queer Youth Assemble
Red Berets for Queers
WomenInStruggle.org
ClassConscious.org
Hands off Cuba!

NATIONAL MARCH TO PROTECT TRANS YOUTH

To Speak Out For Trans Rights

ORLANDO, FLORIDA SAT | OCT 7

HANDBS OFF PRIDE!

Revers DeSanctis’s bans on trans healthcare, restroom access, Black & Queer history
End attacks on marginalized communities
African Americans, immigrants, Chinese, LGBTQ+ people
Free, legal, accessible abortions
Stop censorship & attacks on civil liberties
of teachers, students, books and people’s history
Demand federal gov’t enforce civil rights
in Florida, Texas, Montana, Tennessee & everywhere

For ID Only

Sign up at: ProtectTransKidsMarch.org | WomenInStruggle.org

Continued from page 7

I lieve that it is fundamental to be united and articulate initiatives that promote a civic culture, peace and equity, in favor of the social integration of sex-diverse persons.

As a communist militant, my sources of inspiration are in the ideals of Marx, Fidel, Che, Rosa Luxemburg. Those who, beyond their contexts, always advocated for a world where people were increasingly emancipated from the mechanisms of oppression that the colonial-capitalist society has imposed on us.

I am clear about the dangers of carrying out a fight of this nature. There are not a few questions that from conservative and dogmatic positions (even amongst militants) are exercised to dismiss the validity of our activism.

I also understand that fears are not unjustified. It is true that social denunciations in Cuba are frequently used by the hate industry of the enemies of the Revolution (civil society movements manipulated by subversive organizations at the service of Washington’s interests). It is also true that LGBTQ+ activism is being instrumentalized and fetishized for neoliberal, commercial, and political purposes.

And we, as a socialist project, cannot reproduce these formulations, but we must take advantage of the contradictions of capitalism that are revealed with our struggles to dismantle with more force that enslaving value scheme and those logics of privatization for an alternative society. I defend the need to nurture communist militancy with a gender approach, as well as to address the problems of the trans subjectivity from a socio–class and Marxist analysis that allows us to understand where inequalities arise from and how the capitalist system perpetuates them. I believe that achieving this would make it possible to overcome prejudices and at the same time strengthen the communist struggle that must put an end to the division of social classes, the social and gender division of labor and above all, the different hegemonies with their macro and micro powers to exercise violence against minorities.

As Rosa Luxemburg said, to build a world where we are socially equal, humanly different, and totally free.

Her road is long, but we trust that we will never lose sight of the advantage that the Cuban Revolution has founded a very valuable fabric of social and mass organizations and public institutions, with which we can articulate to design new projects and find solutions. It is a matter of knowing how to mobilize and mobilizing consciences. We have forged ourselves in a country where something that has not been lost is the spirit of resistance and solidarity. I have tried not to go on too long, but it is always very difficult for me because there are many edges. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the attention you have given me. I am going to post some messages in case you want to get in touch with us.

I speak for and with the children and adolescents who have been taken over by the capitalist system, and who have, regardless of their macro and micro powers to exercise violence against minorities.

Cuba is neither an exception nor a model. There are not a few questions that from conservative and dogmatic positions (even amongst militants) are exercised to dismiss the validity of our activism. I lieve that it is fundamental to be united and articulate initiatives that promote a civic culture, peace and equity, in favor of the social integration of sex-diverse persons.

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Death of Nahel Merzouk: Who sows violence?

By Nancy Luc Škaille

July 3 – French President Emmanuel Macron canceled his state visit to Germany over the weekend because of one of the biggest crises of his tenure. Clashes between the police and residents, which is tied to the ongoing police violence, and the 45,000 police officers who have been dispatched have shaped events since Tuesday, after 17-year-old Nahel Merzouk was shot dead at close range by motorcycle policeman and ex-soldier Merzouk, during a vehi-

cle check in Nanterre. However, the reasons for the anger that broke out on these summer nights lie much deeper than the misconduct of a single police officer.

Hundreds of buildings — police stations, barracks, schools, etc. — and thousands of ve-
hicles burned. The rebellion spread across the country over the weekend and as far as Brussels, Belgium. The

discourse of an “inexcusable act” that the state leadership is trying to create seems unbelievable, be-
cause the past year has been seriously marked by excesses by the emergency services. The gunman, who has since been arrested, pleaded self-de-

fense until his lie was exposed.

Alongside social and racial seg-

regation, police violence remains a problem that has never been seri-

ously addressed, particularly in the outskirts of large cities. Unemploy-

ment and social cuts lead to weari-

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After just four nights, the author-

dies reported more than 2,000 ar-

rests — as many as during the en-

tire five-week uprising of 2005. At
day that the rebellions were trig-

gered by the police — inflicted deaths of two youths in Clilly-sous-Bois. Meanwhile, the “anti-separationism,
in the banlieues” [impover-

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Since the relaxation of firearms leg-
in the town of Beit Lahia in the

Israel responded by bombing Pal-

estinians refer to as ‘Wihdat al-Sahat’

Israel groups, Fatah, Hamas, and the

Islamic Jihad ambushed Israeli sol-

diers, killing one and injuring others.

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ished suburbs] which is now turning into violence.

Since the relaxation of firearms leg-
islation under Social Democrat François Hollande in 2017, deaths by police have skyrocketed, particularly during vehicle stops. At the time, Michel Tubiana of the LDH Human Rights League called the amend-
ment a “license to kill.”

The UN has already condemned France’s authoritarian doctrine of order three times since May. Accord-
ing to official information, the dead-
ly shot in Nanterre was the third fa-
tal use of firearms by the emergency

services as the beginning of the
year. But the number of unreported
cases is high.

On June 14, patrol officers shot
dead 19-year-old Guinean Alhous-
sein Camara during a vehicle stop in Angoulême, and the recent19-year-old riots are also claiming fatalities: A 54-year-old died on Thursday near the armed rebellion by a private person

Borotba on Russia developments: The unity of anti-fascist forces is the key to our common victory

Statement by Borotba (Struggle), revolutionary Marxist organization banned by the Ukrainian government

Stop the armed conflict in the rear! The unity of anti-fascist forces is the key to our common victory

June 24: The whole world is close-

ly following the events unfolding in

connection with the actions of Yevgeny Prigozhin and part of the Wagner private military company. The long conflict that existed be-

 tween Yevgeny Prigozhin and Rus-

sian Ministry of Defense Sergei Shoigu has grown into a stage that threatens the entire state.

Yevgeny Prigozhin has previ-

ously attracted sympathy for his shar-

criticism of the oligarchs, chic capitalism, corruption, as well as individual failures and erroneous decisions during the special military operation. However, with the develop-

ment of the confrontation with the military leadership of the Rus-

sian Federation, this criticism began to acquire an exaggerated character, and the motives of a personal con-

frontation with Sergei Shoigu began to come to the forefront, and not criticism of the socio-economic situation and military organization.

The situation is developing in a private, non-

state-controlled organization, in fact, a private army, has become an important factor of power, is in it-

self a reflection of the socio-economic situation, which is not less of possible subjective inten-

tions, Prigozhin actually started an armed rebellion by a private person against the state.

We, as critics of the capitalist sys-
tem, could not previously disagree with many of the critical speeches of Yevgeny Prigozhin. Also, the steady-

fastness and courage of the Wagner PMC fighters in the confrontation with the fascist regime of Ukraine could not but arouse sympathy. But having embarked on an adventur-

ous action, moving the armed con-

frontation deep into Russia, Yevge-

ny Prigozhin threatened the front, which the Kremlin regime and its mas-
ters in the West will definitely take advantage of.

The situation is developing rapidly, and we hope that all sides of the con-

frontation will show prudence and prevent bloodshed of tens of kilometers from the front line. We are convinced that the country’s top leadership is capable of finding a way out of this dangerous situation. Conclusions must be drawn on the fight against the vices of the state and social sys-

tem, inherited from the 1990s, but preserved even in the conditions of the special military operation.

We address the soldiers and offi-
cers fighting at the front: Comrades! We are few, but we are among you. We are aware of our responsibility, we are aware and are arising in the process of organizing military operations, mistakes and injustices, part of the responsibility for which, of course, lies with the military leadership. We never called for hiding difficulties and

varnishing reality to please the authorities. We experienced it just like you. But we are convinced that armed adventures will not lead to an improvement in the system, but can only lead to our common defeat.

We hope that the fighters of PMC “Wagner,” who supported their commander, will look at the situ-

ation from a different angle and realize that this path leads nowhere. Simi-

lar situations have already happened in history – the rebellion of the Left Socialist-Revolutionary Party, the speech of M.A. Muravyov in 1918, the rebellion of Nestor Makhno, who re-

fused to join the united Red Army, the Kronstadt uprising, the rebellion of the anarchists of Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War. Regardless of the intentions, sometimes hon-

est and idealistic, such actions have always fallen into the hands of the darkest forces.

It is important to end the armed conflict inside the country as soon as possible, to unite efforts in the fight against the Kiev regime and NATO imperialism. In the conditions of confrontation with imperialism, internal contradictions must be res-
solved in a peaceful democratic way, on the basis of a broad public dis-

cussion with the participation of the people, and not by conspiracies from above and personal adventures.

Long live unity and solidarity!

Translated by Melinda Butterfield

Source: Borotba

Polemic situation in France:

Continued from page 5

send a message that Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are united, and that the resistance is the key to our common victory.

We are aware of the difficulties that we are facing, but we are convinced that the situation when a private, non-

state-controlled organization operates is capable of finding a way out of this dangerous situation. Conclusions must be drawn on the fight against the vices of the state and social system, inherited from the 1990s, but preserved even in the conditions of the special military operation.

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Source: Borotba
Why Europe, U.S., China and Russia are not the same for Latin America

By Lucy Pagoda Quesada

For some time, I have been listening to Americans say on the left, they say that do not want European, U.S., Chinese, or Russian emissaries. As I express in this essay, I do not see the relationship between the four of them. We Latins Americans have a very well-documented history of colonialism, economic exploitation, and the invasion of territories by Europeans and North Americans, but not with China and Russia.

It was not the Russians or the Chinese who invaded the continent and began the colonization process from 1492 that produced one of the largest genocides of Indigenous peoples in history, but rather the Europeans: Spanish, English, French, Portuguese, and others who also joined in the distribution of the spoils.

It was not the Chinese or the Russians, but rather the European colonizers in the Americas that trained the worst military dictators in history, such as that of President Jacobo Árbenz in Guatemala in 1954.

Neither the Chinese nor the Russians imposed on us the School of the Americas that trained the worst military leaders in Central America, as well as additional military bases scattered throughout the country.

It is not the Russians or the Chinese who practice the doctrine of the stick, who remove constitutionally elected presidents at their convenience and impose dictatorships on us at will to steal the land and natural resources such as gold, silver, oil, lithium, gas, etc.

It is not the Russians or the Chinese who impose unilateral, coercive, and illegal economic measures, also known as economic sanctions, on sovereign countries and those that resist, such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, and other countries of the world.

It is not the socialist system of the Chinese, and it was not the socialist system of the USSR that turned us into exploited and impoverished countries. Rather it was the capitalist, imperialist, colonialist, and neoliberal system of privatization that favors banks, private companies, transnational and capital over human beings, their basic needs and nature.

When you hear someone who calls himself a leftist say nonsense like in Latin America we don’t want empires, neither Europeans, nor North Americans, nor Russians nor Chinese, please send them to review the history and foreign policy of the United States and our continent in and also the foreign policy of Russia and China with Latin America so they can see the difference.

But this farce was unmasked in 2016 when the United States gave sovereign control over the Puerto Rican people, which is the largest in Central America, to the U.S. military. Neither the Chinese nor the Russians have more than 800 military bases scattered throughout the world.

So when you hear someone who calls himself a leftist say nonsense like in Latin America we don’t want empires, neither Europeans, nor North Americans, nor Russians nor Chinese, please send them to review the history and foreign policy of the United States and our continent in and also the foreign policy of Russia and China with Latin America so they can see the difference.

It was not the Chinese or the Russians who in 1823, established the Monroe Doctrine, which states that the U.S. will not allow any occupation of American territory by Europeans after its independence and that America is for the Americans; but what it really means is that Latin America and the Caribbean are the backyard of the North Americans and belongs to them by the grace of the Monroe Doctrine.

It wasn’t the Russians or the Chinese who stole half of Mexican territory back in 1848.

It was not the Russians or the Chinese who destroyed and economically seized Haiti, but rather the European colonizers, since they have never forgiven that dignified country for having been the first Black people to become independent from a powerful empire like the French.

It was not the Russians or the Chinese who imposed the economic, diplomatic, and genocidal blockade against the socialist people of Cuba since 1959.

It was not the Russians or the Chinese who turned our countries into banana republics and who overthrew popular socialist governments, such as that of President Jacobo Árbenz in Guatemala in 1954.

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It was not the Russians or the Chinese who imposed the economic, diplomatic, and genocidal blockade against the socialist people of Cuba since 1959.

Puerto Rican organizations testify before UN Decolonization Committee

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

This past week, the UN Decolonization Committee held a hearing on what has been called the Puerto Rico Committee, which supported the U.S. government’s right to self-determination and independence.

The UN passed Resolution 1514 (XV) in 1960 for the eradication of colonies, recognizing independence as a fundamental human right and acknowledged the colonial state. Even annexationist representatives who stubbornly remain lackeys of the U.S. government and think that the U.N. Charter, 41 hearings have already been held on our case. This is not the U.S. government that will give us sovereignty.

Recall that the U.S. government deserted the colonial state of PR by naming it a Commonwealth in 1952 so as not to have to report to the United Nations. But this farce was unmasked in 2016 when the U.S. Supreme Court concluded in a double exposure case, that it is the U.S. Congress who rules in PR. Since then, in PR, it is no longer the U.S. government that speaks of colony.

Over 60 organizations from PR and its diaspora in the United States presented cases for the elimination of colonialism. Many of them were Zero Hour for PR and the National Puerto Rican Democratic Association, which supported the U.S. government’s right to self-determination and independence.

However, the pro-independence presentations were clear and forceful in illustrating the urgent need for self-determination and independence because, through the Fiscal Control Board and the privatization of essential services, an unsustainable intensification of colonial power is taking place that is destroying the Puerto Rican population.

Latin America, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela were the proponents of the resolution which was supported by the CELAC and the Non-Aligned Movement.

It remains for the UN to decide to take this claim to the General Assembly, and for all and not to leave it as a simple oratory exercise every June.

Translation: Resumen
Organizaciones boricuas denuncian ante el Comité de Descolonización en la ONU

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana pasada, el Comité de Descolonización de la ONU celebró la vista sobre lo que se ha llamado el caso de Puerto Rico, sobre el derecho inalienable de Puerto Rico a la libre determinación e independencia.

Desde que la ONU aprobó la Resolución 1514 (XV) en el 1960 para la descolonización de las colonias, reconociendo la independencia como un derecho humano fundamental y acorde con la Carta de la ONU, se han celebrado ya 41 vistas sobre el caso nuestro.

Recordamos que EUA disfrazó el estado colonial de PR poniéndole el nombre de Estado Libre Asociado en el 1952 para no tener que rendir informes a las Naciones Unidas. Pero esta farsa fue desenmascarada en el 2016 cuando el Tribunal Supremo estadounidense concluyó en un caso de doble exposición, que el Congreso de EUA quien imperea en PR. Desde entonces, en PR ya no es solo el independentismo quien habla de colonia.

Sobre 60 organizaciones de PR y su diáspora leyeron ponencias oponiéndose al estado colonial. Hasta representantes anexionistas que obstinadamente siguen lacayos del gobierno yanqui y piensan que la integración a los EUA daría soberanía a PR.

Sin embargo, las presentaciones independistas fueron claras y contundentes ilustrando la necesidad urgente de autodeterminación e independencia porque a través de la Junta de Control Fiscal y las privatizaciones de los servicios esenciales se está llevando a cabo una insoportable intensificación del poder colonial que está destruyendo a la población boricua.

Cuba, Bolivía, Nicaragua, Rusia, Siria y Venezuela fueron los proponentes de la resolución que fue respaldada por los países de la CELAC y el Movimiento de los Países No Alineados.

Queda que la ONU se decida a llevar de una vez por todas este reclamo a la Asamblea General y que no quede como un simple ejercicio de oratoria cada junio.

Rechazo al aumento del costo de energía

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta pasada semana en Puerto Rico, el tema más importante, por ser crucial para el desarrollo económico del país y para la calidad de vida del pueblo, ha sido la energía.

Y es que coincidieron tres sucesos en ese sector tan importante: uno fue lo relativo a la deuda de la Autoridad de Energía, el segundo la privatización de la generación, y tercero, la marcha de pueblo en contra de los aumentos.

Recordemos que Puerto Rico está sometido a una Junta de Control Fiscal impuesta por el Congreso estadounidense, para obligar al pueblo a pagar una deuda ilegítima de más de $70 mil millones. Parte de esa deuda, $9 mil millones, es de la AEE donde administradores corruptos deplorables y socialistas como el del director John Diego García de la AEE donde administradores corruptos desenmascararon hasta los fondos de pensiones de los trabajadores.

Ahora se requiere un Ajuste de la deuda para esclarecer lo que se le pagará a los bonistas. Pero al igual que en la deuda argentina de años atrás, la deuda Puerto Rico que supuestamente representa al gobierno, boricua, pero que realmente es quien defiende los intereses de los bonistas buitres, quiere que se les pague muy por encima del valor original de los bonos, por lo que intentan aumentar el costo de la luz, haciéndola impagable para el pueblo.

El segundo hecho es la privatización de la generación a manos de GeneraPR el 1 de julio. Sin experiencia en generación ni suficientes trabajadores, y con un contrato leonino que nos recuerda el firmado con Luma Energy a cargo de distribución y transmisión, se inicia esta etapa de total desastre en el sector energético.

El sindicato Utier incluso puso una demanda en el tribunal de bancarrota para que se invalidara este contrato por ir en contra de la ley de Monopolio de PR, pero la jueza descalificó al sindicato al declarar que “no tienen legitimación” para objetar el contrato.

Mientras, el pueblo sufre de constantes apagones por el servicio tan deficiente de Luma, lo que se verá agravado con un deficiente servicio de generación. Por eso, el pasado miércoles, pese a intensas lluvias en la isla, cientos de personas, incluyendo organizaciones de comerciantes que al principio favorecían la privatización, bajo la condena de El pueblo contra los aumentos, marcharon al palacio del gobernador Pierluisi para rechazar esta alza en el costo de la energía.

Latinoamérica: Europa, EE.UU, China y Rusia, ni es lo mismo, ni es igual

Por Lucy Pagoada Quesada

Desde hace un tiempo vengo escuchando a un señor que se dedica a la izquierda decir que no quieren imperios europeos, estadounidenses, chinos ni rusos.

Y, a ello yo le respondo que no veo la relación entre los cuatro. Ya que nosotros los latinoamericanos tenemos una historia de colonización, explotación y ocupación muy bien documentada con los europeos y los norteamericanos pero no así con China y Rusia.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que invadieron el continente y comenzaron el proceso de colonización a partir de 1492 que produjo uno de los mayores genocidios de pueblos originarios de nuestra historia, sí que fueron los europeos: Españoles, ingleses, franceses, portugueses y otros que también se unieron a la repartición de la piñata.

No fueron los chinos ni los rusos si no que fueron los colonizadores europeos que a partir de los años 1600’s establecieron el triángulo transatlántico de tráfico de esclavos: África, Europa, América y América a través del cual inició la cacería de africanos negros y por millones los transportaron a nuestro continente encadenados y en condiciones infrhumana y de verdadero salvajismo para venderlos como productos reciclables a lo largo y ancho de nuestro continente.

No fueron los chinos ni los rusos que en 1823 establecieron la Doctrina Monroe que declaraba que EE.UU no permitirá ninguna ocupación del territorio americano por parte de los europeos luego de su independencia y que América es para los americanos pero realmente lo que significa es que Latinoamérica y el Caribe son el patio trasero de los norteamericanos y que les pertenece por obra y gracia del Destino Manifiesto que es una extensión de la Doctrina Monroe.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que se apoderaron de la mitad del territorio mexicano, sí que fue EE.UU.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que destruyeron y embargaron económicamente a Haití si no los europeos y los norteamericanos, ya que jamás le han perdonado a ese ex王的 territorio por parte de los europeos y los norteamericanos pero no así con China y Rusia.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que imperializaron el bloqueo económico, diplomático y genocida contra el pueblo socialista de Cuba desde 1960.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que impusieron el bloqueo económico, diplomático y genocida contra el pueblo socialista de Cuba desde 1960.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que convirtieron a nuestros países en Repúblicas bananeeras y los que destrafaste a gobiernos populares y socialistas como el del presidente Jacobo Arbenz en Guatemala en 1952.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que implementaron el plan Cóndor en Sur América y que dejó un saldo de más de 30,000 desaparecidos, ni fue la RKG que asesinó al presidente Salvador Allende si no la CIA.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que imprimieron el plan Contras en Centro América para acabar con la revolución Sandinista y del FMLN.

No fueron los rusos ni los chinos que nos impusieron el golpe de estado de la derecha contra el presidente Manuel Zelaya en Honduras.

El 28 de junio marca el 14 aniversario del golpe de estado de la derecha contra el presidente Manuel Zelaya en Honduras. La administración Obama y la entonces Secretaria de Estado Hillary Clinton conspiraron con los golpistas y respaldaron su toma violenta del poder.

El espirituoso hecho de que las organizaciones de PR y su diáspora y la derecha contra el presidente Manuel Zelaya en Honduras.

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