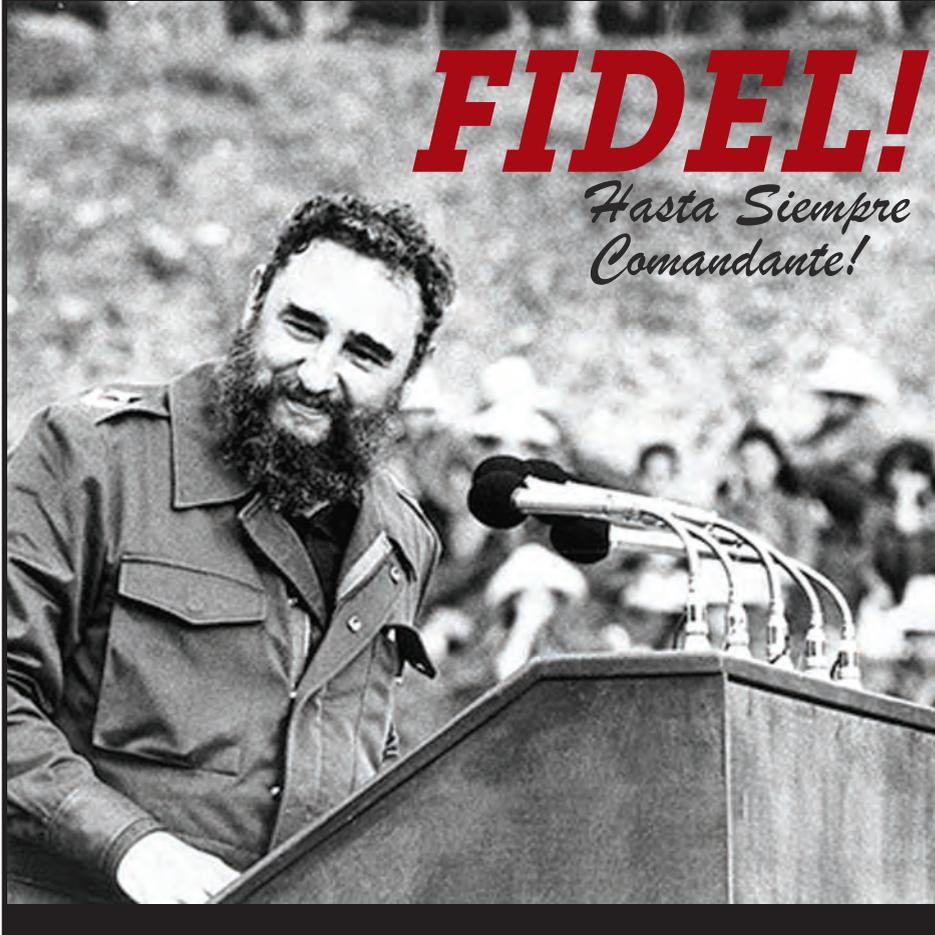


"We are realists... we dream the impossible" - Che



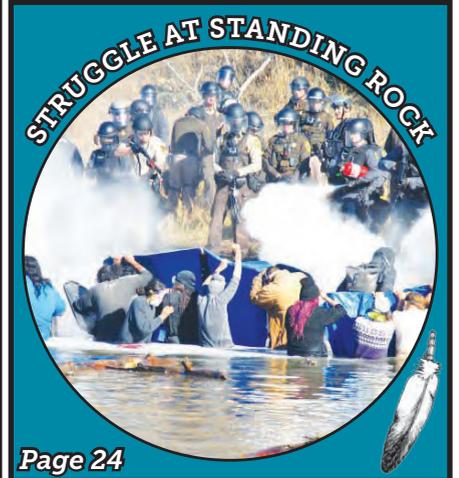
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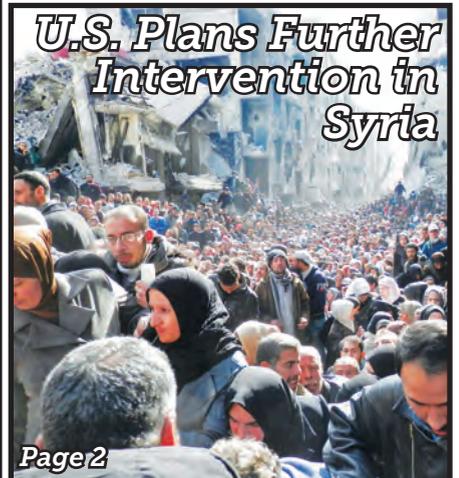
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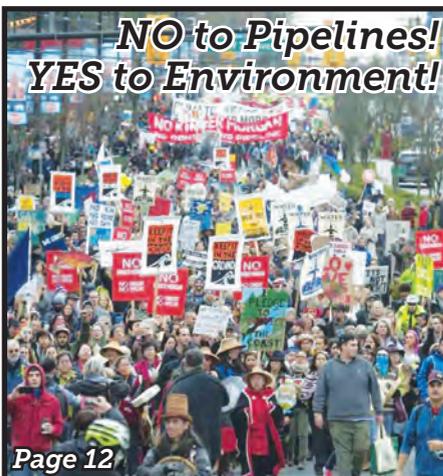
STRUGGLE AT STANDING ROCK

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U.S. Plans Further Intervention in Syria

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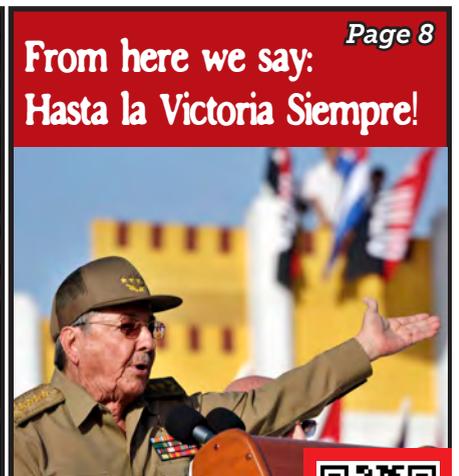
**NO to Pipelines!
YES to Environment!**

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Libertad para MUMIA Abu-Jamal

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From here we say:
Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

Page 8



U.S. PLANS FURTHER DIRECT INTERVENTION IN SYRIA

By Nita Palmer

On October 16, a joint coalition of Iraqi, Kurdish, and foreign forces launched an operation to take the northern Iraqi city of Mosul back from Islamic State (Daesh) control. Although the majority of the troops are Iraqi (about 60,000) and Iraqi Kurd (about 40,000), the US also deployed an additional 600 troops to Iraq before the mission began, bringing the total US troop numbers in Iraq to more than 5,000.

The operation has retaken significant territory from ISIS, but it has come at a heavy price. At least hundreds – the exact numbers are unknown – of civilians have lost their lives in the battle. According to the UN, about 60,000 civilians have been displaced from their homes – 26,000 of them children. Many have been forced to flee to refugee camps even as winter approaches. While much media attention has been paid to the atrocities of Daesh and their use of civilians as human shields, little has been said about those killed by coalition forces – particularly in air strikes. British monitoring group Airwars estimates that more than 80 civilians have been killed in US air strikes since the battle began.

Humanitarian Crisis

The fighting in Mosul has only exacerbated an already desperate humanitarian crisis in Iraq. Humanitarian organizations operating in the country issued a joint statement

expressing their ‘profound concern’ about the plight of Iraqi civilians, particularly in light of the operation to retake Mosul. Ten million Iraqis are already in need of aid, and the latest operation against Daesh will only increase that number. Tens of thousands of families in the area (as well as many in other parts of Iraq) have no access to clean water or adequate food and health care.

Millions of Iraqis – women in particular – have suffered under the brutal rule of Daesh since they took control of part

of northern Iraq in 2014. The defeat of Daesh is urgent and necessary. But the hypocrisy of the US in ‘helping’ to get rid of Daesh is sickening. Over the past two and a half decades, the US has destabilized and divided Iraq through two wars and a brutal sanctions regime. In Syria, they trained, armed, and funded so-called ‘moderate’ rebels – many of whom went on to join Daesh. In short, the US created the conditions for Daesh to come to rise in the first place – and in fact knew this was going to happen. Declassified intelligence reports reveal that the US government knew of the likelihood of the rise of a “Salafist principality” – essentially, the formation of a Daesh-like group – in



Walking through the streets of Aleppo.



shown concretely on November 24, when a US soldier was killed by an improvised explosive device near Raqqa.

eastern Syria. Now, they cry crocodile tears over the brutality Iraqis and Syrians face from Daesh – and use the fight against Daesh to advance US interests in the region.

The US Plan to Seize Syria

The goal of the US in capturing Mosul is not solely – or even perhaps primarily – the defeat of Daesh. Establishing a military presence in Mosul will allow US forces to move on to their real target: Syria. US-backed Syrian ‘rebel’ forces have already launched “Operation Euphrates Wrath” to move towards the Syrian city of Raqqa, which is held by Daesh.

The primary goal of the US in Syria is to remove the current Syrian government and President Bashar al-Assad from power. This has been their goal since 2011 – long before Daesh took hold. In 2011, they began training, arming, and equipping rebel groups to fight against the Syrian government, which has been a thorn in the side of the US due to its position as an independent anti-imperialist power in the region and an ally of Iran and Hezbollah in Libanon. However, their attempts to intervene in the country through these rebel groups have up to this point have been thwarted by the Syrian government and their allies. The battle against Daesh in Mosul will give them both the strategic position and justification to send more US troops into Syria for more aggressive and direct intervention.

In fact, the US already has 300 troops operating in Syria. They are supposedly there only to ‘train, advise, and assist’ the Syrian ‘rebel’ groups and Kurdish forces in fighting against Daesh – but US soldiers are on the front lines. This was

Canada’s Quiet War in Iraq

It may come as a shock to many Canadians to learn that Canadian Forces are very actively involved in the mission against Daesh in Iraq. Although Prime Minister Trudeau ended bombing missions in the country, his government has nearly tripled the number of Canadian Forces personnel in Iraq. There are currently 830 Canadian troops stationed in Iraq, and while Canadian Forces have not been directly conducting air strikes, they have been supporting the bombing missions through logistical support such as reconnaissance and refuelling operations. To date, the Canadian government has spent more than \$300 million taxpayer dollars on the current mission in Iraq.

Canada’s ‘boots on the ground’ in Iraq are allegedly there only to ‘train, advise and assist’ Kurdish forces. However, the reality of war means that these soldiers are in fact on the front lines of battle. In a recent mission update, Brigadier-General Peter Dawe, deputy commanding officer of Canadian Special Operations Forces Command, stated: “The mission has changed since the spring. It’s gone from a more defensive posture to a more offensive one.” He also acknowledged that Canadian Forces have been in firefights with Daesh in “several instances”.

In short, the Liberal government’s election promise of ending the bombing missions in Iraq was nothing more than smoke and mirrors which allowed them to quietly increase Canada’s intervention in the country. It is clear now that the Liberal government has allied itself with US interests in the Middle East just as much as did the previous Conservative government.

No Foreign Intervention in Syria and Iraq!

It is imperative that the brutal reign of Daesh in the Middle East be put to an end. However, this campaign must be led by the Syrian and Iraqi governments themselves, without meddling and interference by the US, Canada, or other imperialist countries. Any outside support for the fight against Daesh must be at the request of both the Syrian and Iraqi governments.

Make no mistake – the US and their allies have not begun the battle for Mosul out of a humanitarian interest in stopping Daesh. If they successfully take Mosul and then Raqqa, would they simply hand the territory back to the rightful control of the Syrian government? Of course not! If this was their intention, they would be working alongside the Syrian government – the military force in the country which is most capable of defeating Daesh - rather than with a hodge-podge of fighters with little training, who oppose the Syrian government as much – perhaps more – than they oppose Daesh. In fact, the US has already made it clear that it is their aim is to take control of Raqqa: after a US-Turkish meeting, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford stated that, “The coalition and Turkey will work together on the long-term plan for seizing, holding, *and governing* Raqqa” (emphasis added).

We need only to look to the mess that the US has created in Libya by overthrowing the government and supporting al-Qaeda linked ‘rebels’ there to see what the outcome of such a strategy in Syria would be. Just a few short years ago, Libya had the one of the highest standards of living in Africa, rivalling even more developed countries for quality of life. Today, the country is lawless, mired in chaos, and controlled by warring factions which rape and murder at will. Is this the ‘democratic transition’ that the US wants for Syria?

Working people and fighters for justice and peace around the world must oppose this latest attempt by the US to intervene in Syria by way of Iraq. We must not delude ourselves that the US or their allies – including the government of Canada - are ‘doing the right thing’ by attacking Daesh. This is simply another justification for intervention which will serve the interests of the US ruling class while destroying the lives of ordinary people in Iraq, Syria, and in fact around the world.

U.S. And All Imperialists Out of Syria Now!

Bring the Troops Home Now!



Hasta Siempre Comandante!

By Francisco Dominguez*

“A GREAT man is great not because his personal qualities give individual features to great historical events but because he possesses qualities which make him most capable of serving the great social needs of his time, needs which arose as a result of general and particular causes”

— Russian Marxist philosopher and politician, Georgi Plekhanov

While some of the mainstream media are unsuccessfully seeking to tarnish Castro’s image, thousands upon thousands of messages are pouring into Cuba from literally all over the world to pay homage to him.

The fact of the matter is that, after a long and grave illness back in 2007 when he was 80, Fidel realised that the inevitable was inscribed in the near future and, being the consummate political leader, always ahead of developments, he set about preparing the ground for his definite departure which, sadly, occurred on Friday November 25.

In 2008 he resigned from all his official and political roles in the Cuban state, steering the revolution to a smooth transfer of political power.

He did this to eliminate any possible disturbance or destabilisation his death may have caused to the revolution if he were to have died while in office.

Superficial right-wing pundits predicted the end of the revolution when he was gravely ill, and also when he formally handed over power. They were wrong on both occasions.

And current predictions that his departure will lead to the end of Cuban socialism are also mistaken. Fidel’s 50 revolutionary years of defiance and resistance to US imperialist arrogance and aggression is his legacy to not just the Cuban revolution but to humanity.

In the contemporary world nobody else symbolised the modern revolutionary spirit better than Fidel.

From his very first incursions into politics he seemed to have been imbued with an almost

insane, verging on the irrational, faith in the victory of his undertakings, many of which were carried out against extraordinary odds.

It was with this spirit that he organised and led the military attack against the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba on the now historic date of July 26 1953 when he was not yet 27 years old.

The attack was a huge risk, involving 137 badly equipped, poorly trained fighters against one of the largest and best-armed military garrisons in the country, housing more than 500 soldiers.

Fidel’s insurgents faced far superior firepower and had a slim chance of success, but only if the surprise factor worked. It did not.

Following his capture after the attack, Fidel took the gamble to defend himself at the resultant trial, in a political context dominated by the intensely repressive Batista dictatorship.

In October 1960, Senator John F Kennedy said: “Fulgencio Batista murdered 20,000 Cubans in seven years — a greater proportion of the Cuban population than the proportion of Americans who died in both world wars, and he turned democratic Cuba into a complete police state — destroying every individual liberty.”

This frightening context gives a measure of Fidel’s audacity in undertaking his own legal and political defence.

His closing defence speech, “History will absolve me,” would go down as perhaps one of the most impressive political statements on why Cuba not only needed a revolution, but what the revolution’s intellectual, moral, historic, social and political foundations were.

In his speech Fidel made the dictum that has informed his politics: “No weapon, no force is capable of defeating a people who have decided to fight for their rights.”

Furthermore, we find a post-Batista programme of structural transformations to be implemented.

It was a trait that was to inform his long political career: consistency between rhetoric, principles and practical action.

The Moncada adventure, and Fidel’s exceptional political performance at the trial, catapulted him to national prominence, from which he drew the key political lesson of his politics: audacity, regardless of the odds.

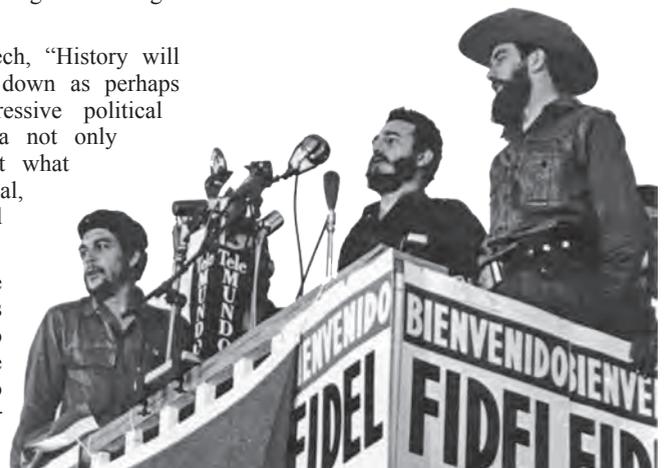
Hence the training camp in Mexico; his apparently ill-advised naval expedition to Cuba in the Granma yacht with 89 fighters; the establishment of the guerilla HQ in the Sierra Maestra with the 12 survivors of the disastrous Granma landing; and his unwavering conviction that Cuba was mature for revolution.

This continued all the way to the October 1962 missile crisis, when Fidel skilfully steered his country through one of the most dangerous moments in the history of the 20th century.

It was under his political and military leadership that Cuba inflicted the very first defeat of US imperialism in Latin America on April 17 1961 at the Bay of Pigs — a battle he led as field commander from a tank in the theatre of war itself.

Fidel’s view of revolution is based on a Third World perspective of liberation against imperialism.

Thus, Fidel’s internationalism was predicated on the need to build the broadest anti-imperialist unity in action in solidarity with the struggles of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America.



However, solidarity for Fidel went well beyond strongly worded statements and declarations of support, since he took it to unprecedented levels, which on many occasions involved the actual participation of tens of thousands of Cuban fighters in highly complex and dangerous undertakings.

Fidel shared Che Guevara's dictum that to "always be capable of feeling deeply any injustice committed against anyone, anywhere



Fidel Castro and Salvador Allende

in the world" was "the most beautiful quality of a revolutionary."

US imperialism understood the highly emancipatory and contagious significance of the Cuban revolution and thus has sought to crush it ever since January 1 1959.

Under Fidel's leadership Cuba not only developed the most sophisticated knowledge of Latin America as a whole, but it also strongly influenced the healthiest political currents in the region.

Fidel's Latin Americanist conviction led him to give political support to Salvador Allende, even when the Chilean road seemed to squarely contradict Cuba's strategy of revolution.

He understood the deeply revolutionary nature of Allende's government and visited Chile in 1971, and his speeches still resonate as strongly as at the time.

He steered the revolution to also lend support to both the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions, thus eliciting the wrath of the US.

From the 1960s, consistent with the revolution's internationalism, Fidel gave Cuban support — usually soldiers and doctors — to revolutionary struggles in Africa, including national liberation movements in Algeria, the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Ghana, Ethiopia, Central Africa and Eritrea.

After the collapse of Africa's Portuguese empire, Fidel took the momentous decision to send thousands of Cuban volunteer troops to Angola, twice.

Once in 1975, which decisively tilted the three-way anti-colonial struggle in favour of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), thus guaranteeing the country's independence.

Cuba's 1975 intervention took place when apartheid South African troops were racing to crush the MPLA. By early 1976 Cuba's contribution had helped both in pushing the South Africans out of Angola and in winning the war for the MPLA.

One African newspaper wrote at the time: "Black Africa is riding the crest of a wave generated by the Cuban success in Angola. Black Africa is tasting ... the possibility of realising the dream of total liberation."

Then again in 1987, Fidel, at the request

of the beleaguered MPLA government of Angola, which was facing an all-out military assault and invasion by tens of thousands of apartheid South African elite troops, took the extraordinary decision to send 50,000 troops.

They defended Angola at the invasion of Cuito Cuanavale, in the country's south-east. Fidel himself explained the significance of the undertaking: "The Cuban revolution had put its own existence at stake, it risked a huge battle against one of the strongest powers located in the area of the Third World, against one of the richest powers, with significant industrial and technological development, armed to the teeth, at such a great distance from our small country and with our own resources, our own arms.

"We even ran the risk of weakening our defences, and we did so. We used our ships and ours alone, and we used our equipment to change the relationship of forces, which made success possible in that battle. We put everything at stake in that action."

The geopolitical impact of South Africa's defeat was so huge that it would substantially contribute to the end of apartheid, the liberation of Nelson Mandela and the independence of Namibia.

No other political leader

outside of Africa has contributed more to the liberation of Africa from colonialism and imperialism than Fidel, using the meagre resources of a small but great Caribbean island.

A scholar wrote with a great deal of justice: "Cuba is the only Third World nation with the foreign policy of a world power."

The defeat of the Nicaraguan and Grenadian revolutions and the fall of the Berlin Wall, leading to the eventual disappearance of the socialist bloc and the collapse of the Soviet Union itself, left Cuba severely isolated and the revolution faced extreme danger.

The US sharply intensified the blockade seeking to strangle the island. Cuba's eastern bloc former allies turned into nasty enemies.

With the economy almost in a state of collapse, Fidel defended the socialist nature of the revolution at whatever cost: "Cuban socialism was not constructed after the arrival of victorious Red Army divisions, our socialism was forged by Cubans in real struggles."

Fidel's unique ability to combine hard principles with a pragmatic nimbleness led Cuba to adopt the "special period."

Although this permitted small elements of capitalist entrepreneurship and joint ventures with foreign investment, it allowed Cuba to reinvent itself into the world economy, pretty much under its own conditions. It took the country away from the economic precipice in barely five years.

Fidel was the only political leader to realise Hugo Chavez's political significance and invite the then Venezuelan presidential candidate to Cuba to engage in discussions and explore ways of collaborating with what at the time was a foggy thing called the Bolivarian revolution.

A young Chavez visited Havana and was warmly welcomed by the Comandante. It was there that he made one of his best formulations of the Bolivarian project.

continued on page 31



Fidel Castro and Hugo Chávez

BILL C-51

Must Go!

Why We Are Fighting Against Bill C-51

By Thomas Davies

Last week a new law was passed in England which allows its police and intelligence agencies the ability to spy on people to a degree that the United Nation's Special Rapporteur on Privacy has called "worse than scary". This includes the creation of a government database which collects and stores everyone within the country's internet, phone application, and phone call history. Spies are also increasingly empowered to use devices which allow them to remotely activate your phone's microphone and GPS, or secretly turn your phone on when it appears to be off. Glad you don't live in England? Think again. The Canadian government is trying to head in exactly the same direction, and the infamous "Police State Law" Bill C-51 is being used to pave the way.

Introduced by the Harper Conservative government and voted for by the Trudeau Liberals, Bill C-51 greatly expanded police, secret police, and government agency's powers to spy on, detain and limit the democratic and human right of people. Human rights organizations pointed out that there was no explanation for how this would achieve the government's stated goal of protecting the public from an unproven terrorist threat. Legal experts pointed out that the Bill's language was so vague that practically anyone could be targeted. Academics, artists and everyone in between protested the Bill's overall effect: the creation of a climate of fear and a "chill" on freedom of speech.

Major Gimmicks

The Liberals had promised to prioritize dealing with "problematic" elements

of Bill C-51 if elected, especially the question of government "oversight" over security operations. A public consultations was also promised. Both have turned out to be major gimmicks.

The Liberals did table legislation to create a national security oversight committee. However, the committee would be limited by the Prime Minister's Office in the information it could access as well as how, when or even

insulting two hours total in each city to present their concerns. To add insult to injury, the government issued a "Green Paper" document on national security to accompany the consultations. It not only justifies Bill C-51's human rights abuses, but tries to sell us on the same type of measures which are being taken in England.

The process of requiring telecommunication companies to install equipment to collect all this personal and private information is so far down the road that the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association is already saying publicly it is willing to move forward with the new measures, it just wants to government to pay for them. Recently leaked documents also show how the RCMP is trying to create a "new public narrative" on this increased online surveillance after public outcry derailed previous attempts.

Everyone is a Target

If you think that Bill C-51 and expanded surveillance powers have nothing to do with your rights because you are not a "terrorist" – think again. Federal Court judge Simon Noel recently found that for the past 10 years, CSIS illegally accessed the personal information — known as metadata — of an untold number of people who weren't the subject of a national security probe. It also kept this a secret.

It was also recently discovered that the RCMP profiled 313 people from across Canada who attended protests "opposing natural resource development, particularly pipeline and shale gas expansion." The RCMP then targeted 89 individuals who were found to "meet



if it could present its findings. Even the government's own Information Commissioner Suzanne Legault said, "This override essentially turns the committee's broad mandate into a mirage."

It took a year for the promised "public consultation" to take shape. Even then, it turned out to be an unadvertised internet poll and rushed visits to five cities. The general public was given an

the criteria for criminality”. They then created “protestor profiles” for each of them which were “made available to front-line officers divisional analysts and law enforcement partners”. This was known as Project Sitka.

None of the individuals identified in Project SITKA had actually committed a crime when they became the subject of scrutiny by the RCMP. The RCMP also concluded that “there is no known evidence that these individuals pose a direct threat to critical infrastructure.” Yet they targeted them anyways.

The government, police and secret police are constantly trying to push the legal envelope, or disregard it completely, to politically target the opposition organizations and voices of poor and working people. This has nothing to do with “public safety”.



90 Months of Fighting - Vancouver Maintains the Struggle

Every Monday for the past 90 weeks the Vancouver Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 has organized a different action against Bill C-51. This year this has meant alternating weeks of picket and petition drives with banner drops. When it became too dark for the banners to be seen during the winter, the Working Group made illuminated signs and continued to important working of opposing Bill C-51. Closing in on 100 weeks and almost 2 years of organizing, and public response is still strongly against Bill C-51. Many continue to sign petitions, almost 5000 in total, and drivers are still honking as they pass the banner.

In the process the Working Group has become an important example of what is possible with dedication and consistency, and reminder that the fight against Bill C-51 is far from over.

Education, Preparation and Unity

Can We Win? Yes. The vastness of the laws and government institutions which are pushing against our rights can seem overwhelming, but it’s important to remember that poor and working people have overcome this type of injustice before. Apartheid in South Africa was a system of laws supported by a brutal police and secret police force. It was defeated because people were united and continued organizing. Segregation in the United States was also a system of laws enforced harshly by the government and police. These laws too were defeated through the mass organization of poor

and working people. The fight against Bill C-51 is part of this same historical movement. The more we understand our history and our rights, the better position we are in to stand up and defend them. When we stand up and stand together to defend and extend our rights, that’s when we put ourselves in a position to win. We need to apply these lessons to our ongoing fight to “Repeal Bill C-51!”

Repeal Bill C-51!
Independent Public Inquiry Now!
Our Security Lies in Defending the Rights of All!

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From here
we say:



Hasta la Victoria Siempre!



Remarks by Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and President of the Councils of State and Ministers, during the massive posthumous tribute to Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz, in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución, November 29, 2016, Year 58 of the Revolution.

Esteemed heads of state and government;
Gentlemen, leaders of delegations;
Outstanding figures;
Friends all;
Dear people of Cuba:
(Applause)

Although it will be my responsibility to present the final speech, this coming December 3, when we gather in Antonio Maceo Plaza de la Revolución in Santiago de Cuba, I wish to express, at this time, in the name of our people, Party, and government, as well as the family, our sincere gratitude for your presence here at this event (Applause), for the moving words you have expressed, and also for the extraordinary,

innumerable demonstrations of solidarity, affection, and respect received from the entire planet, in this hour of pain and commitment.

Fidel dedicated his life to solidarity and led a socialist revolution "of the humble, by the humble, for the humble" that became a symbol of the anti-colonial, anti-apartheid, anti-imperialist struggle, for the emancipation and dignity of peoples.

His vibrant words resound in this Plaza today, as they did in the gathering of

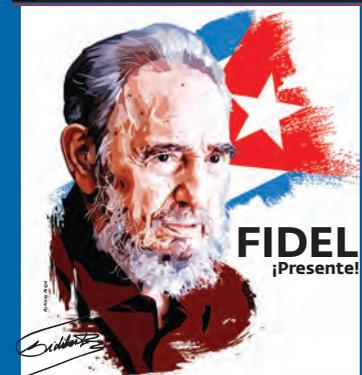
campesinos July 26, 1959, in support of the agrarian reform, which was like crossing the Rubicon and unleashed a death sentence for the Revolution. Here Fidel reaffirmed, "The agrarian reform is going ahead." And we did it. Today, 57 years later, we are honoring the person who conceived it and led it.

In this place, we voted to approve, together with him, the First and Second Declarations of Havana, in 1960 and 1962, respectively. (Applause). Faced with aggression by the Organization of American States (OAS), Fidel proclaimed that "behind the Homeland, behind the free flag, behind the redeeming Revolution.... there is an honorable people," ready to

defend its independence and "the common destiny of a freed Latin America."

I was with Fidel in the building now occupied by the MINFAR, that is, the

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Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, (on one side of the Plaza) when we heard the explosion of the French ship La Coubre, which had brought the first and only weapons we were able to purchase in Europe, and we left for the docks to aid the victims, because we knew that that explosion could only have come from the ship that was unloading those weapons, when a few minutes after our arrival,

(Applause), to ensure that, as Fidel said at that time, "The young have a future in their hands." (Applause).

With great emotion, precisely here, we heard the Comandante en Jefe in this Plaza, during the solemn wake of October 1967, to pay tribute to the unforgettable Comandante Che Guevara, and returned here again, 30 years later, during the most difficult stage

"When an energetic and virile people weeps..." (shouts of: Injustice trembles!) Exactly, "Injustice trembles!" (Applause.)

This is the Plaza of important May Day marches in the capital: in 1966, against the Helms-Burton Act, which is still in effect; the enormous march of 1999, and the open tribunal of youth, students, and workers of 2000, when Fidel presented his conception of Revolution, which millions of Cubans have made their own with their signature, over the last few days, in a sacred act of commitment. (Applause).

This is the place where we have come to support the agreements reached at our Congresses of the Communist Party of Cuba.

In this same spirit, the people have come over these last few days, with much participation from youth, to render heartfelt tribute and swear loyalty to the ideas and work of the Comandante en Jefe of the Cuban Revolution (Applause).

Dear Fidel:

Alongside the monument to José Martí, national hero and intellectual author of the assault on the Moncada Garrison, where we have gathered for over half a century in moments of extraordinary pain - and to honor our martyrs, proclaim our ideals, revere our symbols, and consult the people regarding important decisions - precisely here, where we commemorate our victories, we say to you, alongside our self-sacrificing, combative, heroic people:

Hasta la victoria siempre! (Onward to victory, always) (Shouts of Siempre! and applause)

(Shouts of: "Viva Fidel! Viva Raúl!")



as a lethal trap, a second explosion occurred. The two together caused 101 deaths and numerous injuries.

Here, with him, the Declaration of Cuba as an Illiteracy Free Territory, in December of 1961, was made. (Applause), at the conclusion of the Literacy Campaign carried out by more than 250,000 teachers and students, which did not stop; while this same year, veterans of the Rebel Army and the nascent National Revolutionary Militias battled the mercenaries at Playa Girón, and in mountainous areas, armed bands infiltrated from abroad, which among many other vile acts, murdered 10 young literacy teachers. A victory was won in Girón, and at the same time, the entire country learned to read and write



of the Special Period, to commit ourselves, before his remains, to follow his immortal example.

Moved and indignant, we attended the painful farewell to the 73 persons murdered by state terrorism in the bombing of the Cubana Airlines aircraft over Barbados, among them the young winners of all the gold medals in the 4th Central American and Caribbean Fencing Championships. On that occasion, we repeated with him,

*** EN ESPAÑOL ***

Palabras del General de Ejército Raúl Castro Ruz, Primer Secretario del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Cuba y Presidente de los Consejos de Estado y de Ministros en el acto de masas en homenaje póstumo al Comandante en Jefe de la Revolución Cubana Fidel Castro Ruz, en la Plaza de la Revolución, el 29 de noviembre de 2016, "Año 58 de la Revolución".

Estimados Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno;
Señores Jefes de Delegaciones;
Destacadas personalidades;
Amigos todos;
Querido pueblo de Cuba (Aplausos):

Aunque me corresponderá pronunciar el discurso final el próximo 3 de diciembre, cuando nos reunamos en la Plaza de la Revolución Antonio Maceo, en Santiago de Cuba, deseo manifestar ahora, en nombre de nuestro pueblo, Partido y Gobierno, así como de la familia, sincera gratitud por su presencia en este acto (Aplausos), por las emocionantes palabras que aquí se han expresado y también por las extraordinarias e innumerables muestras de solidaridad, afecto y respeto recibidas de todo el planeta en esta hora de dolor y de compromiso.

Fidel consagró toda su vida a la solidaridad y encabezó una Revolución socialista “de los humildes, por los humildes y para los humildes” que se convirtió en un símbolo de la lucha anticolonialista, antiapartheid y antimperialista, por la emancipación y la dignidad de los pueblos.

Sus vibrantes palabras resuenan hoy en esta Plaza, como en la Concentración Campesina del 26 de julio de 1959 en apoyo a la Reforma Agraria, que fue como cruzar el Rubicón y desató la condena a muerte de la Revolución. Aquí Fidel ratificó que “la Reforma Agraria va”. Y la hicimos. Hoy, 57 años después, estamos honrando a quien la concibió y encabezó.

En este lugar, votamos junto a él la Primera y la Segunda Declaración de La Habana de 1960 y 1962, respectivamente (Aplausos). Frente a las agresiones apoyadas por la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) Fidel proclamó que “detrás de la Patria, detrás de la bandera libre, detrás de la Revolución redentora... hay un pueblo digno” dispuesto a defender su independencia y “el común destino de América Latina liberada”.



Estaba junto a Fidel en el edificio que ocupa hoy el MINFAR, o sea, Ministerio de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias, cuando escuchamos la explosión del barco francés La Coubre, que traía las primeras y únicas armas que pudimos comprar en Europa, y partimos al muelle, porque ya sabíamos que solo esa explosión podía originarse en el barco que estaba descargando esas armas, para socorrer a las víctimas, cuando minutos después de nuestra llegada se produjo, como trampa mortal, una segunda explosión. Entre ambas causaron 101 muertos y numerosos heridos.

Aquí, con él, se hizo la Declaración

¡Hasta la victoria siempre!



de Cuba como Territorio Libre de Analfabetismo en diciembre de 1961 (Aplausos), al terminar la Campaña de Alfabetización protagonizada por más de 250 000 maestros y estudiantes que no se detuvo, mientras ese mismo año los veteranos del Ejército Rebelde y las nacientes Milicias Nacionales Revolucionarias combatían a

los mercenarios en Playa Girón y en las zonas montañosas contra las bandas armadas infiltradas desde el exterior que, entre otras muchas y múltiples fechorías, asesinaron a 10 jóvenes alfabetizadores. Se venció en Girón y se cumplió al mismo tiempo con la alfabetización de todo el país (Aplausos), para consagrar, como dijo entonces Fidel, que “los jóvenes tienen el porvenir en sus manos” (Aplausos).

Con profunda emoción aquí mismo escuchamos al Comandante en Jefe en esta Plaza, en la Velada Solemne de octubre de 1967, para rendir tributo al inolvidable Comandante Che Guevara y regresamos a ella, 30 años después, durante la etapa más dura del Período Especial, para comprometernos ante sus restos a que seguiríamos su ejemplo inmortal.

Estremecidos e indignados, asistimos a la Despedida de Duelo de las 73 personas asesinadas por el terrorismo de Estado en la voladura del avión de Cubana de Aviación en Barbados, entre ellas los jóvenes ganadores de todas las medallas de oro en el cuarto Campeonato Centroamericano y del Caribe de Esgrima. En esa ocasión repetimos con él que “cuando un pueblo enérgico y viril llora”, (Exclamaciones de: “¡La injusticia tiembla!”), exactamente, “¡la injusticia tiembla!” (Aplausos.)

Es esta la Plaza de importantes marchas del Primero de Mayo de la capital; en 1996 contra el bloqueo y la Ley Helms-Burton, que aún se mantienen; del enorme Desfile de 1999 y de la Tribuna Abierta de la Juventud, los Estudiantes y los Trabajadores del 2000, donde Fidel

expuso su concepto de Revolución, que en estos días millones de cubanos hacen suyo con su firma, en un acto de voluntad sagrada (Aplausos).

Es este el lugar a donde hemos acudido para respaldar los acuerdos de nuestros Congresos del Partido Comunista de

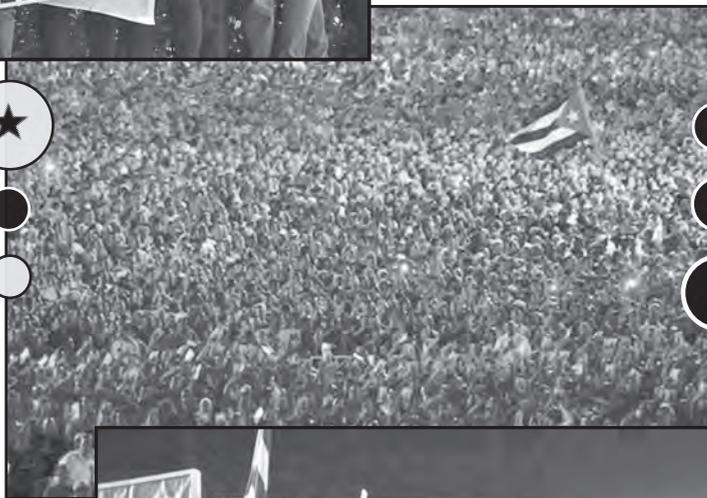
Cuba.

En ese mismo espíritu ha venido en estos días el pueblo, con una gran participación de los jóvenes, a rendir emocionado tributo y a jurar lealtad a las ideas y a la obra del Comandante en Jefe de la Revolución Cubana (Aplausos).

Querido Fidel:

Junto al Monumento a José Martí, héroe nacional y autor intelectual del asalto al Cuartel Moncada, donde nos hemos reunido durante más de medio siglo, en momentos de extraordinario dolor, o para honrar a nuestros mártires, proclamar nuestros ideales, reverenciar nuestros símbolos y consultar al pueblo trascendentes decisiones; precisamente aquí, donde conmemoramos nuestras victorias, te decimos junto a nuestro abnegado, combativo y heroico pueblo: ¡Hasta la victoria siempre! (Exclamaciones de: “¡Siempre!” y Aplausos)

(Exclaman consignas de: “¡Viva Fidel! ¡Viva Raúl!”.)





Indigenous elder Kelly White drums at the head of the march



The march was so long it took up the entire Cambie Street Bridge in Vancouver



"Hey Hey Trudeau, Kinder Morgan Has Got to Go!"

signatories. The alliance has held signing ceremonies in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. It was formed to create coordinated opposition against the Kinder Morgan, Line 3, Energy East and Keystone XL pipelines.

Trudeau isn't lying when he says they consulted with impacted communities. He's just leaving out the parts about the consultations being minimal, flawed and that even then the vast majority of feedback received was against the new pipeline construction.

In Vancouver, the Climate Convergence, a grassroots coalition of individuals and groups, organized the 5000 strong rally relying entirely on volunteer organizers and community support. Opposition to

the pipeline has become a consistent part of the national news cycles as communities in Nanaimo, Victoria, Chilliwack, Langely and Kamloops have all held or are organizing large demonstrations as well.

Discussions are already beginning on the next coordinated day of action against the new pipeline construction as organizers across Canada and beyond are undaunted by the government's negative decisions.

The government is so spooked and combative that, without any provocation, National Resource Minister Jim Carr already threatened to bring in the military to subdue climate justice rallies. "If people choose for their own reasons not to be peaceful, then the government of Canada—through its defence forces, through its police forces—will ensure that people are kept safe."

We are the Ones We've Been Waiting For

If they are trying to scare us, it hasn't worked. Launched at the rally on November 19th, the Coast Protectors Pledge led by the Union of BC Chiefs has already been signed by over 18,000 people in three weeks. The message is simple and powerful, "With our voice, in the courts or the streets, on the water or the land. Whatever it takes, we will stop the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion."

The strength of organizing against the Dakota Access Pipeline in Standing Rock has also given inspiration to many who see what a united, consistent and determined

campaign can do against huge odds. The more than 500 people who came rallied together in Vancouver on less than 3 hours notice on the night of Trudeau's announcement know that this fight is just beginning. Despite the news and the cold, the mood was energetic and defiant. We cannot allow this current momentum to slow down or fade away. Now is the time to continue educating, organizing and mobilizing. Now is the time to stop the pipelines and build a sustainable future.

No Kinder Morgan Pipeline!
People and Planet Before Pipelines and Profit!
System Change Not Climate Change!

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59

OUR HERITAGE



Teté Puebla

Teté Puebla joined the Cuban Revolution as a guerilla fighter when she was 15 years old, becoming an officer in the women's battalion "the Marianas" during the Revolutionary war. Teté is now the highest ranking woman in Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces.

"Fidel is the one who taught us how to shoot. We had to hit a quarter – or a 20 centavo coin – 20 to 30 meters away, depending on how he wanted to test our aim. And he drilled us. We had to split that coin.

It was decided that the M-1 was to be our weapon, because it was lighter. Fidel ordered that everyone in our squad be supplied with that rifle. Nevertheless, he didn't drill us with the M-1; he made us practice with the Garand and other, heavier guns. He'd say that the M-1 was easier to use, but that we needed to be able to fire any kind of rifle. Once we had learned to shoot, the last thing that we practiced with was the M-1.

Then Fidel informed us: 'You are going to be my personal security detail.'

From that day on, when people saw us, they would comment: 'the Marianas are here. Our commander in chief must be arriving.' We were his advance detachment. He did this to demonstrate his confidence in women, in women's equality.

Some of the other men would say things like, 'If the enemy soldiers toss a lizard at them, the women are going to dump their rifles and run.' But they were jealous, because Fidel used to say 'They're better soldiers than you are.'" Excerpt from "The Marianas in Combat" (Pathfinder Press, 2003)



AND FIDEL NEVER BETRAYED HIS FIGHTERS

By Manuel Yepe*

"Send to all our fighters in the province of Matanzas that I guarantee that Fidel will not betray them. Fidel will never betray Abel or Boris, or any Cuban revolutionary because he will carry the revolution to the end. You can feel safe! "

Thus, in the middle of November 1958, in the city of Miami, Haydee Santamaría Cuadrado, one of the two women who participated in the failed assault on the Moncada Barracks in Santiago de Cuba, which started the current stage of the revolution led by Fidel Castro. The possibility that Fidel Castro betrayed us had never crossed my mind and I think there could hardly have been any Cuban fighter - in the guerrilla or clandestine struggle - who feared something like that. In any case, we were worried, in those difficult times, that some of us would be weakened by the tortures in case of capture or by the fear that could inspire us the superiority of the resources of war of the police and the army of the tyranny. Against our scarce material means of combat.

When Haydee spoke of the possibility that Fidel betrayed us, he referred to the type of felony committed by so many false "revolutionary" leaders who, after summoning the best of the youth of their countries, once triumphant, Pledges and promises in exchange for corruption such as the deposit of large bank accounts in US or European banks, turning their

brave and confident followers into violent targets.

Reprisals on the part of the ruling classes and the empire. Yeyé, as everyone called Haydee, had reasons to exert a hatred of tyranny and care to prevent the revolution from suffering the betrayal of its drivers.

After being imprisoned when the assault on the Moncada failed, Haydee had to endure the cruelty of her bloodthirsty captors who showed her the eyes freshly extracted from her brother Abel, the second chief of the revolutionary assailant contingent on July 26, 1953, and the testicles of Her boyfriend, Boris Luis Santa Coloma, one of the young attacking patriots.

The motive of my clandestine trip to Miami and my encounter with Yeyé, who in these days represented the Commander-in-Chief of the Rebel Army and the top leader of the July 26 Movement, Fidel Castro, was to make the final precisions for the transfer Surreptitious to Cuba of a shipment of arms for the contingents that fought in the province of Matanzas, where the column headed by the commander Camilo Cienfuegos would have to pass towards the west of the island completing the invasion that would put an end to the tyranny.

The 26th of July Movement in the province of Matanzas had collected for this purpose, through popular donations to its local clandestine organization, about six thousand dollars, which, with the support of additional resources contributed by the organizations of the

exile, In December, arrived in Cuba hidden in two vehicles ceded and driven by collaborators and volunteers. The cars traveled on the ferry that then made regular trips from Key West to the port of Havana and from there they were driven to Matanzas by clandestine fighters to be finally received by the rebels operating in rural areas of the province.

Haydee Santamaría Cuadrado was part of a family of Revolutionary fighters of extraordinary value. His brother Abel, as already indicated, was the second chief of the contingent that began the current stage of the Cuban revolutionary wars for independence. Aldo, his other brother, was founder of the 26th of

July Movement in Matanzas, reached the rank of Commander of the Rebel Army and, among other responsibilities, served as the head of the Revolutionary War Navy. Aida and Ada, their two sisters, also fought in the ranks of the armed insurrection.

In 1953, after the assault on the Moncada barracks, when she was placed in prison for women of tyranny, Yeyé wrote to her mother as a consolation for the murder of her son Abel:

"Abel will never fail us. He thinks that Cuba exists and Fidel is alive to make the Cuba that Abel wanted. He thinks Fidel also loves you, and that for Abel, Cuba and Fidel were the same thing, and Fidel needs you a lot. "

That is why today, when Latin American revolutionaries and throughout the world accompany the pain of the Cuban people for the disappearance of the greatest revolutionary in the history of Cuba, I have wanted to remember another of the virtues of Fidel, his loyalty to his loyalists.

November 28, 2016.

**Manuel E. Yepe, is a lawyer, economist and journalist. He is a professor at the Higher Institute of International Relations in Havana. He was Cuba's ambassador to Romania, general director of the Prensa Latina agency; vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television; founder and national director of the Technological Information System (TIPS) of the United Nations Program for Development in Cuba, and secretary of the Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples.*

Por Manuel Yepe*

“Transmítele a todos los combatientes nuestros de la provincia de Matanzas que yo les garantizo que Fidel no les traicionará. Fidel no traicionará jamás a Abel ni a Boris, ni a ningún revolucionario cubano porque llevará la revolución hasta el final. ¡Pueden sentirse seguros!”

Así me dijo a mediados de noviembre de 1958, en la ciudad de Miami, Haydee Santamaría Cuadrado, una de las dos mujeres participantes en el fallido Asalto al Cuartel Moncada de Santiago de

Cuba que dio inicio a la etapa actual de la revolución conducida por Fidel Castro. La posibilidad de que Fidel Castro nos traicionara jamás

me había pasado por la mente y creo que difícilmente podría haber entonces algún combatiente cubano -en la guerrilla o en la lucha clandestina- que temiera algo así. En todo caso, nos preocupaba, en aquellos difíciles tiempos, que alguno de nosotros flaqueara a causa de las torturas en caso de ser capturado o por el temor que pudiera inspirarnos la superioridad de los recursos de guerra de la policía y el ejército de la tiranía frente a nuestros escasos medios materiales de combate.

Cuando Haydee hablaba de la eventualidad de que Fidel nos traicionara, se refería al tipo de felonía cometida por tantos falsos líderes “revolucionarios” que, luego de convocar a la lucha a lo mejor de la juventud de sus países, una vez triunfantes, abandonaban los empeños y promesas a cambio de corruptelas tales como el depósito de gruesas cuentas bancarias en bancos de Estados Unidos o Europa, convirtiendo a sus valientes y confiados seguidores en blanco de violentas

represalias por parte de las clases dominantes y el imperio. Yeyé, como todos llamaban a Haydee, tenía motivos para extremar el odio a la tiranía y el cuidado por impedir que la revolución sufriera la traición de sus conductores.

Tras ser hecha prisionera al fracasar el asalto al Moncada, Haydee tuvo que soportar la crueldad de sus sanguinarios captores quienes le mostraron los ojos recién extraídos de su hermano Abel, segundo jefe del contingente revolucionario asaltante



Y FIDEL NUNCA TRAICIONÓ A SUS COMBATIENTES

aquel 26 de julio de 1953, y los testículos de su novio, Boris Luís Santa Coloma, uno de los jóvenes patriotas atacantes.

El motivo de mi viaje clandestino a Miami y mi encuentro con Yeyé, quien por esos tiempos representaba en el exilio cubano al Comandante en Jefe del Ejército Rebelde y máximo dirigente del Movimiento 26 de Julio, Fidel Castro, era hacer las precisiones finales para el traslado subrepticio a Cuba de un cargamento de armas para los contingentes que luchaban en la provincia de Matanzas, por donde la columna encabezada por el comandante Camilo Cienfuegos habría de pasar hacia el occidente de la isla completando la invasión que daría al traste con la tiranía.

El Movimiento 26 de Julio en la provincia de Matanzas había recaudado para ese fin, mediante donaciones populares a su organización clandestina local, unos seis mil dólares que, con el apoyo de recursos adicionales aportados por las organizaciones del exilio, propiciaron ejecutar ese envío que, en diciembre, llegó a Cuba oculto en dos vehículos cedidos y conducidos por colaboradores y voluntarios. Los automóviles viajaron en el ferry que entonces rendía viajes regulares desde Cayo Hueso al puerto de La Habana y de ahí conducidos a Matanzas por combatientes clandestinos para ser finalmente recibidos por los rebeldes que operaban en zonas rurales de la provincia.

Haydee Santamaría Cuadrado formaba parte de una familia de combatientes revolucionarios de extraordinaria valía. Su

hermano Abel, como ya se indicó, fue segundo jefe del contingente que dio inicio a la etapa actual de las guerras revolucionarias cubanas por la independencia. Aldo, su otro hermano, fue fundador del Movimiento 26 de Julio en Matanzas, alcanzó el grado de Comandante del Ejército Rebelde y, entre otras responsabilidades, desempeñó la jefatura de la Marina de Guerra Revolucionaria. Aida y Ada, sus dos hermanas, lucharon igualmente en las filas de la insurrección armada.

En 1953, después del asalto al cuartel Moncada, al ser internada en la cárcel para mujeres de la tiranía, Yeyé escribió a su madre a modo de consuelo por el asesinato de su hijo Abel:

“Abel no nos faltará jamás. Piensa que Cuba existe y Fidel está vivo para hacer la Cuba que Abel quería. Piensa que Fidel también te quiere, y que, para Abel, Cuba y Fidel eran la misma cosa, y Fidel te necesita mucho”.

Por eso, hoy, cuando los revolucionarios latinoamericanos y de todo el mundo acompañan el dolor del pueblo cubano por la desaparición del más grande revolucionario en la historia de Cuba he querido recordar otra de las virtudes del compañero Fidel, su lealtad a sus leales.

Noviembre 28 de 2016.

**Manuel E. Yepe Menendez es periodista y se desempeña como Profesor adjunto en el Instituto Superior de las Relaciones Internacionales de La Habana.*

50 YEARS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA

7th INTERNATIONAL CHE GUEVARA CONFERENCE

OCT. 27-29, 2017

FROM THE

100 YEARS SINCE THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION
& 58 YEARS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION TO THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

THE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP &
IMPLEMENTING THE SOCIALIST PROJECT
& WHERE WE ARE TODAY

FEATURING

FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

ONE OF THE 5 CUBAN HEROES UNJUSTLY HELD IN
U.S. PRISON FOR MORE THAN 16 YEARS



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MAWO Responds to the Need of Building an Antiwar Movement

By Janine Solanki



On November 8, 2016, the US Presidential election saw Donald Trump elected to be the next president of the United States. While over a year and a half of campaigning, debates, and an intense media fervor have picked apart the positions and actions of both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, one thing was very clear. Both candidates were war candidates, and now the US has a war mongering president-elect.

Among other pro-war positions, the next US President has said he will increase military spending to boost the US military (which is already the largest in the world), has advocated sending 20,000 to 30,000 US troops to fight Daesh (also known as ISIS) presumably in Syria and Iraq, and supported the war against Libya but says the US should have been “paid” for their war by getting Libyan oil.



This is nothing new. 15 years of a new era of war and occupation have seen countries invaded, occupied, placed under crippling sanctions, intervened in through US-backed coups, US-fomented civil wars, US funded and armed mercenaries and no-fly zones which in reality are bombing campaigns. This new era of war and occupation has brought destruction to many countries, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen. It is no wonder that we are facing humanity's largest ever refugee crisis from primarily these countries, as war has made their homelands uninhabitable.

With the next US President poised on escalating the new era of war and occupation, it is not only critical that the antiwar movement be built stronger and more effective, but long overdue. In Vancouver, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) has taken the lead as Canada's most active antiwar organization and is going full steam ahead in educating, organizing and mobilizing against war and occupation.

On Tuesday November 22nd, MAWO held a public forum and discussion titled “Building the Antiwar Movement After the U.S. Presidential Election: How To Confront and Stop the Expansion Of Imperialist War & Occupation”. The forum started out with a compilation of video and news clips, and continued with a panel of speakers. Alison Bodine, MAWO chair, spoke about the last 15 years of the new era of war and occupation which has spanned both Republican and Democratic administrations. MAWO executive committee member Azza Rojbi spoke on the war-mongering credentials of both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, and how Trump is set to escalate the US war drive. MAWO executive committee member Janine Solanki spoke about the 12 year history of MAWO and how the antiwar movement must be built with consistency, creativity and especially with unity on a local, national and international scale. The speakers were followed by a discussion with forum participants, and encouragement to take the words of building the antiwar movement to action with the upcoming MAWO monthly rally and petition campaign.

On Friday November 25, MAWO came out to the streets in Downtown Vancouver, in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery. MAWO's monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign focused on the demands of “U.S. Hands Off Syria!” “U.S. & Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!” and “Canada: Cancel the Arms Deal with Saudi Arabia!”. Petitions, banners, and signs held by protesters reflected these demands, and passers-by stopped by the informational table and added their signatures to the petitions.

Alongside MAWO's scheduled event's MAWO also took part in other actions in November, especially against an important aspect of the war here at home, against the environment. On Saturday November 19, MAWO joined the 5000+ strong rally and march from Vancouver City Hall to the Vancouver Public Library against the Kinder Morgan Pipeline. MAWO called attention to the environmental destruction caused by war with a large banner demanding “Stop the War! Stop the Occupation! Stop Environmental Degradation!”

Mobilization Against War and Occupation will continue organizing and now more than ever is calling on groups and individuals to come together, and to unite in efforts to build the antiwar movement.

No to War and Occupation, Yes to Self-Determination!
US Hands Off Syria!
US and Saudi Arabia, Hands Off Yemen!



Vancouver Activists in Support of the Venezuelan Revolution

Activities Attracting Many People in Support of Venezuela



By Janine Solanki

Since former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez was elected in 1998, and continuing after the passing of Chavez with President Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela has been in the process of the Bolivarian Revolution. For the majority of Venezuela's population who previously suffered poverty, lack of education, healthcare and adequate housing the changes have been enormous. According to even World Bank figures, poverty was decreased from 50% in 1998 to approximately 30% in 2013. Venezuela's unique model of social missions tackled issues like education, with 1.5 million Venezuelans learning to read and write with the Mission Robinson I literacy campaign, and UNESCO declaring that Venezuela had eradicated illiteracy in December 2005. In the field of health, the number of doctors increased from 20 per 100,000 population in 1999 to 80 per 100,000 in 2010, or an increase of 400%. One of the first steps of the Bolivarian Revolution was to rewrite the constitution, which included many important changes such as enshrining the rights of Indigenous people, women and even the environment, extending the definition of rights to include the social rights of housing, education and healthcare, and many other progressive changes.

However, Venezuela's counter-revolutionary right-wing, aided by the US government, has been trying everything they can to turn back these progresses and to return Venezuela back to the hands of the former ruling classes who subjected their citizens to poverty and oppression. Recently the right-wing opposition has turned to creating an economic crisis in Venezuela, by hoarding food and consumer goods and smuggling goods to be sold in neighbouring Colombia, and shutting down factories to reduce supply and put people out of work. The right-wing opposition has also made calls for violent actions, which they have a history of doing such as when they incited violent street riots known as the “guarimbas” in 2014 which killed 43 people.

Venezuela's counter-revolutionary forces have been operating with US government support, both financially, politically and militarily. The US government has also declared, in 2015 and again in 2016, that Venezuela is “an unusual and extraordinary threat to US national security,” and imposed economic sanctions.

In the face of all of these counter-revolutionary



actions, the Venezuelan people are still organizing and coming out to demonstrations in massive numbers to show their support for the Bolivarian Revolution. Here in Vancouver, supporters have been coming to the streets monthly for the past year to demand, “USA Hands Off Venezuela!”

On Friday November 4th, Fire This Time’s (FTT) Venezuela Solidarity Campaign organized a protest action in front of the US consulate. Raising picket signs and voices, protesters called for Obama to repeal his decree against Venezuela and to stop intervening in Venezuela’s affairs. Among the speakers at the picket was Kelly White, an Indigenous elder, who drummed, sang and reminded people of the progress for Indigenous people that Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution has brought.

Protesters then moved the demonstration up to the busy downtown streets in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery, to setup a petition drive and info display declaring

“Maduro is Our President!”. For Vancouverites who often get just the Western media spin on the situation in Venezuela, this is an important opportunity for the truth about Venezuela to be discussed with passers-by who stop at the information table. Many people stopped to sign the petition demanding that US President Obama lift sanctions, repeal the decree and stop intervening in Venezuela.

Venezuela’s social gains are an example for people fighting for a better world everywhere, from Latin America to here in Canada. Supporters in Vancouver are committed to continue defending the Bolivarian Revolution, and to protesting the US interventions aimed to turn back Venezuela’s progress. To join in the next FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign action check www.firethistime.net or follow @FTT_np on Twitter.

President Obama Repeal the Decree Now!

U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!

U.S. Respect the Sovereignty and Self-Determination of the Venezuelan People!

Long Live the Venezuelan Bolivarian Revolution!

Follow Janine Solanki on Twitter:

@janinesolanki

Picketing to Fight Back, Dancing to Fundraise, Vancouver Stands with Cuba

By Janine Solanki

On October 26, 2016, the United Nations General Assembly voted for the 25th time against the U.S. blockade on Cuba. While year after year the world has voted overwhelmingly in favor of condemning the US blockade, this year for the first time not a single country voted against the resolution. 191 countries voted in favour of the resolution and 2 abstained – the US and Israel, who have historically always voted against the resolution.

While this UN vote is a huge victory, the US blockade is still in place. On December 17, 2014 US President Obama made a historic announcement that the US would normalize relations with Cuba. In the last two years important steps forward have been made, such as the reopening of embassies and resumption of diplomatic relations, and the easing of some limited travel and trade restrictions by the US. However after 57 years the blockade is still in place and still placing massive strain on the Cuban economy and limiting access to everything from medicines to building materials to even the internet, as the US does not allow Cuba access to the same fiber cables running to rest of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Vancouver, Friends of Cuba against the US Blockade (FCAB-Vancouver) has been organizing monthly picket actions on the 17th of each month, marking the date of Obama’s still unfulfilled promise to end the blockade on Cuba. On November 17, Cuba supporters came out to the US consulate in Vancouver with picket signs, banners, and their voices raised loud and clear to demand “End the Blockade on Cuba Now!” and “Return Guantanamo to Cuba Now!” Protesters picketed out in front of the US Consulate, and heard from local speakers as well as a phone message of solidarity from Ottawa Cuba Connections, who also hold monthly picket actions in front of the US Embassy in Ottawa.

Despite the strains of the US blockade, Cuba constantly is showing the world how much can be accomplished with limited resources, and with a government and society committed to it’s people. This was the case when Hurricane Matthew hit Eastern Cuba on October 4, 2016. Thousands of homes and public institutions were destroyed, and crops were devastated. However, thanks to Cuba’s excellent emergency preparedness and evacuations, not a single life was lost in Cuba. Cuba is now faced with the task of rebuilding, a task made more difficult due to the US blockade. The same hurricane hit neighbouring Haiti, causing the deaths of over 1000 Haitians. Cuba hasn’t forgotten their revolutionary internationalism. Cuba’s revolutionary government sent 40 more doctors and emergency medical personnel to reinforce the 600 Cuban doctors and other health professionals already stationed in Haiti before the hurricane.

Here in Vancouver, Cuba supporters are doing their part to help Cuba’s reconstruction efforts and to support Cuba’s medical team in Haiti. Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) is hosting a Zumba class series, with proceeds going to hurricane relief in Cuba and to Cuban doctors in Haiti. On Friday November 18th and 25th, participants put on their sweatpants and workout gear to take part in this fun and dynamic fundraiser, learning this Latin dance inspired workout routine! Anyone who attended can attest to the amount of fun and laughter at the classes, with more than a few people wanting to continue beyond the 4-class series! The class is for people of all ages and abilities, and will continue on December 9th and 16th.

Whether it’s dancing to Latin beats or raising picket signs in protest, Vancouver is standing with Cuba and against the unjust US blockade on Cuba. To find out about upcoming events against the US blockade go to <http://vancubavblockade.org> and for Zumba classes for Cuba and other Cuba solidarity events check out <http://vancubasolidarity.com>

End the Blockade on Cuba Now!

Return Guantanamo to Cuba Now!

US Government - Stop the Campaign of ‘Regime Change’ in Cuba and Immediately Stop Interfering in Cuba’s Sovereignty and Self-Determination!



At the onset of the 2016 presidential elections, the elites of the Democratic and Republican parties did not think the issue would be anything but business as usual. The next president of the nation would inevitably have the surname of one of the families who had ruled before: Bush or Clinton; and life in the superpower would continue to be neoliberal capitalist, without changes, as in the last three decades.

But it did not work out that way. It has been consistently shown that, despite the fact that all other elements of power remained the same, the population of the country did not want more of the same. They wanted something new and different in the nation that presumes itself to be a model of democracy for the planet.

Since the previous stage of the process, it became clear that “the oven was not ready for baking” when, within each of the traditional parties, differences were highlighted by unexpected dissent. That made it clear that the phenomenon was not a matter of cosmetic adjustments but of deep surgery. According to the US political qualification patterns, Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders were identified respectively as “the right of the Right” and “the left of the Left”. They had the support of the Republican and Democrat majorities.

Bernie Sanders’ campaign fell victim to the Democratic party machinery. Insensitive to the expressed tendency, it insisted on the figure of Hillary Clinton who later lost in a fight where she represented the discontented past. The alternative was the billionaire, populist and demagogue Donald Trump. He lacked the determined support of the Republican establishment. Together with many of the main figures of that machine against him, he was elected despite his proven status as racist, sexist, abusive and systematic target of media mockery.

Although in appearance the bipartisan system of Democrats and Republicans survives, Trump’s victory represents a disaster for the system. The direct and populist style of the now President-elect, appealing to the lowest instincts of certain sectors of society—very different from the usual tone of US politicians—gave him a touch of authenticity in the eyes of the most disaffected sector of the right-wing

electorate.

The Republican candidate was able to identify the presence of what can be called a “grassroots rebellion” and the growing gap between the political, economic, intellectual and media elites, on the one side, and the foundation of the conservative electorate, on the other. His rhetoric against Washington and Wall Street captivated the less-educated white voters and sectors impoverished by the effects of economic globalization, which benefited the corporations.

Trump went as far as to say that he was not competing against Hillary but against the dishonest media. This confrontation with media power antagonized the journalistic sector but rallied the support of voters exhausted by corporate media outrages.

Better than anyone else, Trump saw

The media have given a lot of publicity to his most extreme statements and proposals, such as that he would prohibit Muslims from entering the country, expel the 11 million Latin American undocumented immigrants, and build a three thousand kilometer (1864 miles) border wall—whose \$20 billion cost would be borne by the government of Mexico—to prevent the entry of Latin American immigrants.

Criticizing the Supreme Court’s decision upholding the constitutional right to same-sex marriage, Trump stated that the marriage of a man and a woman is “the basis of a free society”. He supported so-called “religious freedom” laws promoted in several states to deny services to LGBT persons. He said that climate change is a concept “created by and for the Chinese, to make the US manufacturing

What Trump's Victory Means



the widening gap between the political, economic, intellectual and media elites, and the base of the conservative electorate.

Trump is not a conventional right-winger. He defines himself as “a conservative with common sense”. He does not oppose the political model, but the politicians who have been running it. His speech is emotional and spontaneous; it appeals to people’s instincts, not to their brains or reason. He speaks for that part of the American people where discouragement and discontent have taken root. He addressed people tired of traditional politics and promised to bring honesty to the system and renew names and attitudes.

sector lose competitiveness.”

In truth, it could be said that Trump did not win; instead that it was Hillary Clinton and the Democrats who lost.

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Por Manuel Yepe*

En el preámbulo de las elecciones presidenciales 2016, las élites de los partidos demócrata y republicano no pensaban que el asunto sería algo más que el negocio acostumbrado. El próximo presidente de la nación exhibiría, inevitablemente, el apellido de una de las familias que han gobernado

resuelto apoyo del establishment republicano y con buena parte de las principales figuras de esa formación política en su contra, y resultó electo pese a su demostrada condición de racista, sexista, abusador y blanco sistemático de burlas en los medios.

Aunque en apariencias sobrevive el sistema bipartidista de demócratas y republicanos, la victoria de Trump ha constituido para éste una verdadera hecatombe. El estilo directo y populachero del ahora Presidente electo, apelando a los bajos instintos de ciertos sectores de la sociedad, muy distinto del tono habitual de los políticos estadounidenses, le

enajenó simpatías en el sector periodístico pero de atrajo apoyo de votantes exhaustos de los desmanes de los medios corporativos de comunicación.

Mejor que nadie, Trump percibió la fractura cada vez más amplia entre las élites políticas, económicas, intelectuales y mediáticas, respecto a la base del electorado conservador.

Trump no es un ultraderechista convencional. Él mismo se define como un “conservador con sentido común”. No censura el modelo político en sí, sino a los políticos que lo han estado orientando. Su discurso es emocional y espontáneo. Apela a los instintos, no al cerebro, ni a la razón. Habla para esa parte del pueblo estadounidense en la que ha cundido el desánimo y el descontento. Se dirige a la gente cansada de la política tradicional y

promete traer honestidad al sistema y renovar nombres y actitudes. Los medios han dado mucha difusión a sus declaraciones y propuestas más extremas, como la de que prohibiría la entrada al país de musulmanes y expulsaría a los 11 millones de inmigrantes ilegales latinos y construiría un muro fronterizo de más de tres mil kilómetros para impedir la entrada de inmigrantes latinoamericanos cuyo costo de unos veinte mil millones de dólares correría a cargo del gobierno de México.

Trump ha declarado que el matrimonio de un hombre y una mujer es “la base de una sociedad libre” al criticar la decisión del

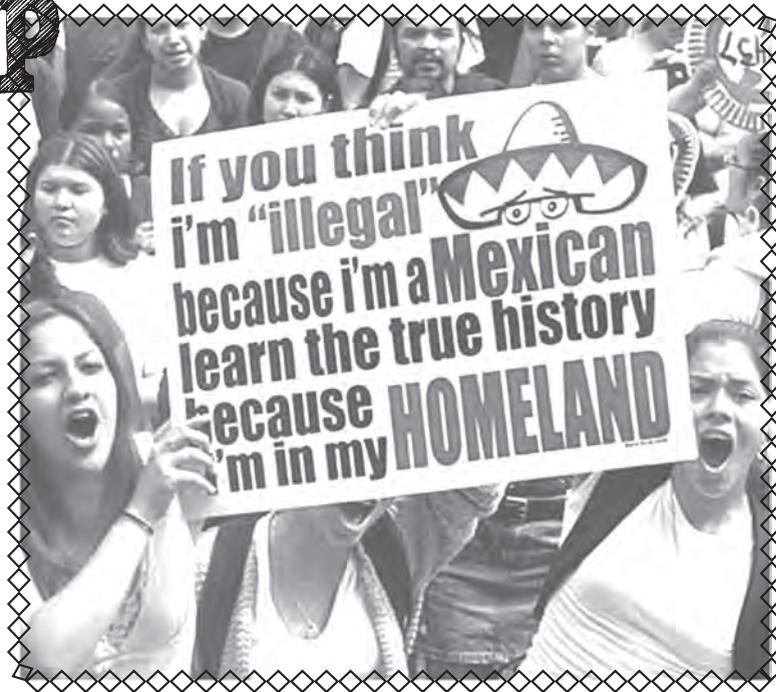
EL TRIUNFO DE TRUMP

antes, Bush o Clinton, y la vida en la superpotencia de América seguiría siendo capitalista neoliberal, sin grandes cambios, como en las últimas tres décadas.

Pero no resultó así. Quedó fehacientemente demostrado que pese a que todos los demás factores del poder se mantenían iguales, la población del país no quiere más de lo mismo. La gente quería algo nuevo y diferente en la nación que presume de ser modelo de democracia para el planeta.

Ya en la etapa previa del proceso se puso de manifiesto que “el horno no estaba para galletitas” cuando en cada uno de los partidos tradicionales se destacaron disidencias inesperadas que hicieron evidente que el fenómeno no era cosa de ajustes cosméticos sino de cirugía profunda. Donald Trump y Bernie Sanders, identificados respectivamente como “la derecha de la derecha” y “la izquierda de la izquierda”, según los patrones de calificación política estadounidenses, acapararon el apoyo de las mayorías republicanas y demócratas.

La campaña de Bernie Sanders cayó víctima de la maquinaria del partido demócrata que, insensible a la tendencia manifiesta insistió en la figura de Hillary Clinton que más tarde cayó en una pelea en la que ella representaba precisamente el sufrido pasado. La alternativa era el multimillonario, populista y demagogo Donald Trump quien, sin un

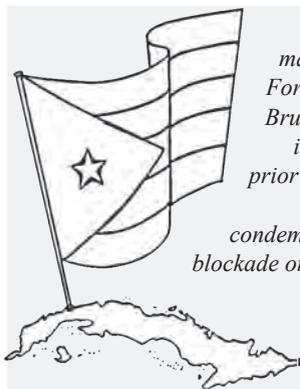


ha dado un carácter de autenticidad a los ojos del sector más decepcionado del electorado de derecha.

El candidato republicano supo identificar la presencia de lo que puede llamarse una “rebelión de las bases” y la ruptura cada vez mayor entre las élites políticas, económicas, intelectuales y mediáticas, de una parte, y la base del electorado conservador, de la otra. Su discurso contra Washington y Wall Street cautivó a los electores blancos menos cultos y a los sectores empobrecidos por los efectos de la globalización económica, beneficiosa para las corporaciones. Trump llegó a decir que él no estaba compitiendo contra Hillary sino contra los deshonestos medios de prensa. Este enfrentamiento al poder mediático le

Tribunal Supremo que considera un derecho constitucional el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo; ha apoyado las “leyes de libertad religiosa” impulsadas en varios Estados para denegar servicios a las personas LGTB; ha dicho que el cambio climático es un concepto “creado por y para los chinos, para hacer que el sector manufacturero estadounidense pierda competitividad”. En verdad, podría decirse que Trump no ganó sino que quienes perdieron fueron Hillary Clinton y los demócratas.

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Key points made by Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez in his remarks prior to the United Nations vote condemning the U.S. blockade on October 27, 2016.

Ten key points

1 Advances have been made since President Barack Obama announced on December 17, 2014 his willingness to use his executive powers and work with Congress to lift the blockade.

2 The United States just announced its intention to abstain from the vote on this Resolution Project. It has taken 24 years for the solitary vote of the United States in this room to be rectified. It has been 24 years, as Ambassador Samantha Power said, of isolation and failure.

3 The blockade continues to be a massive, flagrant, systematic violation of the rights of all Cubans and can be described as an act of genocide based on the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It is therefore necessary to judge based on the facts. More than speeches, statements to the press, or even a delegation's vote in this room, the most important and specific thing is the dismantling of the blockade.

► From April 2015 through April 2016, direct economic losses caused Cuba by the blockade reached 4.68 billion dollars at current prices, according to rigorous and conservative estimates.

- Multinational SIGMA ALDRICH was also prevented from supplying protection equipment and chemical products to Cuban enterprise FARMACUBA to manufacture medicines in the country.

► In May 2016, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission notified the subsidiary of German company Eckert and Ziegler, based in the country that

its application for a license to supply Dutch company Philips the calibration source for a medical device purchased by the Cuban Oncology Institute in 2013, impacting a vital service for cancer patients.

► Last September 26, Italian medical equipment supplier EMILDUE notified the Cuban entity MEDICUBA that U.S. company Boston Scientific Corporation (BSC) refused to sell it a COSMAN radiofrequency generator, used for cancer diagnosis.

► U.S. company Medtronic was unable to establish contracts with Cuban entities for the sale of deep brain stimulators which would be used to treat Cuban patients with Parkinson's disease and other neurological disorders, recently citing blockade restrictions.

► In September 2016, Pakistan-base banks denied the application by a company from that country, to open

10 Key Points on Cuba-U.S. Relations

a credit account to purchase 100,000 Hepatitis B vaccines, given U.S. sanctions against Cuba. Meanwhile a U.S. citizen is being threatened with a fine of 100,000 USD, for traveling to Cuba with several companions.

4 The majority of executive regulations and laws which make up the blockade remain in force and are rigorously applied up until this very minute by U.S. government bodies.

► In an attempt to access the Norton webpage of the Symatec company, which provides malware protection and removal services, that is to say, computer anti-virus software etc, the message "Embargoed Country. We're sorry that we are unable to process your request for Symantec products" appears.

5 It is important and well-known that the President of the United States possesses broad executive prerogatives which he has not used, and still could, to substantially modify the practical application of the blockade and its humanitarian and economic

impact.

IMPACT OF THE BLOCKADE ON EDUCATION:

1,245,000 USD in losses from April 2015-April 2016

6 Except for issuing specific licenses, the new measures do not allow U.S. investments in our country, nor joint ventures, or even the issuing of credits for Cuban pharmaceutical and biotechnological production, marketing and distribution in the United States, which has happily been authorized, once they receive approval from the Food and Drug Administration.

7 I appreciate and share the touching words of Ambassador Samantha Power regarding the emblematic, symbolic case of Doctor Félix Báez Sarría. It is an example of what can be done when international cooperation prevails. The United States' change of vote could lead some to ask: Will the measures which threaten the work of Cuban collaborators around the world come to an end?

Cuba offers international health collaboration services in 65 countries.

8 While the Presidential Policy Directive, issued October 14, confirms that the Government of the United States recognizes "sovereignty and self-determination" and that "it is up to the Cuban people to make their own choices about their future," it does not hide in misleading language its aim of altering Cuba's constitutional order and promoting changes in its economic, political, social and cultural system, nor does it hide the intention to continue undertaking interventionist programs responding to the interests of the United States, or its intention to involve sectors of Cuban society in them.

► "The United States Government has no intention to alter the existing lease treaty





Students in Havana, Cuba cheer the results of the 2016 UN vote condemning the blockade on Cuba

The U.S. Presidential Directive disregards the fact that three of every four Cubans work in the public sector and thus do not benefit from practically any of the current changes.

9 It is useful to recognize that changing Cuba is a sovereign matter of the Cuban people alone, and that Cuba is a genuinely independent country; because it won its independence by itself and has known, and will know, how to defend itself at the cost of great sacrifices and risks. You should know that our people won power and “empowered” themselves a long time ago and exercise their sovereign power, popular power every day.

IMPACT OF THE BLOCKADE ON CULTURE:

29,483,800 USD in losses from April

and other arrangements related to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, which enables the United States to enhance and preserve regional security,” reads the Policy Directive.

► The Presidential Policy Directive states, “We anticipate the Cuban government will continue to object to U.S. migration policies and operations, democracy programs, Radio and TV Marti, the U.S. presence at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, and the embargo (blockade).”

► “While the embargo remains in place, our role will be to pursue policies that enable authorized U.S. private sector engagement with Cuba’s emerging private sector and with state-owned enterprises that provide goods and services to the Cuban people,” notes the directive.

► In its concept of the Cuban population,



Billboard in Cuba reads “Normalizing is not a synonym of blockading”

2015-April 2016

10 The Cuban Revolution has been and continues to be made every day, by and for the youth. Cuban youth, who are a reflection of their time, are as patriotic and anti-imperialist as their parents and grandparents.

► 1,767,300 students began the new school year across all levels of education. Cuba has the highest university enrollment rate per capita on the continent.

► 52 young people under the age of 35 are members of the Cuban Parliament.

The President of the Federation of University Students, Jennifer Bello, was elected a member of the Council of State at 23 years of age.

Source: www.en.granma.cu

WE STAND WITH STANDING ROCK!

INDIGENOUS NATIONS & THEIR ALLIES FIGHT BACK



Veterans Join Sacred Stone Camp

by Thomas Davies

“We’ve been fighting this fight our whole lives and now there is no doubt in our minds that our generation can change the future. We know that the next presidency stands to jeopardize our work but we are by no means backing down. We will continue protecting everywhere we go and we will continue to stand for all our relations. We say Lila wopila to everyone who has supported the resurgence of indigenous nations. This is just the beginning.”

- Eryn Wise of the International Indigenous Youth Council

The Dakota Access Pipeline was supposed to be a done deal. Money in the bank. Half a million barrels a day of hydraulically fracked oil flowing over 1000 miles from North Dakota to Illinois by the end of 2016. That was before the Standing Rock Sioux Nation mobilized itself and allies to build the Sacred Stone Camp and block the pipeline’s final connection under the Missouri River. Now, in a massive backtrack, the US government announced it will not grant the final easement for the pipeline’s construction under the river.

With billions of corporate dollars at stake, the pipeline project is certainly not dead. Still, this is an important partial victory. Despite massive police violence,

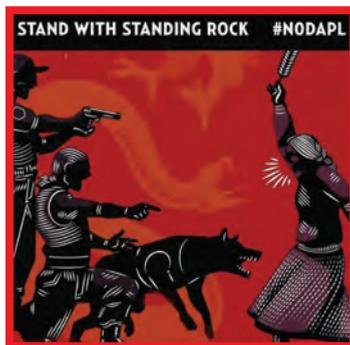
media disinformation and now the blizzards of the North Dakota winter – indigenous nations have so far succeeded in preventing the construction of a pipeline they never consented to being built on their lands. In doing so, they’ve become the focal point of an international movement, and taught climate and social justice organizers some important lessons.

They’ve also probably managed to ruin quite a few oil executives New Year’s Eve celebrations as well!

Background

The camp began in April and has since grown from a handful of people to over 11,000 by December. This includes a coalition of 320 Indigenous nations, as well as supporters from around the world. It first began to make headlines when private security forces pepper-sprayed and used attack dogs against peaceful camp members who were attempting to stop the bulldozing of sacred burial sites on the pipeline’s path.

Over 10 million dollars has been spent already by the local police and out of



state police forces who have joined them. There is ample evidence of these militarized and hostile police forces using tear gas spraying mace, shooting protesters and journalists with rubber bullets, arresting members of the press, using water cannons in subfreezing



Seattle Solidarity Rally

temperatures and throwing concussion grenades. One of these grenades hit a 21 year old student who is now undergoing a series of surgeries to save her arm. Another woman was shot in the eye and is undergoing medical treatment to save her eye. Over 450 people have been arrested.

Yet with every act of brutality and intimidation the camp has continued to grow, and people have seen and felt the strength of a united a determined effort.

Government Flip Flops

To be clear, the US government is working hard to get the pipeline built. After all, they originally approved the pipeline without proper consultation or consent from indigenous nations or a thorough environmental review. When a Federal Judge ruled against the Standing Rock Sioux Nation’s attempt to halt pipeline construction in September, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Army, and the Department of the Interior issued a joint statement asking for pipeline construction to be halted on either side of the Missouri Rive while they reviewed the decision-making process.

Since then they have been hoping that the camp would tire out and lose steam as winter descended and police violence continued. They were wrong. Camp members were also unfazed when the

police announced they would fine anyone bringing supplies into the camp. Finally, the Federal government announced that camp members would be trespassing and face prosecution if they didn't relocate to an ironically named "free speech zone" and allow pipeline construction to continue by December 5th. Regardless, the camp continued to grow, and over 2000 U.S military veterans came together to create a human shield and protect the camp. This became a public relations nightmare of the government and oil executives, as the images of police attacking and removing veterans would certainly spark even more outrage.

It was for this reason that the last easement was denied. The two corporations responsible for the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners and Sunoco Logistical Partners, have already issued a statement saying they were still committed to the pipeline construction. There is still a lot of speculation regarding their next steps. Some have said they will simply wait for the new Trump administration to take over the Presidency in the new year, while others have said they will continue construction despite facing \$50,000 a day fines.

Regardless, it will be impossible to complete the pipeline by January 1, 2017.

This is the date that Energy Transfer Partners conceded in court proceedings that it has a contractual obligation to complete the project by. If it misses this deadline, companies that have committed long term to ship oil through the pipeline at much higher 2014 prices have the right to rescind their commitments. This threatens the financial viability of the project.

What's at Stake

The rallying cry at Standing Rock of "Mni Wiconi – Water is Life" was a natural given that the pipeline jeopardizes the Missouri River and Ogallala Aquifer which millions of people rely on for their drinking water. What has become obvious though is that the movement is sustained and supported because it also connects to other fundamental issues. The camp has become the front line of poor and working people defending indigenous self-determination and their lives against government and corporate powers which continue to ram these resource extraction projects down our throats. They promise that these projects are for the "national interest", meanwhile the planet is literally being pushed to the brink of complete catastrophe and our standards of living continues to drop.

Last month, Kanesatake Grand Chief Serge Simon said Canada could see "20 Standing Rocks" if similar projects go ahead without free, prior and informed consent of indigenous nations. When Justin Trudeau recently approved to the Kinder Morgan pipeline in British Columbia, calls to create "Standing Rock North" were immediate.

What's Next?



San Francisco Solidarity rally



Police shoot water cannons on camp members in freezing temperatures

"I was asked, 'When do you consider this pipeline issue to be over?' I said, when every pipe is out of the ground and the earth is repaired across the United States. I am not negotiating, I am got backing down. I must stand for our grandchildren and for the water." - LaDonna Allard, Director of the Sacred Stone Camp

From Occupy Wall Street, to Idle No More, to Black Lives Matter to Standing Rock. It is clear that there is a growing number of people who are fed up with the daily injustice and brutality of life in societies where governments work hand in hand with corporations to maximize profits at the expense of everyone else. Standing Rock has been successful by being steadfast, committed, and connected to world around it. They have refused to be divided, tricked or distracted. Despite the government's announcement of the easement denial, the camp still remains. All peace and social justice loving people should continue to support the camp and Standing Rock, and to apply their strength and determination to our own struggles for social and environmental justice.

**We Stand with Standing Rock!
Mni Wiconi – Water is Life!
System Change Not Climate Change!**

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59



Mni Wiconi - Water is Life!



Celebrating the December 5 victory



Fidel Castro's Enduring Environmental Legacy

“Let human life become more rational. Let us implement a just international economic order. Let us use all the science necessary for pollution-free, sustained development. Let us pay the ecological debt, and not the foreign debt. Let hunger disappear, and not mankind.”

- Fidel Castro, 1992 UN Rio Earth Summit

Fidel’s commitment to education and health care stand out as monumental achievements for Cuba under his decades of rule. While he emerged as a stalwart of anti-imperialism and anti-capitalism, his commitment to environmentalism and Cuba’s achievements in the area gets less attention.

Cuba is one of the few developing countries that has shown a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability, despite a number of obstacles such as the ongoing U.S. blockade.

Before the dangers of climate change were well established within scientific and indeed popular knowledge, Fidel spoke of the need to radically change the way societies interact with their environments.

“Tomorrow will be too late to do what we should have done a long time ago,” Fidel said in a typically roaring speech while at the 1992 U.N. Rio Earth Summit. “Let human life become more rational. Let us implement a just international economic order. Let us use all the science necessary

for pollution-free, sustained development. Let us pay the ecological debt, and not the foreign debt. Let hunger disappear, and not mankind.”

In the famous address, Fidel highlighted that consumer societies, which “arose from the old colonial powers and from imperialist policies ... are fundamentally responsible for the destruction of the environment.”

In a 2003 address to U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, he expanded on the destructive impact of capitalism:

“Such an economic order and such models of consumption are incompatible with the planet’s limited and non-renewable essential resources and with the laws that rule nature and life. They are also in conflict with the most basic ethical principles, with culture and with the moral values created by humankind,”

Reforestation

Because of a reforestation program which started in 1998, forests make up 30.6

percent of the island nation’s land area, and the country has been able to maintain sustained forest growth, according to Cuba’s National Officer of Statistics and Information.

Cuba has the highest proportion of its forest designated for protective functions in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The province of Pinar del Rio is covered by 47 percent forests, and Guantanamo with 46.7 percent. When Fidel claimed victory in the Cuban Revolution in 1959, only 14 percent of Cuba was thought to be covered in forest.

Spanish colonization and foreign-owned timber and sugarcane industries played significant roles destroying significant amount of forest, which was estimated at around 90 percent before the Spanish landed on the island.

Solar Technology

In a country blessed with year-long sunshine, Cuba has begun to invest more in solar technology and has planned to expand its program across the island which not only helps reduce pollution but save money.

The Pinar 220 A1 solar park near Pinar del Rio in western Cuba uses 12,080 solar panels to generate an average of 13 megawatts per day to national electricity grid. In its first year of operation, it produced almost 6 gigawatts of electricity, which would have otherwise cost over half a million dollars to produce in a thermoelectric plant.

Solar plants are planned for another 28 areas within Pinar del Rio to generate 105.9 megawatts of power. Another closely park in Tronco is currently in construction and will provide 2.7 megawatts to the electricity grid.

Agricultural Revolution

Already under the pressure of import restriction from the U.S. embargo, the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990s, was a blow to Cuba’s economy and agriculture industry. Cuba then took the initiative to radically transform the way food was produced and distributed. In the years that followed, Cuba was able to shift to an organic or semi-organic type of agriculture.

A key part of Cuba’s agriculture introduced under Fidel has been agroecology: a model whereby ecological principles are applied to farming to help sustainability and lessen the reliance on chemicals. The model can

not only help to produce a wide range of crops compared to industrial models built for exporting to other countries but helps to increase food sovereignty and self-dependency and reduce Cuba's carbon footprint

"Scientists are directly accountable to farmers, where farmers are treated—not as idiots—but as partners in the field who experiment and innovate, and the real genius of the Cuban experiment has been the democratization of expertise, knowledge and power," Professor Raj Patel, a food security expert, said while speaking to teleSUR in October.

Fidel helped implement a number of measures that helped to create jobs in the industry as well as increase local production and have more power to Campesinos to collectively manage farmland. Cuba's agricultural revolution has been cited as an example for other countries, particularly developing countries to follow.

Under Fidel, Cuba has also become a world leader in urban farming. In Havana alone, more than 87,000 acres have been dedicated to urban agriculture, including food production, animal husbandry and forestry. In 2005, Havana's urban gardens produced 272 metric tons of vegetables.

Environmental Protection

Kicked off by the 1992 Rio speech, the Cuban government has aimed to protect its natural environments -- some of the most pristine in the world, through tight environmental management.

The Cuban government has set the goal of protecting 104 marine protected areas and so far as been able to protect 25 percent of its marine habitats from being developed, according to Daniel Whittle from the Cuba program at the Environmental Defense Fund. New developments must undergo a stringent environmental review process.

Cuba has also signed a number of important international conservation treaties and under Fidel went about changing the country's laws for the better of the environment. Cuba's constitution was amended to include protections for the environment and its resources and a number of institutions were created under Fidel to monitor, research and preserve the environment.

"I think the Cuban government can take a substantial amount of credit for landscape, flora, and fauna preservation," Jennifer Gebelein from Florida International University told National Geographic.

Source: www.telesurtv.net

"By Any Means Necessary..."



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

"Fidel Castro has denounced racial discrimination in Cuba, which is more than President Eisenhower has done here in America." Premier Castro has also come out against lynching, which is also more than Eisenhower has done. Castro has also taken a more open stand for civil rights for Black Cubans"

Quote from the Pittsburgh Courier, October 1, 1960, following the historic meeting between Malcolm X and Fidel Castro at the Theresa Hotel, in Harlem, New York City

"The white man knows what a revolution is. He knows that the Black Revolution is worldwide in scope and in nature. The Black Revolution is sweeping Asia, is sweeping Africa, is rearing its head in Latin America. The Cuban Revolution - that's a revolution. They overturned the system. Revolution is in Asia, revolution is in Africa, and the white man is screaming because he sees revolution in Latin America. How do you think he'll react to you when you learn what a real revolution is?"

-'Message to the Grassroots' November 10, 1963

FIDEL PRESENTE

STATEMENT OF FIRE THIS TIME MOVEMENT
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
VANCOUVER, CANADA
NOVEMBER 28, 2016

"It is with deep sorrow that I come before you to inform our people, and friends of Our America and the world, that today, November 25, at 10.29pm, commander and chief of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz passed away...Hasta La Victoria Siempre! (Until victory always!)"

Late in the night of Friday, November 25, Raúl Castro, the President of Cuba, appeared on Cuban television and announced the passing of Comandante Fidel Castro at the age of 90. The news spread quickly around the world, as did the messages of condolences, in recognition of the incredible impact of his extraordinary life.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to Raúl, his family, the people of Cuba and millions of people everywhere for whom Fidel holds such an important place.

In the 90 years of his extraordinary life, Fidel outlasted 10 US presidents, 11 counting President Barack Obama. He also survived over 600 assassination attempts orchestrated by the US government and the CIA. Through his unwavering leadership Comandante Fidel Castro steered the Cuban Revolution through 57 years of great gains and great challenges, and through his undying internationalism Fidel continued to support the struggles of all oppressed peoples for a just and better world.

It has to be said with great certainty that Fidel's impact as a revolutionary will live on. As he always said, revolutionaries win by setting an example. And indeed he was the best example of a selfless, devoted revolutionary leader who simply did what he was supposed to do; to lead the struggle for a better world. He served with dignity and gracefully the cause of socialism for working class and oppressed people around the world. Fidel as a great teacher taught us that the greatest beauty is the fight for humanity. He taught us that revolutionaries have no need for material and fetish attachments. Just the dedication of oneself to the cause of socialism and a better world. Fidel's departure is his message to remind us that the struggle to replace capitalism with a just and human system must continue, as he did for 70 years.

Now is the time for all of us who believe in a better future to honour the legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro and work together to keep up the fight in the ongoing struggle for a new better world. Fidel was for unity and unity is what is so essential and vital to win.

Fidel's legacy of hard work, dedication, dignity and revolutionary internationalist spirit will stay with us, as well as the Cuban people and the world forever. Fidel, his example and his ideas, will never truly die, and we find hope in that for the future. As a young Cuban shouted to international media in the streets of Havana, "Fidel isn't dead because the people are Fidel." We are Fidel!

¡VIVA FIDEL!
¡FIDEL PRESENTE!
¡HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE!
¡UNTIL VICTORY, FIDEL ALWAYS!
¡VENCEREMOS!

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

By Alison Bodine

On December 9, 2016 people who believe in justice from around the world are gathering in support of U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. Each year, this day is an important opportunity to take action for Mumia as it marks the anniversary of his unjust arrest and imprisonment in Philadelphia for the allegedly killing of a police officer. As of today, Mumia Abu-Jamal has spent the last 35 years in U.S. prison, 29 of them in solitary confinement on death row.

Mumia is one of the longest standing political prisoners in the U.S. For hundreds of thousands of people around the world, especially for Black and minority groups in the U.S., Mumia is a hero. He is a symbol of the struggle of Black people for their rights. His imprisonment is also an example of the criminal crackdown of the U.S. ruling class on oppressed people when they decide to stand up and fight back.

In 1982, Mumia was given the death penalty charged unjustly for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer. In reality, what the police needed was a scapegoat for a dead cop and who better to place the blame on than a young revolutionary journalist and former Black Panther Party member.

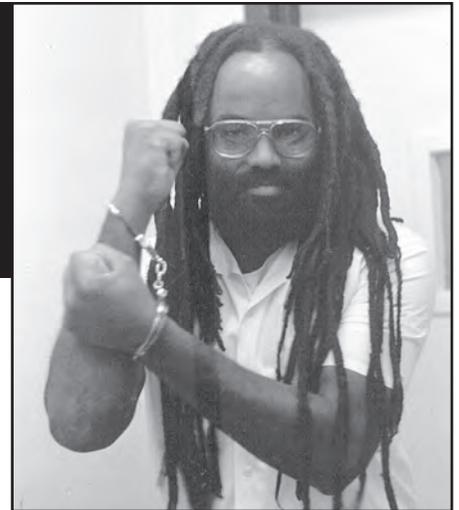
This year, the international protests and actions demanding the immediate release of Mumia are even more urgent. Mumia's health is deteriorating. He has contracted Hepatitis C while in prison and the U.S. Government refuses to grant him access to an available cure. On top of this health crisis, the water now being given to the prisoners at SCI Mahanoy, where Mumia is serving a life sentence without parole, is undrinkable and even unfit for bathing.

Fire This Time Newspaper defends Mumia's demand for treatment for himself and the rest of the inmates at the Pennsylvania penitentiary where Mumia is held. Furthermore Fire This Time calls

on the U.S. Government and President Obama to immediately free Mumia Abu-Jamal by granting him a pardon.

For more information on Mumia's case please visit: <http://www.freemumia.com>

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette



MUMIA ON FIDEL

VIVA FIDEL!

Fidel Castro Ruz: 1926-2016

Fidel Castro, father of the 1959 Cuban revolution has died after 90 years of a life of rebellion and resistance. That this bold, revolutionary figure lived as long as he did is itself a victory, for he outlived at least 11 assassination attempts forged by the CIA against him. Eleven times that the U.S. government has admitted.

As a young man, he earned a law degree, but never practiced in that role. He took to the revolutionary path, and began a struggle against the U.S.-supported dictator, Fulgencio Batista. That struggle, which led to the fall of Batista, inspired people all around the world.

One of those inspired was the late Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, who, in a 1967 jail interview, noted, "When Fidel Castro started the revolution along with Che Guevara, with 12 of them



altogether, they realized that they wouldn't be able to topple oppressive regime in Cuba. What they were essential was an educational body. They engaged with the army; they fought with the army and they showed the people that the army was that bulletproof, that the police were not bulletproof. And that Batista's regime was not a regime that was impossible to topple, so the people began



Fidel Castro and Malcolm X, 1960

to feel their strength," [said] Dr. Huey P. Newton.

Fidel was a friend of Malcolm X, and a lifelong friend of Africa. The racist regime of apartheid South Africa got whipped in Angola, with tens of thousands of Cuban troops in the field. The notorious Battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola was where South Africa saw the bloody writing on the wall.

Castro once said, "African blood flows in our veins. Many of our ancestors came as slaves from Africa to this land. As slaves, they struggled quite a great deal. They fought as members of the Liberating Army of Cuba. We're brothers and sisters of the people of Africa, and we're ready to fight on their behalf."

Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution never bowed to the U.S. empire, not once in over half a century. The Cuban revolution produced the finest educational system in the Caribbean and much of the world. They sent their doctors all around the earth.

The world mourns the passing of a giant. Fidel Castro Ruz, comandante de la revolución, presente.

From Imprisoned Nation, this is Mumia Abu Jamal.

*Transcript of audio recorded by Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio

“It is with deep sorrow that I come before you to inform our people, and friends of Our America and the world, that today, November 25, at 10.29pm, commander and chief of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz passed away...Hasta La Victoria Siempre! (Until victory always!)”

Late in the night of Friday, November 25, Raúl Castro, the President of Cuba, went on to Cuban television and announced the passing of a giant, Cuban revolutionary and internationalist leader, Fidel Castro at the age of 90. The news spread quickly around the world, as did the messages of condolences, in recognition of the incredible impact of his extraordinary life.

In Vancouver, Canada, organizers with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) took the news of Fidel Castro’s passing with not only with heavy hearts, but with the determination that the life and legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro must be told at this important time. VCSC organized four events in the nine days following his passing in order honour the life and legacy of Fidel Castro and to set the record straight about this important revolutionary leader who struggled for the victory and dignity of poor and working people in Cuba and around the world.

The four events organized by VCSC brought out hundreds of people from many different ages, backgrounds and experiences in Vancouver, all impacted by the life of Fidel Castro. Through speeches, stories, poetry, music, and film, participants expressed not only their profound sadness, but also their intense love and respect for Fidel Castro as a humble, tireless and one of a kind revolutionary.

Also importantly, the perspective and opinions of people in Vancouver in support of Fidel Castro were reflected in the media through coverage of VCSC’s work. This coverage included over 10 radio and TV interviews as well as articles with media including the Province Newspaper, CBC TV, CTV, Global TV, CKNW, News1130, Spice Radio, Coop Radio and Roundhouse Radio which worked to help combat the media bias against Comandante Fidel and the Cuban Revolution.

Fidel’s Legacy Lives! Vancouver Candlelight Vigil

On Sunday November 27, over 100

Vancouver Remembers Comandante Fidel Castro

By Alison Bodine

people gathered in the wind and rain at CBC Plaza in downtown Vancouver to honour Comandante Fidel Castro. In between chants of “Viva Fidel!” and “Fidel Presente, Ahora y Siempre!” a dynamic program of speakers, poets and musicians warmed the hearts of participants.

The candlelight vigil was MC’d by Tamara Hansen, the Coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC). To begin the program, she first welcomed Kelly White, a Coast-Salish Elder, indigenous leader and social justice activist, who welcomed everyone to the vigil with a song of strength and remembrance. Kelly was followed by the powerful words of Yasin Kiragga of the African Descent Society and the International President of Ubuntu Human Rights, Brian Sproule of the CPC-ML and Stan Squires, a long-time supporter of Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution, as well as Napoleon Ortiz, who read a statement from the FMLN of El Salvador.

Any program honouring the life and legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro would not be complete without poetry and music to express the beauty of the struggle for a better world. Myra Climaco, an historic combatant and militant of the FSLN from Nicaragua and Lucy Ortiz, the Director of the Latin-American poetry collective “Proyecto Cultural Sur,” both read poetry, while Honduran musician MX Katracho and El Salvadorian musician Maria Melendez had participants clapping and singing in celebration of Fidel’s life.

Despite the increasingly terrible weather, participants at the vigil stood strong and proud with their candles and Cuban flags until the program ended with an opportunity to pay respects to Comandante Fidel Castro by laying flowers at the foot of his portrait.

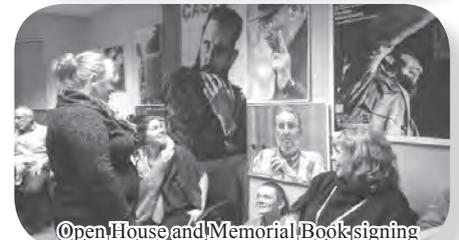
Vancouver Remembers Fidel! - Open



Fidel Memorial Book table



VCSC Coordinator Tamara Hansen



Open House and Memorial Book signing

House

Following the Sunday vigil, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) organized an open house for people in Vancouver to continue remember the life and legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro. At the event, which took place on Tuesday November 29, at the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House in East Vancouver, there was also a condolence book set up for people to sign.

Despite the sadness and reflective sentiment in the air, the colourful room decorated with beautiful portraits of Fidel, was also lively with fond memories of Fidel and revolutionary Cuba, and even the occasional sound of joyful laughter. Soon, the condolence book began to fill with messages of all kinds, long and short, and in many languages.

Viva Fidel! Film Festival & Tribute



Former Vancouver City Councillor Tim Louis speaks at Fidel Tribute event



More than 100 people attended the Fidel Castro vigil on less than 24 hours notice

Event

On Sunday December 4, the ashes of Fidel Castro were laid to rest in a cemetery in Santiago de Cuba. As the Cuban people continued to commemorate, remember and mourn their late leader, Vancouver continued to remember the life of Comandante Fidel together as well through two special events, both held at the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood House.

The first event was an all-day film festival of excellent films about Cuba's revolutionary internationalist leader, MC'd by Friends of Cuba Against the Blockade (FCAB-Vancouver) and VCSC organizers Sarah Alwell and Alison Bodine. Through eight documentaries, participants at the festival were given the opportunity to review the important leadership role that Fidel Castro played in Cuba, in Latin America and all around the world, from the beginning of the Cuban Revolution to his recent 90th birthday on August 13, 2016. Many of the films also included interviews with Fidel, people in Cuba, and world leaders that illustrated his patient, kind, persuasive, defiant, visionary, and in a word, revolutionary, character.

In between the films, people were invited to sign the Vancouver book of condolences as well as an online

condolences book established by the Cuban Embassy in Ottawa, Canada.

The Viva Fidel! Film festival ended with Roberto Chile's "Desafio," a moving tribute to the steadfast leadership of Fidel Castro and the determination of Cuba people, leaving the packed room in tears.

However, those tears didn't last for long, as people found their way to the final VCSC event honouring the life and legacy of Fidel Castro, and chants of Viva Fidel! once again filled the air.

The tribute evening was opened by MC Tamara Hansen, the coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, with the videos from the last week of memorial events in Cuba. Following the videos, Tamara invited up Kelly White, a Coast-Salish elder, Tim Louis, former Vancouver City Councilor, Yasin Kiragga of the African Descent Society and the International President of Ubuntu Human Rights who read a letter from the General President of Pan African Congress of North America and International Civil Rights Lawyer Julialynne Walker, Bryan Belfont, a long-time Cuba supporter, and Barb Biley from the CPC-ML. Revolutionary condolences were also read from Wilfredo Perez Bianco, the Consul General of the Consulate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Vancouver. Following the

diverse speakers, Tamara also gave her own reflections on the life and legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro.

The cultural portion of the program was opened by Max Tennant, a poet and organizer with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba. He was followed by Marcos Uribe, a Chilean musician who was accompanied by Macarena Cataldo Hernandez for a moving set of classic songs dedicated to Comandante Fidel. Following Marcos and Macarena, the powerful voice of El-Salvadorian musician and organizer of the FMLN in Vancouver, Maria Melendez filled the hall. The tribute evening closed with a soulful performance by Kiki Connelly. Throughout the tribute, participants were also invited to continue to sign the Vancouver book of condolences.

In the 90 years of his extraordinary life, Fidel outlasted 10 different US presidents, 11 counting US president Barack Obama. He survived over 600 assassination attempts orchestrated by the US government and the CIA. Through his unwavering leadership Comandante Fidel Castro steered the Cuban Revolution through 57 years of great gains and great challenges, and through his undying internationalism Fidel continued to support the struggles of all oppressed peoples for a just and better world.

Now is the time for all of us who believe in a better future to honour the legacy of Comandante Fidel Castro and work together to keep up the fight in the ongoing struggle for this new world.

Fidel's legacy of hard work, dedication, dignity and revolutionary internationalist spirit will stay with us, as well as the Cuban people and the world forever. Fidel, his example and his ideas, will never truly die, and we find hope in that for the future. As a young Cuban shouted to international media in the streets of Havana, "Fidel isn't dead because the people are Fidel."

¡VIVA FIDEL!
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 ¡VENCEREMOS!

For photos of the Vancouver Remembers Fidel! Tribute events and to find out more about Cuba solidarity in Vancouver, visit www.vancubasolidarity.com

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continued from page 5

It was also the first sign that the three-decade neoliberal nightmare in the region was on the wane, that Cuba's isolation was coming to an end, and that Fidel's vision of a radical, united, independent and integrated Latin America could become a reality.

This was in 1994, four years before Chavez became Venezuela's president and well before there was any inkling it would inaugurate the "pink wave."

Fidel's vision and Cuba's example, after half a century of resistance and adherence to socialist principles, had not only paid off, but the emulation of Cuba's policies by the pink wave governments ensured that tens of millions of hitherto impoverished and marginalised people began to experience the fruits of a better world.

The United States' 50-year campaign of aggression against Cuba was defeated by Fidel's nimble political leadership on a large number of occasions.

It began in 1960 with President Dwight Eisenhower's attempt to humiliate the Cuban delegation to the UN by throwing them out of the Manhattan Shelburne Hotel.

Fidel turned this into a sensational political victory by staying in Harlem's Theresa Hotel and receiving a rapturous welcome by African-Americans.

Ever since, Fidel has inflicted defeat after defeat to imperialism, not only by defending Cuba's revolution but by also providing tangible material support to anti-imperialist struggles around the world.

No wonder they hated him so much and that the US tried to assassinate him at least 638 times.

US efforts to assassinate Fidel are the clearest manifestation of its utter failure to counteract, let alone defeat, the attractiveness of Cuba as an example to imitate and emulate.

Confirming Fidel's understanding of the imperialist structure of world politics, the state messages paying tribute to his legacy originate overwhelmingly in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. There have been a few from Europe but the response from the US has been at best equivocal and at worst hostile.

The United Nations general assembly observed one minute's silence for Fidel's death, requested by UN president Peter Thompson, who highlighted his legacy in which his "dedication to [Cuban] advancement, especially in the fields of education and health, would be long remembered," adding that his tireless struggle for equity in the international arena made him an "inspirational figure for developing countries in particular."

In Latin America, the 1959 Cuban revolution showed that a better world was possible. It triggered a colossal historic movement that, despite ebbs and flows, began the long march of the people for their liberation, as was aptly captured by the Revolution Second Declaration of Havana (October 1962) declaring the revolution's socialist nature.

Fidel's words in reading it resonate as true today as they did then for Cuba, as for the whole of Latin America: "For this great humanity has said: 'Enough!' and has begun to forge ahead. And in its march as a giant will not stop until they conquer true independence."

We will be faithful to your legacy, Comandante Fidel Castro.

Saturday 3rd Dec 2016

First appeared in The Morning Star Newspaper UK

**Dr. Francisco Dominguez is head of the Latin American studies research group at Middlesex University, London, and is an executive member of the Cuba Solidarity Campaign.*

FIDEL CASTRO'S LEGACY LIVES!

*Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC)
Vancouver, Canada
November 25, 2016*

Celebrating the Life, Legacy and Achievements of Comandante Fidel Castro

On Friday November 25th at 10:29pm Fidel Castro, the outstanding Cuban revolutionary leader, passed away. He was 90 years old. Fidel leaves behind a legacy of over 70 years of steadfast commitment and accomplishments in the fight for a better world. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Raúl, his family, the people of Cuba and millions of people everywhere for whom Fidel holds such an important place.

As a student leader turned victorious guerrilla commander and later as Cuba's head of state, Fidel dedicated his incredible life to the dignified fight for a more just and human society in Cuba and around the world. While many debate and dispute the role that a single individual can play in history, Fidel's huge impact on world events is indisputable. Cuba's achievements today in social equality and development in the arts and sciences are recognized by international organizations such as the UN, FAO, UNESCO and WHO—in spite of more than 50 years of a cruel U.S. blockade on the island. We with say utmost confidence that Fidel's important legacy and vital example will continue on long after his passing.

Through many of the unforeseeable ups and downs of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro's consistent revolutionary method in approaching all challenges has led Cuba to succeed. These battles have been fought and overcome through the pressure and devotion of the Cuban people to their revolution and its gains, but also through the clear foresight of Cuba's revolutionary government led for more than 50 years by Comandante Fidel.

As a young revolutionary defending himself against the courts of the dictatorship he later overthrew, Fidel made the famous proclamation, "Condemn me, it does not matter, history will absolve me!" More than 60 years later, we can say with complete certainty that he was correct. Now is the time for all of us to work together to keep up the fight in the ongoing struggle for a new and better world. This is how we best honour the legacy of this tireless, humble, incredible and one of a kind revolutionary.

VIVA FIDEL!
FIDEL PRESENTE!
HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE!
UNTIL VICTORY, FIDEL ALWAYS!
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