

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



# Fire This Time!

## VENEZUELA



Page 8

## STOP THE WAR ON YEMEN



Page 7

## OPEN THE BORDERS



Page 25

**TRUDEAU:  
REPEAL BILL C-51  
SCRAP BILL C-59!**

Page 16



## DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN CANADA?

## ATTACK ON EDUCATION



Page 13

## STOP THE PIPELINE BAILOUT



Page 2

## RAUL CASTRO SPEAKS



Page 18





# The People VS The Pipeline

By Thomas Davies

In July 2018, *Fire This Time* Editorial Board Member and Climate Convergence Vancouver organizer Thomas Davies did two live radio interviews with Gurpreet Singh of SPICE Radio, a multilingual South Asian radio station on 1200 AM. They both focused on the ongoing struggle to stop the government bailout of the controversial Kinder Morgan pipeline project.

The interviews were conducted in English, with some parts translated into Punjabi as well. Below is a compiled transcript.

**Gurpreet:** You're listening to SPICE Radio and we have on the line Thomas Davies, who's going to tell us about this Saturday's flotilla protest against Kinder Morgan. So Thomas, tell us something about the kind of response the Saturday protest received. It was well reported in the media outlets. Probably you got a chance to see it first hand.

**Thomas:** Yes, I was there at the water. I think it's part of a consistent presence that was there before the government announced it was going to buy the Kinder Morgan pipeline and expansion project, and especially since. There has been a series of consistent protests and different actions that continue to get a really good response from the public and it's impossible for even the mainstream media to ignore.

**G:** What kind of people participated?

**T:** It was organized by Protect the Inlet, but as you've seen in a lot of these actions, they are led by Indigenous Nations and most importantly, led by Indigenous Nations whose territories the pipeline would cross if it was built. These Indigenous nations are saying, "We do not give consent for this pipeline to cross our territories," which is particularly

important given what Justin Trudeau has said many times about respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which includes 'free, prior and informed consent' to any to any resource extraction projects or anything that happens on their traditional territories. That's a very important aspect of the Indigenous-led part of this movement.

The bottom line is that under any sane person's perspective or opinion about consent: this pipeline does not have the clear consent of the communities it's going to be crossing. Indigenous Nations have not given their clear consent and so if Trudeau is faithful to what he's promised, then he can't proceed with the pipeline — but he's still trying to regardless.

**G:** Tell us how important it is for these groups in opposition to the pipeline to continue trying to get support as the date to purchase the pipeline gets closer.

**T:** That's a very good point. I work with a coalition called Climate Convergence, and we're a grassroots led climate justice organization. We've been organizing for about five years. We've never gotten any large donations, we have no paid staff. We operate solely on the power of the community, and we've been able to organize massive rallies of tens of thousands of people and

continue organizing along with many other groups over the past five years. And people have been organizing even more before that. This project, I believe, would be well into construction if it hadn't been for the opposition especially in British Columbia. If people weren't so opposed, if Indigenous Nations weren't so clear in their opposition. And I think also organizers have been doing a better job of listening to the voices of Indigenous Nations and standing beside as they lead, as they should be.

It's important especially now because the Kinder Morgan shareholder's meeting to sell the pipeline is happening soon and pretty soon we're all going to be owners of a dirty Tar Sands pipeline project. We need to articulate, as possible pipeline owners and 'shareholders', that we don't agree with it.

**G:** When we look at what the media has been doing in regards to reporting this, do you feel sometimes that the corporate media has slighted the opposition and criticized more of the protesters?

**T:** I think if you look at the comments of David Dodge, who's a former Bank of Canada President and is currently a high-profile adviser to the Rachel Notley

NDP government in Alberta, he has specifically said that there is going to be deaths of protesters while building the pipeline, and we need to be comfortable with people dying because of it. That kind of talk, those threats of death, I can just imagine what would happen if someone who was opposing the pipeline was talking like that. Talking about the other side dying. It's amazing that he got away with that,

but so far he has. After talking about needing to be comfortable with people dying because of the pipeline, he went on to call the opposition "fanatics".

So yes, I think there's a huge double



standard in what the people and the corporate interests who support the pipeline get away with and the standard they hold to people who are opposing it. We really need to call out this kind of language, and Trudeau and Notley didn't condemn his language. There was no condemnation even from the media

as a grassroots effort to bring people together to fight for climate justice, and over that time the main campaign we've been focused on is stopping the Kinder Morgan pipeline, which is, as we see it, a defining issue in British Columbia and Canada. We've organized many of the larger rallies that have happened in

but also because we have a responsibility as these amazing creatures that are really able to harness the power of the planet earth for a lot of really good things. It's recognizing responsibility and looking at the issue holistically.

**G:** What are your thoughts about the incident that happened at Camp Cloud? Two pro-pipeline protestors are alleging that they have been assaulted.

**T:** To go back a little bit, there are two camps on Burnaby Mountain that are close to the Kinder Morgan tank farm facility. There's one camp organized by a group called Protect the Inlet, and there's another which is called Camp Cloud. Both camps are protesting the Kinder Morgan pipeline and the proposed expansion project.

Recently the city of Burnaby issued an eviction notice to Camp Cloud, citing some concerns about health and safety and fire hazards. The deadline has now come and gone on that, and Camp Cloud has said that they are trying to reach out to the City about addressing some of these concerns.

In the meantime, we've seen a really distressing trend, especially in the last six months, of violence and threats of violence against people who are protesting the pipeline. I think I spoke last time about David Dodge's comments about people dying protesting the pipeline and being comfortable with that. Since then, if we look at the rhetoric especially on social media, death threats are becoming commonplace, and I know just from Climate Convergence we've gotten them just from our posts on Twitter and Facebook. This normalization of discussing violence against people who are defending the planet and trying to stop this pipeline is very concerning.

In this context, a pro-pipeline right-wing group in Alberta crowdfunded to raise money to send a bulldozer to Camp Cloud. I think we need to understand how insane that is - raising money to send a bulldozer to a peaceful camp. Two people associated with this bulldozer group went up to the Camp, and I'm not sure what they expected to receive - flowers and greetings? A bulldozer is meant to bulldoze, do destroy - it's a threat. There's obviously a heavy symbolism, it's obviously a really tense time, and obviously there's a lot of threats of violence against people.



"No Consent! No Pipeline!" Vancouver Rally, November 19, 2016.

outlets that reported it. That's a huge double standard.

**G:** Thank you Thomas. Is there something we didn't ask you?

**T:** No, just that people should pay attention to continued actions. They can go to [www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca) to get all the information about upcoming actions. We are going to continue organizing. People power has been what's stopped the pipeline so far, and we've got to continue using that successful formula, and we've also got to reach out to a lot of people who aren't happy that the government of Canada has just committed 15 to 20 billion dollars at least to a pipeline project that everybody knows is going to lose money, is bad for the environment and is violating Indigenous rights. I really appreciate you giving us the time to talk about these important issues and hopefully we can talk again soon.

(PART 2)

**G:** Tell us something about the Climate Convergence Coalition. When was it formed and what is its mandate?

**T:** The coalition formed five years ago

Vancouver, and we continue to organize all sorts of different actions and educational events against the pipeline and on other climate justice issues.

**G:** Can you please explain to our listeners what you mean by "Climate Justice" so they have a better understanding about these issues.

**T:** That's a great question. Climate justice is the basic understanding that we need a planet that is healthy and has water, and air and an ecosystem that is operating in a balance; which it's been operating in for hundreds of thousands of years and is the reason that humans are able to exist and to thrive on earth - because of this very delicate and incredible balance that we have on this planet. There's a lot of science behind that, but the basic understanding is that through human activity, especially industrial activity, we have upset that balance. We are in danger of upsetting that balance to a point where this planet will no longer be livable for human beings or for really any living being for that matter. Climate justice is really recognizing that human beings have a responsibility to protect the planet because we've damaged it,



I wasn't there, but if I'm looking at the situation overall, the provocation isn't from Camp Cloud. The provocation is from these people talking about bulldozing their camp.

**G:** Although we understand that assaulting anyone is not a good thing to do. It can really hurt your cause, however genuine it might be. But at the same time, do you see any problem with the way this has been framed in the media? The way this incident is being projected, or similar incidents where pro-pipeline protestors are being given a lot of coverage even though they are very small in number? What are your thoughts about that?

**T:** I think if people who are protesting the pipeline used even a small amount of the language or did even a small amount of these things the pro-pipeline groups have done, the media coverage would be huge. Imagine if someone protesting the pipeline said, "We need to be comfortable with having a few deaths stopping this pipeline. There's going to be a few pro-pipeline people that are going to die but we need to be comfortable with it." Imagine if pipeline protestors were making daily threats against the lives of people who support the pipeline, like is happening in reverse right now. The media attention would be huge, whereas we rarely get any coverage of that in the mainstream media. We barely get any coverage except from some independent media sources like yourself, that have been covering and have helped for word to get out. There's a huge double standard that we've discussed before and I don't think that it's difficult to understand. This is a big business project and big business interests are behind it. Big business interests for the most part are what control the major media in Canada.

This issue of the pipeline is a political issue. It's going to come down to political will, to the political consequences to the government for trying to shove it through and build it. That's an issue of public perception and the media plays a big role in shaping public perception. We need to be, as I think you're highlighting directly, really vigilant about this double standard and making sure we're doing everything we can to get the word out about what we are actually fighting for.

**G:** This is an ongoing issue that not going away any time soon, so going down the line, how do you think different municipalities and the police will have to properly deal with this conflict?

**T:** We have seen of a lot of instances of the Canadian government, of the police, of the military being used especially against Indigenous peoples who are protecting their land. So, we need to really make sure that these threats and these ideas of violence are not normalized and that the actions we do organize are as united and as large and as consistent as possible.

I can't speak for what the police or the municipalities are planning, but I do know as someone who is actively involved in organizing against the pipeline and for climate justice that we understand that we need to make sure that we continue

organizing, and it's been a really successful formula for us so far. The pipeline has been delayed and the deadline for the government to find a different buyer for the pipeline since it said it was going to buy the project from Kinder Morgan has come and gone, for obvious reasons. Nobody wants to buy this pipeline. We've got another couple months here before Kinder Morgan and the government of Canada are going to finalize the sale - so that's an opportunity to us to make sure we're making our voices loud and clear and to make sure that people know that we're standing up for the environment. We're standing up for clean air, for clean water, for healthy communities and for sustainable jobs. We need to keep making that case over and over again.

**G:** When we look at what corporations are doing, how much power do they have when it comes to getting government resources to build the pipeline?

**T:** It's pretty incredible that Kinder Morgan bought this pipeline for half a billion dollars, and then the government bought it from them for 4.5 billion dollars. They made a 600% profit, just from having this pipeline project and having the existing pipeline for a few years. If that doesn't demonstrate to someone what kind of power and influence these kinds of corporations have over the government I don't know what else will.

It's incredible what they've been able to get away with. The government waived all sorts of fees that Kinder Morgan should have to paid for participating in the required environmental review process. The government was willing to shell out 1.5 billion dollars of tax payer money for a marine safety project, which was really just a marine safety project which was necessitated by the possibility of hugely increased tanker traffic. I think we've seen that before. The government of Canada has just written off several billion dollars that they had loaned to corporations in 2008 during that financial crisis, and they won't even tell us who they loaned that money too. And that's billions of dollars that the Canadian taxpayer is never going to get back.

Corporations have a huge influence, but I keep coming back to the fact that we need to understand that we have an influence here as well, and this pipeline project hasn't been built. It is in a crisis because of the fact that people have continued to speak out against it. We need to keep doing that, and we can do a better job as well.

Just a reminder to check out [www.climateconvergence.ca](http://www.climateconvergence.ca) for more information, and that on Tuesday August 7 we are having a really big rally at Broadway and Commercial in Vancouver and everyone is invited at 5pm.

Thank you Gurpreet and SPICE Radio!



70 year old Laura Embree is arrested at the gates of the Kinder Morgan tank farm on Burnaby Mountain, June 19, 2013.



Protesters outside PM Trudeau's meeting on the Cheam First Nation near Chilliwack, BC, June 5, 2013.

# NO CONSENT NO PIPELINE! ORGANIZING CONTINUES THROUGH HOT SUMMER MONTHS

*By Thomas Davies*

July showed that there will be no “summer slowdown” of organizing against the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion of the Trudeau government’s attempt at a \$15 billion taxpayer funded bailout of the project.

**July 4** was the Climate Convergence coalition’s “No Trudeau Pipeline Bailout!” Day of Action – consisting of an Intersection Rally and march to a Community Discussion. Armed with a new banner, a crowd of over 100 people gathered at the busy intersection of Broadway and Cambie in Vancouver to demand the government cancel its controversial bailout. Protesters were met with a lot of honking from passing drivers and distributed hundreds of new leaflets with details about the pipeline and the bailout.

They then marched over the Cambie Street Bridge to the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch and the site of the Community Discussion. 75 people sat in a circle to discuss the pipeline bailout and how to effectively organize to stop the pipeline expansion. It quickly became apparent that everyone was on the same page about the necessity to

## Letter fom Camp Cloud Supporters to Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan and city councillors:

July 20th, 2018

To Mayor Corrigan and the Council of the City of Burnaby,



This letter is in response to the eviction notice the City of Burnaby issued to Camp Cloud on Wednesday, July 18th, 2018. We are writing to challenge this process on numerous grounds and demand that the City of Burnaby rescind this eviction immediately.

Camp Cloud, a tiny resistance camp, fuelled by donated firewood and repurposed building materials, is opposing a corporation which is worth 13.7 billion dollars and known for its flagrant disregard of law and life. The City of Burnaby cannot, in good faith, move forward with enforcement of bylaws on Camp Cloud without enforcing the same on Kinder Morgan.

The eviction notice was issued on the grounds that Camp Cloud poses a safety risk and because of “health and environmental concerns.” In light of Kinder Morgan’s track record of oil spills and unlawful activity, this eviction notice is ignorant at best. Camp Cloud exists to protect communities from more of this. Your eviction notice ignores the health and environmental concerns of constructing a pipeline with the capacity to transport upwards of 300,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

Recently, Kinder Morgan has been granted permission by the National Energy Board to keep its emergency response plans secret, despite reports from the Burnaby Fire Department and from Simon Fraser University which detail the significant safety risks posed by the proposed tank farm expansion. This emergency response plan directly impacts hundreds of school children in local neighbourhoods and residents of Burnaby have no information about emergency preparedness in the likely event of a spill. If the City of Burnaby wants to protect community safety, it should push for the release of these plans to the public rather than threaten Camp Cloud, a group composed of local concerned residents.

The use of law enforcement to remove Camp Cloud is itself a safety risk. If the events of November 2014 are any indication, the RCMP response brings violence to the camp and puts protesters and community members in danger. The City of Burnaby owes it to residents to learn from the past and act accordingly.

We are calling on the City of Burnaby to put its energy and resources into responding to the risks of the dangerous Trans Mountain Pipeline project. We are demanding City workers commit to regular monitoring of Kinder Morgan’s activity at the tank farm and for the City to immediately cancel the eviction notice issued to Camp Cloud.

continue organizing – and many groups and individuals in attendance discussed new common actions and campaigns.

Convergence organizers also had busy information tables at Car Free Day on Commercial Drive and on **July 15** at the Vancouver Folk Festival – collecting hundreds of petition signatures and distributing even more informational pamphlets. It is clear that the government’s planned purchase of the pipeline has not changed anyone’s mind about how terrible the project would be.

On **July 8**, Climate







Many other groups and organizations made July a big month as well. Greenpeace organized for several climbers with massive banners to hang from the Iron Workers Memorial Bridge in Vancouver, the aerial blockade succeeded in generating a lot of media attention and blocking an oil tanker from leaving the Kinder Morgan facility for more than 30 hours.

Protect the Inlet also continued actions in front of the Kinder Morgan tank farm gates, and a kayak flotilla which was led by Tsleil-Waututh elders and encircled the floating razor wire fences Kinder Morgan has put up around their tank farm.

Finally, 18 past and present members of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Youth Advisory council issued a widely covered open letter to the Prime Minister demanding he cancel the pipeline bailout. "The decision to buy the Trans Mountain pipeline project calls into question your commitment to young Canadians... We call on you to cancel the buyout of the Trans Mountain pipeline project on the grounds that this project violates Indigenous rights, poses the threat of irreversible damage to British Columbia's coast and brings the world many steps too close to global climate catastrophe. Climate leaders do not finance or support fossil fuel production and must instead pave the way to a just transition out of the fossil fuel era."

The voices of opposition from so many different communities against the Tar Sands expansion project continue in full force. We are committed to building a future, not a pipeline.

No Consent No Pipeline!

Build Our Future – Not a Pipeline!

System Change Not Climate Change!

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59

Follow Climate Convergence on Twitter:  
@Climate604

## Union of BC Indian Chiefs Condemns Canada's "Ill-fated" Buy- Out of Kinder Morgan Project

(Coast Salish Territory – Vancouver, BC  
– July 23, 2018)

Today, as Canada takes possession of the controversial and ill-fated Kinder Morgan pipeline and tanker project, Indigenous leaders renew vows to enact their rights as proper title holders by protecting their territories against this project and its devastating risks and impacts.

While misleading information about Indigenous support for the pipeline has been widely circulated, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) emphasizes that the standard for Indigenous approval must be our free, prior and informed consent – not merely consultation – as articulated by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada has officially endorsed and committed to adopt without qualification. Indigenous Nations will not allow Canada to override Indigenous Title and jurisdiction.

According to the latest statistics from news outlets, out of 106 Indigenous Nations and groups identified along the pipeline route in BC alone, 64 have not signed agreements and an additional 14 have active court challenges underway. Further, this pipeline and tanker project will affect lands, rights, and resources that should have been historically protected for Indigenous Nations by colonial and Canadian governments but were not. Along the proposed route, there are at least 400 unresolved specific claims – a vast number of historical losses yet to be redressed by the federal government. This does not include specific claims that could arise as a direct result of the pipeline expansion.

"This ill-conceived and dangerous project, now owned by the Canadian government, will never happen," stated UBCIC President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. "Canada is foolishly forfeiting billions of dollars – this is not an infrastructure investment but a massively expensive experiment in trying to reenact a colonial status quo. Canada can rest assured that the collective response by our Nations will continue to be strong, widespread, and unwavering. We've said no from the start. We still say no."

"The UBCIC will not falter whatsoever in our efforts to safeguard our lands, coasts, waters, and fisheries, which have sustained our people for centuries," said UBCIC Vice-President Chief Bob Chamberlin. "We will defend the ecological security of our territories. The fact that Canada failed to secure a purchaser for the pipeline by the proposed deadline demonstrates that this was, is, and will continue to be an irresponsible expenditure of Canadians' tax dollars."

"This pipeline purchase is the Doctrine of Discovery in action," said UBCIC Secretary-Treasurer Chief Judy Wilson. "It speaks louder than all the rhetoric in the world: Canada thinks that, when it comes down to it, they hold the final say in what happens with our lands. But we are sovereign Nations and we have never ceded, surrendered, or relinquished Title. We hold the sacred responsibility to protect these lands and we will do so."

From: [ubcic.bc.ca](http://ubcic.bc.ca)

### Battle of Ideas Press

Upcoming Book Release

SYSTEM CHANGE  
NOT CLIMATE CHANGE

WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM  
INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM

By Thomas Davies

Thomas Davies is a social and environmental justice organizer based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Fire This Time Newspaper and a founding member of Climate Convergence Metro-Vancouver.



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# 1,200+ Days of War & Bloodshed in YEMEN

## IMPERIALISTS & SAUDI ARABIA HANDS OFF YEMEN!

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*By Azza Rojbi*

After a Saudi airstrike hit a water project in the Nushour area in the Sa'ada province Geert Cappelaere, the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) Regional Director in the Middle East and North Africa, stated, "UNICEF deplores in the strongest terms yet another attack on vital and lifesaving water systems in Yemen. A large water facility in Sa'ada, northwest of the country, came under attack this week. This is the third such attack on the same facility. More than half of the project is now damaged, cutting off 10,500 people from safe drinking water." (July 24, 2018)

Only few days later, the U.S. backed, Saudi-led coalition again targeted vital civilian infrastructure. According to the United Nations (UN) "On 26, 27 and 28 July, airstrikes occurred near a reproductive health centre and public laboratory in Hodeidah and hit and damaged a sanitation facility in Zabid and a water station, which supplies the majority of the water to Hodeidah City."

The Saudi-led coalition started its war on Yemen in March 2015, claiming to bring peace, stability and legitimacy to Yemen and the region. After over three years of bombing and war there is no peace in sight! Saudi Arabia's government failed in their goal to bring Yemen to its knees and reinstate the deposed former pro-imperialist President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi, whose term has expired and who is currently hiding in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

### **Who is Behind the Crisis?**

Life for Yemenis under the Saudi-led airstrikes and bombing is worsening every day. According to the UN, Yemen is "the world's worst humanitarian crisis" where "75% of the population, 22 million people, need some form of humanitarian assistance and protection".

Saudi Arabia, its allies and the imperialist media is trying to portray this humanitarian disaster as the consequence of a "civil war" within the country. The reality is far beyond that, what is happening in Yemen is a war of imperialist

countries and their puppet regime against an independent nation. Their goal is to kill the democratic aspirations of the Yemeni people and prevent the formation of a sovereign state in Yemen.

Another fabricated lie used by imperialist media is to label the war in Yemen as a "front war for Iran" and to dismiss Yemenis resisting the Saudi-led aggression on their country as "Iranian puppets." This helps the Saudi government to justify their atrocities committed in Yemen in the name of countering Iran's meddling in the region.

However, sometimes even the mainstream imperialist media exposes their own lies. In an article published in the Washington

and political support of the United States and its imperialist allies.

### **France's Role in Yemen**

According to estimates from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), France is the world's third largest arms exporter between 2013-17; with Saudi Arabia being its number one client. France is also the second largest exporter of arms to the UAE.

In addition to selling them weapons, France provide Saudi Arabia and the UAE with training and logistical support remotely and on the ground in Yemen. On June 16, 2018, the French Newspaper



**A man carries a child rescued from the site of a Saudi airstrike in Sana'a Yemen, August 8, 2017.**

Post in 2016 titled "No, Yemen's Houthis actually aren't Iranian puppets" the author states that "Tehran's support for the Houthis is limited, and its influence in Yemen is marginal. It is simply inaccurate to claim that the Houthis are Iranian proxies."

As the Saudi-led coalition approaches its 4th year of war in Yemen, it is important to look at who is really behind this humanitarian tragedy. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) might be seen as the front players in this war, but they would have not been able to carry it out with the military, logistical

Le Figaro cited two military sources in reporting that French special forces are present in Yemen assisting UAE forces.

France has also been a direct accomplice in imposing the naval blockade on Yemen. According to the publication "La Lettre de l'Océan Indien", in March 2016, when Saudi Arabia's navy fleet withdrew for maintenance, the French navy took up the role of maintaining the blockade against Yemen.

### **UK's Role in Yemen**

The UK is the second largest supplier

*continued on page 31*



# STOP Sanctions on Venezuela!

"As peace-loving people in Canada, it is our responsibility to fight against these interventions and make space for the people of Latin America to pave their own way forward for independence, sovereignty and self-determination."

By Alison Bodine

*Interview by Vancouver Co-op Radio's America Latina al Día with Alison Bodine, Coordinator of the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, which aired live in English and Spanish on July 14, 2018. America Latina al Día is a popular weekly bi-lingual (English and Spanish) program which airs every Saturday from 12-2pm To listen check out: <http://www.coopradio.org/content/america-latina-al-dia>*

**America Latina al Día:** We are here live in studio with our second guest today, Alison Bodine, who is going to talk to us about the most recent U.S. threats of invading Venezuela. Alison is the Coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, as well as a member of the North America Venezuela Strategy Group. She was recently in Venezuela as an international observer to the Presidential elections. She has also published a book called "Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Venezuela" from Battle of Ideas Press, on 20 years of American attempts to overthrow the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela.



President Maduro announcing the Petro Currency at a rally in Venezuela, May 3, 2018.

Thanks for joining us today Alison.

**Alison Bodine:** Thank you.

**America Latina al Día:** Recently, American president Donald Trump threatened to invade Venezuela, while his vice-president Mike Pence visited several Latin American countries to discuss the current political situation in those countries, and to garner diplomatic support from right-wing Latin American leaders for an eventual American action.

So, Trump's idea of invading Venezuela is not new. In August last year, he had already

suggested the United States should invade Venezuela. That idea has strong support among the American intelligentsia. In November, Foreign Affairs magazine, which is published by the extremely influential Council of Foreign Relations, published an article on "What Would an US intervention in Venezuela Look Like?", and in this past June, the journal Foreign Policy published an article called "It's time for a coup in Venezuela."

It is crystal clear that the United States has no peaceful intentions for Venezuela or Latin America as whole. Unfortunately, it seems like Canada has no goodwill towards Venezuela either.

All that being said Alison, it seems like the first time that an American President openly calls for an invasion, a return to gunboat diplomacy. Why do you think Trump is so brazenly threatening Venezuela?

**Alison:** Thank you again to America Latina al Día, and to both of you, Daniel and Katie, for having me here today. Within the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign we think it is really important to make sure that we understand that this latest threat isn't coming only from Trump. As you said, this may be the most brazen threat, that the United States invade Venezuela, but we have to remember that under U.S. President Obama was when Venezuela was declared



Alison Bodine, Coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, with America Latina al Día co-host, Daniel Guedes, July 14, 2018.





Left to right: Youth of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela; artwork to celebrate President Maduro; and Alison Bodine speaks at the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign's July 13, 2018 protest at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, Canada.

an “extraordinary threat to U.S. national security.” What this meant, was that there was an Executive Order issued that somehow is claiming that Venezuela, which is thousands of miles away, and has never militarily threatened the United States, was being declared a danger to the United States. This Executive Order enables U.S. Congress and the Executive branch to level all sorts of attacks against this independent and sovereign country.

When Donald Trump suggested invasion of Venezuela, as you have correctly outlined, it was bolstered not only by articles in Foreign Policy, but also by articles in the Washington Post and the New York Times; all of whom echo the U.S. Administration by enforcing the claim that the U.S. government has some sort of authority to invade other countries, to overthrow democratically elected governments like that of the government of Venezuela. Really, this level of threat has been happening for the last 20 years, since President Chavez was elected the President of Venezuela and that country took a different path than what the government of the U.S., the government of Canada, and transnational corporations, the World Bank and IMF have been forcing Latin America to do for so many years.

**America Latina al Día:** Alison, as you say, it was during the Obama Administration that Venezuela was considered an “extraordinary threat,” or an enemy of the state. So, this is not necessarily Trump, and it is not new, as you say they have had interests since Chavez was President many years ago. What do you think are the interests are behind Trump and the U.S., those threats of invasion? Is it Oil? Is it ideology, ego?

**Alison:** It is all of the above and more. I think what some of the mainstream media would like us to think is that it is

somehow Trump’s egotistical, maniacal attitude. But really, he is a representative of the United States government and administration. Venezuela does have the world’s largest proven oil reserves. Venezuela has a very large trade with the United States in oil, which unveils a lot of contradictions in U.S. policy towards Venezuela and may make it more difficult to attack Venezuela.

But also, I think Venezuela has something even more important than oil. I think that Venezuela has the threat of a good example. I have written about this frequently in the Fire This Time newspaper and observed it when I was in Venezuela as part of two separate delegations this year.

The revolutionary people of Venezuela understand the responsibility that they have held, as far as leading an independent path in Latin America. That’s the good example I am talking about. It is sovereignty. It is self-determination. It is taking the resources of the country back under the control of the people in that country.

The U.S. doesn’t want that example to spread. Already it has inspired not only governments throughout Latin America, but also social movements. Inspired them with the idea that “you can do this,” you can throw off the yolk of the United States. For so many years the U.S. has used the Monroe Doctrine, a tenant of U.S. foreign policy that declares that the U.S. can invade any country in Latin America, that Latin America is their backyard. Venezuela, with Chavez before and Maduro today, and really the people of Venezuela, are taking a strong stand against this, and they understand exactly the importance of what they are doing and how threatening that is to U.S. hegemony in Latin America.

**America**

**Latina al Día:** That is a very good point. Do you think that the U.S. or Trump has any support within Latin America? Or among the Latin America diaspora?

**Alison:** Definitely not, on the whole. I think that there are a few important examples of this. Recently, when Mike Pence was in Latin America he didn’t receive a whole lot of support, even from U.S.-allies when he brought up the idea of other countries in Latin America sanctioning Venezuela. This was the real goal of his trip, and he failed miserably.

Pence went at to Latin America at a time when the U.S. was putting children in cages that come from Central America, and increasing their attacks on immigrants and refugees. Yet, he some how thought that he had the authority to declare that Venezuela violated human rights, and needed to be sanctioned? Which is an act of war.

There are also important organizations that Cuba and Venezuela have worked to build together to build such as CELAC (the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) or ALBA (the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas). These are economic organizations based on mutual solidarity that are creating a counter-balance in Latin America, outside of what the U.S. government has tried to establish, their so-called free trade agreements and so on.

I think Venezuela, alongside the leadership of Cuba, has built a force that is saying to the U.S. government that they are no longer welcome in Latin America.



**Rally in Caracas against U.S. interference in Venezuela.**

Of course, there are right-wing governments that the United States supports in Latin America, but even so, when it comes to the invasion of Venezuela those governments have said: no, an invasion is not welcome.

There is also another important threat which I think we should discuss, which is that Colombia, a country that shares a very long border with Venezuela, has recently joined NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), a Western military alliance that is associated with the Cold War. What business does Colombia have in joining NATO? I think that this is a blatant military threat against Venezuela as well, and where the U.S. is hoping to get some more support for their attacks on Venezuela.

**America Latina al Día:** Moving from the U.S. now to Canada, our country, what can you tell us about Canada's relationship with Venezuela? Could you explain the foreign policy of Prime Minister Trudeau towards Venezuela? Is it any different from Harper's or is it more or less the same? Tell us about that.

**Alison:** When the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign began our picket actions, which we have monthly, against U.S. sanctions and threats against Venezuela we found it very important to also include the government of Canada. Canada has taken a very up front role in working to overthrow the government of Venezuela these days.

The Foreign Minister of Canada, Chrystia Freeland, spends a lot of time on Twitter, especially, denouncing Venezuela for so-called human rights abuses, and has focused a lot of her energy at international meetings in trying to convince people around the world that Venezuela is the

enemy somehow – even though Venezuela is so-many thousands of miles away from Canada.

I think that there is two important parts to this. One is that so-called Canadian interests are threatened in Venezuela. Mining companies, of which, by the way, over 50% of Canadian mining companies are based here in Vancouver, are an important example. Some of these companies have lost their investments and assets in Venezuela, as those resources have been turned over to the people, instead of to these foreign corporations. This has been a big threat to the government of Canada's interests in Venezuela.

As well, because of what I was saying about the history of the U.S. in Latin America, the United States cannot so quickly go into Latin America and claim that they have the authority to impose so-called human rights, or democracy. However, Canada in some ways, can still. They can say, "but we uphold the values of democracy and human rights" and they can kind of have a better mask, or face, internationally.

This is why I think, for example, the government of Canada has been integral in leading something called the Lima Group. This is a coalition of right-wing governments in Latin America and Canada, that has led a lot of the rhetoric against Venezuela. Now, the Lima Group was created because these right-wing forces weren't not able to gain the support that they needed in the OAS, in the Organization of American States. So, they said, "okay, we'll just form our own organization where we can pass resolutions and convince other countries that it is actually "the world" that is against Venezuela, when that is not the truth at all.

Our monthly protests with the Fire This

Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign also focus on the government of Canada's intervention in Venezuela. Which, besides on a diplomatic level, has also taken on the form of sanctions.

For example, today there is no Canadian Ambassador in Venezuela, and there is no Venezuelan Ambassador in Canada. So, diplomatic relations have been very reduced after Venezuela uncovered the fact that the Chargé d'Affaires for Canada in Venezuela was helping to fund and support so-called opposition groups in Venezuela.

The sanctions by the government of Canada are directed right now at 52 Venezuelan officials. We have to keep in mind that these sanctions, even if the government of Canada says that they are "targeted" are part of a larger sanctions campaign that is targeting the people of Venezuela.

Canada has taken on these attacks on all sorts of levels.

**America Latina al Día:** In your opinion, what could PM Trudeau do to improve relations between Canada and Venezuela? Do you think that there is a way that we can come back from that?

**Alison:** Immediately, Canada needs to end its sanctions against Venezuela. The Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign worked with groups across Canada on a Parliamentary petition that received over 500 signatures online, directed at Prime Minister Trudeau, calling on him to end the sanctions immediately. That petition will be presented in front of Parliament in Canada, and so we need people to call their Parliamentarians and tell them to support this motion to end the sanctions immediately.

We also need to work to call on the government of Canada to normalize diplomatic relations with Venezuela and demands that the government of Canada becomes a voice around the world that says no to intervention in Latin America.

We need to demand that the government of Canada take all of the money that is being put towards intervention in Latin America, that has been funneled from U.S. and Canadian organizations to political parties in Venezuela, to so-called human rights groups. We need to take all of that money and use it here. If the government of Canada really cares about human rights, they will bring clean water to Indigenous communities in Canada, they would take care of women and children, and stop pretending that they can somehow be the authority around the world for peace and goodwill.

**America Latina al Día:** What can the



Canadian society, what can we people do to support Venezuela and bring about a qualitative change in the bilateral relations between our two countries?

**Alison:** I think that it is important that we work to break the media blockade against Venezuela. The voices of poor and working people in Venezuela aren't being heard in international media. Whatever we can do to help spread their voices, we should be doing.

I also invite people to get involved in our campaign against U.S. and Canada sanctions and threats against Venezuela. We have monthly protests that start at the U.S. Consulate and end at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and people can easily come down and join us and help us get more signatures on a petition demanding an end to Canada's sanctions on Venezuela. More information about the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice can be found on our website which is: [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net). There you can find out other ways to get involved.

There are organizations working across Canada, and many Latin American solidarity groups also understand the importance of Venezuela at this time. Here in Vancouver the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign also works with the Hugo Chavez People's Defense Front – Southwest Chapter that also has events about Venezuela.

We ask people to call on the fact that it is the government of Canada that is attacking Venezuela and that is where our energy should be directed. It should be directed against the government of Canada and that is the change that we can force. So, let's organize in the streets, come and join our monthly protests and let's also work to educate people understand what is happening in Venezuela beyond what we hear on CBC.

**America Latina al Día:** Outside of your monthly picket actions, is there any other upcoming actions that you wanted to share with our listeners?

**Alison:** That would be the one, so August 10, in front of the U.S. Consulate from 4-5pm we have a protest action and picket and then we move in front of the Art Gallery at 5:30pm, that's Friday August 10 at 5:30 where we hand out information and talk to people about Venezuela. That is where we have the important discussions: what's actually happening in Venezuela? Isn't there a dictator and isn't he a tyrant? Isn't Canada in Venezuela for human rights? Those are the really important points that we bring up and learn how to counter. We talk about

how Venezuela can actually be an example for Canada when it comes to Indigenous relations, for example.

Again, more information on the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign is at [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net)

**America Latina al Día:** Alison, we are almost out of time, but I just wanted to ask you about your book, if you could tell our listeners about it? And where we can get the book?

**Alison:** Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Venezuela, published by Battle of Ideas Press has come out this summer. It is a collection of articles that explores 20 years of U.S. intervention in Venezuela as well as includes some additional documents and speeches from Chavez and Maduro, maps and that sort of thing and I think it is a really important tool to understand how this campaign against Venezuela began, why it exists, and why it is important to get involved in fighting against sanctions, threats and intervention against Venezuela. As well as how Venezuela fits in the total picture of U.S. and imperialist intervention in Latin America.

As peace-loving people in Canada, it is actually our responsibility to fight against these interventions and give space to the people of Latin America to pave their own way forward for independence, sovereignty and self-determination.

You can order the book, it is \$10 because we wanted it to be accessible to people, at [www.battleofideaspress.com](http://www.battleofideaspress.com). That is the best way to get a hold of us and to order the book and I encourage people to use it as a tool to learn about Venezuela and the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

**America Latina al Día:** Thank you so much for your time. We are out of time unfortunately, I would love to continue that conversation, it's great. Thank you for information and clarity of your answers as well, we really appreciate your time today.

**Alison:** Thank you!

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette  
Follow ALAD on Twitter: @ALADradio



Top: Rally in Ottawa against Canada's interference in Venezuela. Bottom: May 2018 Rally in Caracas in favour of President Maduro.

**Battle of Ideas Press**  
Revolution & Counter Revolution  
in Venezuela

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

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The campaign invites you and/or your organization to endorse this call against the illegal, unjust and cruel sanctions being inflicted on the people of Venezuela. >> Please visit: [afgi.org](http://afgi.org) <<

### Ordinary Venezuelans are hurt by sanctions imposed by the US and Canada

The elderly grandmother who cannot get insulin for her diabetes, the child who is undernourished during an important stage of development, families who cannot afford to feed and clothe their children as a result of hyperinflation. US and Canadian sanctions are precipitating a rapid economic decline in Venezuela and ordinary Venezuelans are the primary victims.

### Unilateral sanctions are illegal

On May 21, the day after the re-election of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro, the US further expanded economic sanctions against Venezuela. Both the US and Canada have sanctions targeting senior Venezuelan government officials. These sanctions severely hamper the government's ability to engage with international financial entities. Furthermore, unilateral sanctions violate the human rights of the Venezuelan people and are illegal under the charters of the OAS and the UN. The imposed sanctions prevent the government from borrowing money from major financial institutions and from repatriating dividends earned by state subsidiaries abroad, restricting Venezuela's ability to import vital foods and medicines. The US and Canada hypocritically claim to be concerned about the humanitarian situation in Venezuela, while their sanctions regimes are deliberately designed to asphyxiate the Venezuelan economy.

### Sanctions are a form of economic war and can be a prelude to actual war

In addition to the economic war being waged against Venezuela through sanctions, recent reports as well as public statements by US officials have made clear that a military option against Venezuela is under serious consideration.

As people in the US and Canada, we have the responsibility to end our governments' practice of illegal foreign intervention, including the current economic sanctions against the people of Venezuela. These sanctions are a collective punishment designed to create enough human misery to bring about the overthrow of a democratically-elected government, including via a military coup. Economic sanctions violate Venezuela's national sovereignty and the basic rights of Venezuelan citizens.

The campaign invites you and/or your organization to endorse this call against the illegal, unjust and cruel sanctions being inflicted on the people of Venezuela.

### Initial Signers

- Akinyele K. Umoja, Founding Member, New Afrikan People's Organization
- Alexander Main, Director for International Policy, Center for Economic and Policy Research
- Alliance for Global Justice
- Common Frontiers
- Dan Kovalik, Adjunct Professor of International Human Rights, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice – Venezuela Solidarity Campaign
- Frederick B. Mills, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy Department of History and Government Bowie State University
- Gerardo Renique, Associate Professor, City College (SUNY)
- Gregory Wilpert, [Venezuelanalysis.com](http://Venezuelanalysis.com)
- International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity
- Ivan Dario Hernandez, Artist, Venezuela
- Popular Resistance
- Shirley Pate, DC Venezuela Action Network
- Shontae Cannon-Buckley, Co-owner, Burning Books, Buffalo, New York
- Stansfield Smith, Chicago ALBA Solidarity
- Susan Scott, Member, National Lawyers Guild
- Task Force on the Americas
- Teri Mattson, Founder, The Intrepid News Fund
- Tom Gallagher, Chair, San Francisco Progressive Democrats of America
- William Camacaro, Venezuelan Activist/ Radio Host WBAI Pacifica Network

# SANCTIONS ARE AN ACT OF WAR!

## Vancouverites Rally for U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!

*By Alison Bodine*

Through brutal sanctions, threats of military invasion, and funding and support for Venezuela's violent counter-revolutionary opposition, the U.S. and their allies are continuing to escalate their negative campaign to overthrow President Nicolas Maduro and reverse the gains of the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

The question of a U.S. invasion and war is much more than just a threat, the illegal sanctions leveled against Venezuela are already an act of war against the people of Venezuela. These

sanctions are preventing the import of vital foods and medicines, while at the same time cutting Venezuela off from receiving payments for their exports and limiting their access to financing and

income, the Venezuelan government cannot buy the goods that the people of Venezuela need. The U.S., Canada and European Union sanctions are an attempt to make the people of Venezuela suffer until they bring "regime change" in Venezuela.

As people living in Canada and the United States, we have the responsibility to call for an end to the meddling of imperialist governments in the internal affairs of Venezuela and to organize in defense of their sovereignty and self-determination.

Since December of 2015 the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign has been organizing monthly picket actions at the U.S. Consulate in downtown Vancouver. These dynamic actions demand "U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!" and "End the Sanctions on Venezuela!" – right on the doorstep of U.S. imperialism. Each time, the protest action is followed by an information table and petitioning at the Vancouver Art Gallery plaza.

This month's actions were held on Friday, July



Monthly protest at the U.S. Consulate in Vancouver, Canada, July 13, 2018.

foreign currency. Without

*continued on page 27*



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# What to teach? Classrooms, curriculum, education and society

## ONTARIO'S NEW CONSERVATIVE PREMIER DOUG FORD ATTACKS SEX EDUCATION & INDIGENOUS CURRICULUM

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By Tamara Hansen

### What's Up with Ontario?

Socially conservative and populist rhetoric is taking over the airwaves in Canada's most populated province, Ontario, now that Doug Ford has been elected premier of the province. Premier Ford, the leader of the Progressive Conservative party (PC), is bringing not only an economically conservative agenda, but also a socially conservative one, which may negatively impact Ontario children for generations to come.

The PC party won a clear majority in the 2018 provincial elections, winning 76 of the 124 seats. While many in Canada want to act as if a Donald Trump-like character could never win an election in Canada, Premier Ford is proof that these types of divisive right-wing populist candidates are also gaining popularity in Canada.

One of the most contentious issues the new Ontario government is pushing forward is dismantling the comprehensive new sex education curriculum, as well as abandoning plans to update the curriculum with a new emphasis on Indigenous knowledge and history, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's "Calls to Action".

### Sex Education in Public Schools: Challenging & Necessary

The Ontario sex-ed curriculum was updated in 2015. With Premier Ford's plan to scrap the 2015 curriculum Ontario will go back to a curriculum written 20 years ago. Using the 1998 curriculum means schools will no longer be required to teach about:

- sexting
- online bullying
- consent
- same-sex relationships
- gender identity

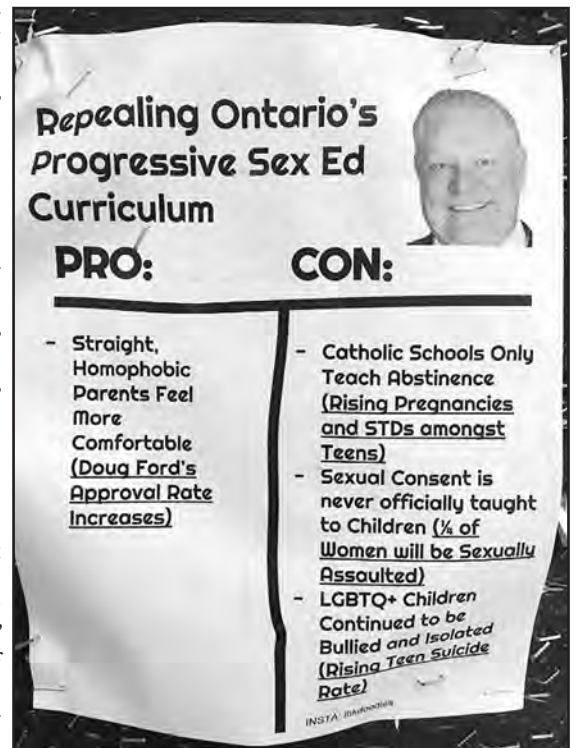
In a statement, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) urged the Ontario government to reconsider

its decision. They explain that the government must "work with health care providers, educators and other experts as well as the public to ensure a more up-to-date sexual education plan is put in place as soon as possible. SOGC members have already done a lot of work in this area through our public education website, SexandU.ca. SexandU.ca is an award-winning website dedicated to providing the most up-to-date, evidence-based, unbiased, relevant information on topics related to sexual health. [...] The site was first launched in 2001 and receives nearly 15,000 visitors per day from around the world."

Premier Ford has generally remained vague about his problem with the new sex-ed curriculum, simply saying things like it teaches "too much, too early." However, there is a video online from a small meeting before the election, in which Doug Ford states, "Grade two! (Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne) is trying to parade this ideology down our backs about six different genders or ten different genders, I think it's six different genders and all the nonsense." These are the rambling musings of a politician who is trying to make it sound like talking about diversity is so challenging for children to understand. Unfortunately, as adults it is our problem that we falsely equate sex-ed with sex and sex organs. Many get hung up on the idea that there is no way to discuss same sex relationships without talking about same sex sexual intercourse, or that there is no way to talk about trans and transgender issues without discussing which "parts" are between someone's legs.

However, if you talk to children about these issues in grade 2, they are not interested in these aspects of diversity. They can understand that – just like you can love your parents, your pets, your friends – love

exists in a diversity of ways and sometimes that means falling in love with someone of a different gender and sometimes it means falling in love with someone of the same gender. The same goes for discussing gender roles in society and how sometimes we do things outside of what many consider gender



Poster against Premier Ford's socially conservative agenda in Toronto.

norms – a woman who is a carpenter, a girl who hates pink, or a man who wears dresses – might be outside of the norm, but it doesn't make them bad or less human. There is also space here to ask children to question the norms and where they come from. Even in grade 2, many children will have bumped up against unfair gender expectations, i.e. boys do not play with dolls, or girls aren't as good at sports as boys.

This is nothing perverse, but in adulthood we

*continued on next page*



Left to right: rally for inclusive education in Surrey, BC; rally for SOGI in BC; Rally against inclusive sex-ed in Ontario.



LOVE  
VS.  
FEAR

often forget that these are simple concepts to explain that do not need to go into details at all levels. It is easy to teach about equality, difference, acceptance, respect and diversity. I will always remember the first time I saw the documentary “It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School” which brought to my attention how simple these concepts are for elementary students and how they become more difficult for teenagers and adults because we have more social baggage.

On her blog, Ontario Peel District principal Janet Jackowski wrote about the 2015 Ontario sex-ed curriculum, “I don’t know why this curriculum was a target. I honestly don’t. The consultation process was probably the most comprehensive of any modern-day curriculum, with over 4000 parents, over 2000 educators, and hundreds of students included. The Health curriculum update was long overdue. When it came out, I was pleased to see that it addressed current issues such as online behaviour, that it reflected current realities such as LGBTQ2S+ individuals and families, and of course that it dealt directly with the issue of consent. I don’t understand how anyone who had read the curriculum could think it was a bad thing.”

Indeed, Global News did a survey of provincial education curriculums across the country and found that the 2015 Ontario sex-ed curriculum is similar to what is being taught across the country.

### Indigenous Knowledge and Stories in Public Schools: Challenging & Necessary

In July select educators in Ontario were planning to be involved in summer-time curriculum writing sessions, which aimed to overhaul the Ontario curriculum placing a new emphasis on Indigenous issues and ways of knowing. According to CBC news, “The sessions were set to take place over two weeks in July bringing together over 50 Indigenous educators, Elders and knowledge holders to work on revising curriculum to introduce more Indigenous knowledge and content into provincial classrooms.” These sessions were abruptly cancelled by the new

Ontario government.

Regarding the decision to cancel the meetings the Ontario principal Janet Jackowski wrote another post, explaining her perspective on the cancellation. She wrote, “I have learned a great deal about our hidden past here in Canada, and have worked hard to ensure this information is conveyed in an accurate and age-appropriate way to the staff and students at my schools. The writing teams were to create resources that would make it easier for educators who didn’t necessarily know where to start to convey an accurate history to our students and begin the work of reconciliation in earnest. The cancellation of these writing teams was like a gut punch.”

### The Fightback Against the PCs Socially Conservative Agenda

Despite attempts to roll back gains in the education system for teaching diversity, acceptance, and understanding, Premier Doug Ford is facing huge push back from across the province and North America. Prominent sex advice columnist Dan Savage spoke to CBC news, explaining a number of studies from the University of Illinois which demonstrate how the elimination of sex-ed in schools leads to higher rates of abuse of girls and higher suicide rates.

Savage explained to the CBC, “In the absence of comprehensive sex education – that acknowledges the existence of queer kids, that talks about consent, that talks about gender – kids are going to get their information about that from pornography, they are going to get it from their peers [...] those kids who don’t get good decent sex education at home are rattling around out there and really can present a danger.”

Numerous organizations, labour unions and individuals have come out against the decisions of the Ford government. Over 20 school boards across the province have written public letters of complaint to the government. The Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) wrote a press release against the government’s plans, explaining, “It’s unfortunate that a minority

group of socially conservative parents oppose the current curriculum, some without having seen it. For this the Ontario government is jeopardizing the safety of students to do another consultation. [...] Some of that opposition stems from homophobia, given that the current curriculum addresses lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. These groups are protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code. School is a place to learn and have respect for diversity and inclusion. One would hope that the Ford government would respect Ontario’s human rights laws.”

At the same time, Indigenous organizations, publishers, and writers have come out strongly demanding the Ford government reopen discussions on integrating Indigenous history and knowledge into the curriculum. Indigenous authors Cherie Dimaline (Métis), Monique Gray Smith (Cree/Lakota/Scottish), Tracey Lindberg (Cree), and Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm (Anishinaabe) have been some of the most vocal. They have also offered free workshops in classrooms for Ontario teachers and free copies of their books as a personal gesture to stand up against the Ontario government’s decision. Portage & Main Press, HarperCollins, the Anishinabek Nation and other institutions have all offered free books and resources to classrooms in Ontario.

Author of the acclaimed book, “The Marrow Thieves”, Cherie Dimaline explained to the CBC, “We owe it to the youth — Indigenous and Canadian — to be allowed to live fully and well. [...] The only way this can happen is through Indigenous knowledge, and one of the best ways to get there in a respectful and meaningful way, is through our stories.”

### Why We Need Better Curriculum

Why does any of this matter? Across Canada many LGBTQ+ and Indigenous youth are suffering, due to racism, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination. Statistics Canada, and numerous reports by universities and NGOs confirm that these youth are often misunderstood by their peers, their



families and by society – furthermore the issues they face are real systemic barriers to living and enjoying life in the way that many of their non-Indigenous and non-queer peers do.

According to statistics collected by Egale Canada Human Rights Trust:

- LGBTQ youth are 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Massachusetts Department of Education, 2009).

- Adolescent youth who have been rejected by their families for being LGB are over 8 times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers (Ryan, Huebner, Diaz, & Sanchez, 2009).

- A study in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario revealed that 28% of transgender and Two Spirit people had attempted suicide at least once (Taylor, 2006).

- While suicide is never the result of one cause, bullying can have a long-lasting effect on suicide risk and mental health. The relationship between bullying and suicide is stronger for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth than for their heterosexual peers (Kim & Leventhal, 2008):

- >> 68% of trans students, 55% of Lesbian/Bisexual students and 42% of Gay/Bisexual students reported being verbally harassed about their perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.

- >> 20% of LGBTQ students reported being physically harassed or assaulted about their perceived gender identity or sexual orientation.

- >> 49% of trans students, 33% of lesbian students and 40% of gay male students have experienced sexual harassment in school in the last year (Taylor et al. 2011).

Statistics about Indigenous youth and the challenges they face are equally as troubling:

- “In 2016 a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled the Canadian government was discriminating against Indigenous children because on-reserve communities are not afforded the same level of resources for their families as other communities. As a consequence, more Indigenous children are likely to end up separated from their families in foster care, group homes, or detention facilities than non-Indigenous children. In Manitoba, for example, 10,000 of the 11,000 children in care are Indigenous. In Alberta about 70 percent of children in foster care are Indigenous.” (Gillian Steward, 2018)

- Suicide and self-inflicted injuries are the leading causes of death for First Nations youth and adults up to 44 years of age. The suicide rate for First Nations male youth (age 15-24) is 126 per 100,000 compared to 24 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous

- “More than one-third of Aboriginal people haven’t earned a high school diploma, and there are only eight percent of Aboriginal people aged 25 to 64 who hold university degree, compared to 23 percent of non-Aboriginals in the same age group who do.” (Charleyboy, 2017)



- male youth. For First Nations females, the suicide rate is 35 per 100,000 compared to 5 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous females (Health Canada, 2010).

- “Suicide rates among Inuit are shockingly high at six to 11 times the Canadian average. In Nunavut in particular, 27% of all deaths since 1999 have been suicides. This is one of the highest suicide rates in the world, and it continues to rise, especially among youth.” (heretohelp.bc.ca, 2008)

- Indigenous youth made up 46% of admissions to correctional services, despite making up only 8% of the youth population. (Statistics Canada 2016/2017)

- In 2006-2007 Indigenous youth made up 21% of youth in custody, this has skyrocketed in 10 years to 47% (Indigenous boys) and 60% (Indigenous girls). (Statistics Canada 2016/2017)

Taking away curriculum that is meant to foster a better understanding about queer and Indigenous youth – along with the gross arguments used to justify this plan by Premier Ford – will only further marginalize these youth. While the new curriculums cannot and will not fix all of the issues facing these youth, it means that other youth, and teachers, cannot continue to plead ignorance, or say things like, ‘its too complicated,’ or ‘I was never taught this stuff.’ This is too often what people say when confronted with new Indigenous words for places, or different forms of sexual and gender identity. At the same time these new curriculums can educate those who do not identify as queer or who are not Indigenous – they will also empower those who are.

When Indigenous youth understand their rights, when queer youth understand their rights, and when all youth have a better understanding of consent and respect for diversity it empowers young people to stand up for themselves and defend their bodies, their dignity, and their rights in the face of prejudice and discrimination.

### Understanding the Roots of Oppression

It is important to note that in the province of British Columbia, Canada, the BC government directed schools to begin teaching an understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in

*continued on page 28*



Top: First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) curriculum. Bottom: Youth Suicide Prevention Walk from Duncan, BC to Ottawa, Ontario, 2012.

# WHAT DEMOCRACY IN CANADA?

**TRUDEAU:  
REPEAL BILL C-51  
SCRAP BILL C-59!**

*By Thomas Davies*

The only thing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau could say in his defence might be, “The attack on your rights in Canada didn’t start with me.”

But...

Trudeau was elected on campaign slogan of, “Real Change Now”. He took full advantage of a real desire among people to make big changes after a decade of Stephen Harper’s

Despite voting in favour of Bill C-51, Trudeau promised he would prioritize “fixing” it once elected. That even this confusing and hypocritical position was enough to push him ahead in the election goes to show the high level of discontentment and desire for change. Trudeau’s Liberals were elected with a majority government – so he had a strong mandate to shake things up and the ability to do it.

Two years later and nobody is holding their breath. On Bill C-51, indigenous, LGBTQ2+ and refugee rights we’ve see a familiar pattern of big talk, and at the very best a “Diet Coke” version of the same anti-human Harper policies. Below is a brief summary of some of the most blatant examples. It is seemed appropriate to interchange them with italic quotes from Prime Minister Trudeau’s election victory speech on October 20, 2015.

## **Bill C-51 and Bill C-59: Two Sides of the Same Coin**

*“Sunny ways, my friends, sunny ways. This is what positive politics can do... Canadians from all across this great country sent a clear message tonight. It’s time for a change in this country, my friends, a real change.”*

The real change on the “Anti-Terrorism” law front never amounted to much. As we’ve long documented in Fire This Time, Bill C-59 has some new oversight mechanisms over national security institutions and some of Bill C-51’s most flagrant language, which was going to

be overturned in court regardless, has been removed. However, on balance, Bill C-59 still leaves our democratic and human rights in a worse position than when we began protesting Bill C-51 in the first place. The expansion of spying, personal information sharing and detention are all still there. Also, they’ve added some incredible new cyber-spying provisions which even Harper didn’t dare attempt. So where is this real change?

## **Indigenous Rights... When it’s Convenient**

*“You want a Prime Minister that knows that a renewed nation-to-nation relationship with indigenous peoples that respects rights and honours treaties must be the basis for how we work to close the gap and walk forward together.”*

Trudeau continues to speak, and to weep, often lamenting the government’s terrible relationship with Indigenous people. He also pledged to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The most fundamental aspect of the Declaration being the requirement of “free, prior and informed consent” from Indigenous Nations before decisions are made which effect their traditional territories.



**Trudeau met with opposition from Indigenous activists at Nanaimo Town Hall. February 2, 2018**

Conservative rule. He was the one who chose add the immediacy of “Now” to his promise. So now more than two years later there’s no excuse for the fact that our rights in Canada not only haven’t improved, in many ways they’ve gotten worse.

Trudeau managed to surf on the wave of discontent and popular mobilization against Harper’s “Anti-Terrorism” Bill C-51. The massive law gave monumental new powers to government and police forces to spy on and detain people with little accountability and even less explanation for how this would make anyone “safer”. It was the defining moment of that election – when people really felt like they couldn’t stand another four years of a Conservative government.



**Pipeline protest in Vancouver. May 12, 2018**



The Discourse, APTN and HuffPost Canada created a database of the 140 First Nation bands and Indigenous groups along the proposed route of the Trans Mountain Pipeline from Edmonton to Burnaby. The Trudeau government decided to buy the project for \$4.5 billion when the Kinder Morgan corporation became frustrated with delays due to opposition. The database documents that only 41 have signed agreements to build the pipeline. 14 First Nation bands or Indigenous groups are involved in legal challenges against the pipeline, and 85 have not signed any agreements.

That's a long way from consent and a "renewed nation-to-nation relationship" with Indigenous Nations.

Bill C-51 and C-59 have been seen as opening up the possibilities for government crackdowns on Indigenous Nations organizing to defend their traditional territories. "It is legislation like this that makes it difficult for people to not be scared into silence, and for people like me who believe that we need a just transition to renewable energy and engage in peaceful protests that may be seen as criminal in the eyes of the Canadian government. But this history is not new for us as Indigenous peoples here in Canada. It is the continuation of neo colonialism seen now in the form of resource extraction, environmental and cultural genocide," said Melina Loubacan-Massimo a member of the Lubicon Cree First Nation whose territory has been polluted by Tar Sands expansion.

### Turning its Bank on the Environment

*"Indigenous peoples have known for thousands of years how to care for our planet. The rest of us have a lot to learn. And no time to waste... Canada is back, my friends. Canada is back, and here to help."*

Trudeau said this a month after his election at the Paris Climate Summit. All he actually did was keep Harper's targets to reduce greenhouse emissions linked to global warming by 17 percent by 2020, from 2005 levels, and by 30 percent by 2030.

However, recently, Environment Commissioner Julie Gelfand said in a report that Canada will not meet its emissions targets, which are expected to be nearly 20 percent above the target for 2020. She also added that "meeting Canada's 2030 target will require substantial effort and actions beyond those currently planned or in place." By approving the Trans Mountain and Line 3 Tar Sands Pipelines, Trudeau knowingly made these targets impossible to meet.

Trudeau also decided to leave 99% of waterways unprotected in Canada. This broke a promise to restore protections lost when the Navigable Waters Protection Act was eliminated by the Harper government. Only 1 percent of the 31,000 lakes and 2.25 million rivers in Canada will now be protected.

### LGTBQI - Sex Education

*"You want a government with a vision and an agenda for this country that is positive and ambitious and hopeful. Well, my friends, I*



**"Sex Ed Saves Lives! Scrap Ford, Not Sex-Ed!"  
Sudbury Pride. July 23, 2018**

*promise you tonight that I will lead that government. I will make that vision a reality. I will be that Prime Minister."*

Trudeau has been particularly silent on the new Ontario provincial government's decision to scrap the current sex education curriculum and revert instead to one that is 20 years old. This old curriculum does not address topics of consent, cybersafety or gender identity. The newer 2015 curriculum had angered conservatives

# REPEAL BILL C-51 SCRAP BILL C-59!

## FIGHTING BACK AGAINST UNDEMOCRATIC LAWS

because it mentions same-sex marriage, gender equality and masturbation.

This decision obviously had nothing to do with wanting "more consultation" from parents, as Ontario Premier Doug Ford has said. It has everything to do with appeasing a right-wing viewpoint which refuses to acknowledge the rights of LGBTQ2+ community and their human rights.

Where is Trudeau's leadership on this one? He's happy to take photos at Pride Parades, but when it comes down to confronting a real attack on their rights of vulnerable LGBTQ2+ people he's silent?

### Refugee Crisis

*"To her I say this: you and your fellow citizens have chosen a new government, a government that believes deeply in the diversity of our country. We know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world who worship every faith, who belong to every culture, who speak every language."*

A full article by Alison Bodine in last issue Fire This Time summarizes the worldwide refugee crisis, but some key findings regarding Canada include:

"During the 2015 election campaign, Trudeau made the promise that the government of Canada would sponsor '25,000 Syrian refugees by the end of 2015.' This promise was made at a time when thousands of refugees were drowning in the Mediterranean Sea fleeing imperialist wars and occupations in the Middle East and North Africa. The government of Canada failed to meet this target, while at the same time

*continued on page 30*

# RAÚL CASTRO: No Matter How Great the Challenges, our People Will Defend their Socialist Revolution

Closing remarks by Raúl Castro, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, during the political-cultural act to mark the 65th anniversary of the Assaults on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Garrisons, held this morning in the heroic city of Santiago de Cuba

*By Yudy Castro Morales*

*Translation by Granma Digital News Staff*

“None of us who had the privilege of participating in the July 26 actions, under the command of Fidel, could have dreamed then of being alive today, in a free, independent and sovereign country, with a socialist Revolution in power and a united people, ready to defend the work undertaken, the fruit of the sacrifice and spilled blood of various generations of Cubans.”

Thus Army General Raúl Castro, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, began his central remarks to close the political-cultural act to mark the 65th anniversary of the Assaults on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Céspedes Garrisons, held this morning in the heroic city of Santiago de Cuba.

We celebrate this 65th anniversary in Santiago de Cuba not only due to its history, but also in recognition of the work undertaken here to benefit the people, under the leadership of Lázaro Expósito Cantro, Party First Secretary in the Province, alongside Beatriz Jhonson Urrutia, a vice president of the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba and president of the government in the territory, Raúl noted.

In this regard, he mentioned the comprehensive efforts on various fronts of the economy, which have resulted in an increase in quality and affordable goods and services for the population.

The housing program is also advancing, with initiatives including the use of locally produced construction materials, while prioritized investments of national significance are advancing at a good pace, such as the Multi-Purpose Port Terminal and the

San Luis Warehouse Complex.

Raúl reported that work is ongoing to increase exports of fruit, rum, lobster and agricultural produce, commercial activities are being reordered through local development projects that award greater autonomy to municipalities, making the best use of their own resources, which translates into greater contributions to the Budget and ensures the possibility of continuing to invest.

According to the Army General, the enthusiasm of Santiago residents is palpable, but there remains much to be done in the productive and services spheres to continue improving the quality of life of the people, with the aim of ensuring an increasingly beautiful, disciplines, clean and ordered city of Santiago, worthy of guarding the remains of our greatest children, among whom are the National Hero, the Father and Mother of the Homeland, and the Historic Leader of the Cuban Revolution.

He also recalled that the following months will see the commemoration of important events, such as the beginning of our independence struggles, and highlighted the recent approval by the National Assembly of the draft Constitution of the Republic, which will now be submitted to a broad popular consultation process, and the results of this democratic exercise will be submitted to the Cuban Parliament to be

analyzed once again, in order to draft the final text that will be submitted to a referendum, through a direct and secret vote.

The Constitution, Raúl stressed, is the fundamental law on which the state is based, and thus is the most important legal and political document of any country, defining the foundations of the nation, the structure of its branches of power and their scope, as well as guaranteeing the rights and responsibilities of its citizens.

The current Constitution, he noted, approved in a different scenario to this, needs to be reformed with the aim of including the transformations that have been carried out through the implementation of the agreements of the Sixth and Seventh Party Congresses.

Thus, a transcendental democratic process will begin, the success of which will depend, in the first place, on the active and commitment participation of all Cubans, under the leadership of the Party and the UJC and mass organizations, in which each must be aware of the need and scope of the changes that we must introduce, to ensure the irreversibility of Cuban socialism and the Revolution.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVINGS

Raúl noted that a tense situation continues with regard to the country's external finances, as a consequence of reduced income from exports of sugar, and tourism, due to heavy rains and the tightening of the U.S. blockade, which has impacted trade and international financial transactions.

However, he noted that the Cuban economy has seen modest growth, which is encouraging, but stressed that exports must increase and all unnecessary costs must be eliminated.

Raúl recalled that the greatest source of resources are savings, which more than a slogan must become a duty of all at all levels.



**Raúl Castro and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel, July 26 Celebration, 2018.**



**Raúl was a young leader of the July 26 Movement which led the Cuban Revolution.**



## ADVANCING REGIONAL UNITY

Referring to the international context, the Army General recalled that at the beginning of this century, various progressive and leftist forces came to power in the region and promoted Latin American and Caribbean unity and integration.

Thus, he noted, the imperialist project of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was defeated, and instead the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America (ALBA) created. In 15 years, 60 million people were lifted out of poverty and three million were taught to read and write, as illiteracy was eliminated in Venezuela, Bolivia and Nicaragua. More than 20 thousand Latin American and Caribbean sectors also graduated from the Latin American School of Medicine, and 2,900,000 foreign patients saw their sight restored through Operation Miracle, as well as over a million Cubans.

Likewise, Raúl recalled the generous cooperation of Venezuela resulting in the Petrocaribe project, and emphasized the favorable conditions that emerged to create the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the UNASUR, which bring together countries with different politics, but with the same principle of unity within their diversity. He also pointed to the reactivation of MERCOSUR and the important actions of CARICOM.

He recalled that CELAC Heads of State and Government signed in Havana, 2014, the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, with the commitment to respect the right of each state to choose its own political system and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of any country.

Of course, he noted, this step was not to the liking of Washington, which has implemented the strategy of non-conventional warfare to hinder the advance of progressive governments of the region, and he highlighted the coups carried out in Honduras, Paraguay and Brazil.

Raúl also emphasized that the right has recovered power in some countries, some through fraudulent electoral processes, and others through manipulation. As was to be expected, they have not hesitated to roll-back the social policies that were of wide benefit to the population.

The U.S. government has declared the validity of the Monroe Doctrine, summarized as “America for the Americans” (read “the U.S.”), which means that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are subject to intervention, he stressed.

He underlined that one of the aims is to reverse the advances in integration and the exercise of sovereignty over natural resources,

to impose its own agenda through a neoliberal offensive, aimed at destroying a decade of development.

He also said that the U.S., with the complicity of some governments, has attempted to reinvigorate the OAS as part of its attack against Venezuela, and undermine regional unity.

The recently concluded São Paulo Forum in Havana was essential as part of the political coordination of leftist forces of the region. The final declaration of the event is a program for the struggle of leftist parties and social and popular movements.

The Army General expressed the Cuban people, Party and government’s solidarity with the peoples and revolutionary governments of Venezuela and Nicaragua, and reiterated the call for freedom for Lula da Silva in Brazil. He also congratulated the Mexican people and their newly elected President López Obrador.

## CUBA WILL NEVER RENOUNCE HER PRINCIPLES

Diplomatic relations with the United States are officially maintained, with cooperation continuing on a limited number of areas and bilateral agreements.

Since the reestablishment of diplomat relations was announced, clear differences between the governments of the two nations on various issues have been voiced, however, Cuba reiterates the will to dialogue with respect and work toward improved relations on the basis of equality. Nonetheless, Cuba will never renounce the ideas it has defended for over a century.

In August 2017, he reiterated, under the pretext of alleged “sonic attacks” which are as of yet to be proven, diplomatic relations between Cuba and the U.S. became increasingly strained, as 17 Cuban officials were expelled from the U.S., and the latter’s diplomatic personnel in Havana was reduced to a minimum.

Likewise, the application and extraterritorial nature of the U.S. blockade has been tightened, in particular the persecution of international financial transactions.

The Army General recalled the infamous memorandum of 1960, in which a U.S. official noted that the majority of Cubans supported the revolutionary government and that “The only foreseeable means of alienating internal support is through disenchantment and disaffection based on economic dissatisfaction and hardship (...) to bring about hunger, desperation and overthrow of government.”

“I have never read anything more cynical than those words” Raúl stressed.

The public statements against Cuba, he said, are characterized by manipulation and millions are destined to revert the political order in our country. In June, a U.S. official

said that the countries of America have to accept that Cuba is the mother of all evils in terms of weakening democracy and human rights on the continent, and this reminds us of the attitude of former President George W. Bush.

It is no coincidence, he said, that in the draft of our Constitution it is reaffirmed that the defense of our socialist homeland is the greatest honor and duty of Cubans.

Cubans, he stressed, are a peaceful and friendly people, we do not threaten anyone, and for us avoiding a war is tantamount to winning it.

In the words of Raúl, once again, an adverse scenario has been established, but it is not the first, nor will it be the last time that the Revolution faces challenges and threats. We have taken risks and we have resisted undefeated over 60 years. For us, like Venezuela and Nicaragua, it is clear that we have to be prepared to face the attacks with unwavering faith in victory.

Since July 26, 1953, we revolutionaries have continued to overcome setbacks. Fidel, with the Moncada Assault, taught us to turn the setbacks into victories, and that nothing could contain the advance of our people. He demonstrated the strength of ideas and left us the permanent lesson of perseverance in just aims.

Back then Fidel said: Our heroic dead did not fall in vain, they accompanied us in prisons, and they fought together with us in the war and we see them reborn in the new generations.

After the triumph of 1959, the Army General noted, Cubans faced armed gangs, sabotage, plans of attacks, especially against Fidel, the blockade, media campaigns, the invasion of Playa Girón, the October Crisis, the introduction of pests and diseases, terrorist acts.

And in the 1990s, he continued, we faced the demise of the Soviet Union and the socialist camp, and the onslaught of imperialism. Cubans, in the midst of enormous scarcities, put our unwavering capacity for resistance and the will to defend sovereignty and socialism to the test, and that was possible thanks to the unity forged by Fidel.

Today, Raúl stressed, 65 years after the Moncada Assault, with our independence already conquered and the permanent presence of Fidel among us, we can affirm that no matter how great the challenges, our people will defend their socialist Revolution. History has shown that we could, we can, and we will always be able to.

To commemorate the triumph of the Revolution, January 1, 2019, he promised, we will meet again in Santiago.

*From: Granma.cu*

# RAÚL CASTRO: Por grandes que sean los desafíos, nuestro pueblo defenderá su Revolución socialista

Palabras de clausura del General de Ejército Raúl Castro, Primer Secretario del Partido, durante el acto político cultural por el aniversario 65 de los Asaltos a los Cuarteles Moncada y Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, celebrado esta mañana en la ciudad heroica de Santiago de Cuba

**\* EN ESPAÑOL \***

*Por Yudy Castro Morales*

“Ninguno de los que tuvimos el privilegio de participar en las acciones del 26 Julio, bajo el mando de Fidel, podríamos entonces soñar que estaríamos vivos un día como hoy, con un país libre, independiente y soberano, una revolución socialista en el poder y un pueblo unido, presto a defender la obra realizada, fruto del sacrificio y sangre derramada de varias generaciones de cubanos.”

Así inició su intervención el General de Ejército Raúl Castro, Primer Secretario del Partido, al pronunciar las palabras centrales del acto político cultural por el aniversario 65 de los Asaltos a los Cuarteles Moncada y Carlos Manuel de Céspedes, celebrado esta mañana en la ciudad heroica de Santiago de Cuba.

No solo por su historia, dijo, celebramos este 65 aniversario en Santiago, sino para reconocer el trabajo que desarrolla la provincia en beneficio del pueblo bajo la dirección de Lázaro Expósito Canto, primer secretario del Partido en el territorio, en estrecho vínculo con el Gobierno que encabeza la vicepresidenta del Consejo de Estado, Beatriz Jonhson Urrutia.

En ese sentido, mencionó el trabajo integral

desplegado en varios frentes de la economía, que ha permitido incrementar la oferta de bienes y servicios a la población con calidad y precios asequibles.

Se avanza, además, en el programa de la vivienda con el empleo de iniciativas en el uso de materiales locales de la construcción, prosiguen a buen ritmo inversiones priorizadas de importancia nacional como la Terminal Portuaria Multipropósito y la Base de Almacenes de San Luis.

Informó que se trabaja para aumentar las exportaciones de frutas, ron langosta y productos de la agricultura, se reordena la actividad comercial a partir de proyectos de desarrollo local que otorgan mayor autonomía a los municipios, aprovechando los recursos propios, lo que se traduce en mayores aportes al Presupuesto y asegura la posibilidad de seguir invirtiendo.

Según el General de Ejército, es palpable el entusiasmo de los santiagueros, pero resta mucho por hacer en la esfera productiva y los servicios para seguir elevando la calidad de vida del pueblo, con el propósito de que cada vez Santiago sea una ciudad más bella, disciplinada, higiénica y ordenada, digna de custodiar los restos de nuestros mejores hijos, entre los que sobresalen el Héroe Nacional,

## OUR HERITAGE



**Vilma Espín Guillois**

1930 - 2007

*Cuban revolutionary leader and feminist. Founder and Eternal President of the Cuban Federation of Women.*

“The Revolution was not, and is not, and will never become the adventure of a few, to benefit a new class of self-seekers. It was, and is, and will be the irresistible impulse of a whole people to become absolute master of its destiny, without subjection to any type of colonial rule, to recover its land and its dignity, its right to bread and to culture, to exploit its own riches for its own benefit, and to live in peace and friendship with all the peoples of the world.

We want to live in peace and be friends with everyone, but we are on guard in case they attempt aggression against us. And we are not exporting revolutions. But neither can we prevent the example of the Cuban Revolution from going beyond our borders and revealing to the brother peoples of our America and the world that imperialism is not invulnerable. That when a united people decides to obtain its full freedom and its complete independence, there are no forces which can stand in its way.”

- Speech to Latin American Conference. March, 1961.





el Padre y la Madre de la Patria y el Líder Histórico de la Revolución cubana.

Recordó que en los próximos meses conmemoraremos importantes acontecimientos como el inicio de nuestras luchas por la independencia y llamó la atención sobre la aprobación reciente, por la Asamblea Nacional del proyecto de Constitución de la República, el cual será sometido a una amplia consulta popular y con el resultado de ese ejercicio democrático, nuevamente será analizado en el Parlamento para elaborar el texto definitivo que se someterá a Referendo, mediante el voto secreto y directo de cada ciudadano.

La Constitución, afirmó Raúl, es la ley fundamental sobre la cual se asienta el Estado y por eso es el documento jurídico y político más importante de cualquier país, ya que define los fundamentos de la nación, la estructura de los poderes y su alcance, así como garantiza los deberes y derechos de los ciudadanos.

La actual Constitución, apuntó, aprobada en un escenario diferente a este, requiere ser reformada con el propósito de incluir las transformaciones llevadas a cabo tras la implementación de los acuerdos del Sexto y Séptimo Congresos del Partido.

Para ello, se iniciará un trascendental proceso democrático cuyo éxito dependerá, en primer lugar, de la participación activa y comprometida de los cubanos, bajo la dirección del Partido y la UJC y las organizaciones de masas, en que debe lograrse que cada cual entienda la necesidad y alcance de los cambios que debemos introducir, de modo que se garantice la irrevocabilidad del socialismo y la continuidad de la Revolución.

## LA PRINCIPAL FUENTE DE INGRESOS SIGUE SIENDO EL AHORRO

En cuanto en la economía, precisó Raúl, se mantiene una tensa situación en las finanzas externas, como consecuencia de las afectaciones en los ingresos por las exportaciones de azúcar y el turismo, debido a las consecuencias de las lluvias y el reforzamiento del bloqueo, que impactó en el comercio y las transacciones financieras.

No obstante, reiteró, se obtuvo un discreto crecimiento de la economía, lo que es un resultado alentador, pero se hace necesario aumentar las exportaciones y reducir todo gasto innecesario.

«Hay que tener siempre presente que la más rápida fuente de recursos es el ahorro, y tenemos que lograr que ello no

sea una mera consigna, y se convierta en una norma de conducta a todos los niveles.

## PERSEVERAR EN LA RUTA DE LA UNIDAD

Al referirse al ámbito internacional, el General de Ejército recordó que a inicios de este siglo llegaron al poder fuerzas diversas fuerzas progresistas y de izquierda que impulsaron la unidad y la integración latinoamericana y caribeña.

Así, prosiguió, se derrotó el proyecto imperialista de Libre Comercio para las Américas, y surgió la Alianza Bolivariana para los pueblos de nuestra América. En 15 años, salieron de la pobreza 60 millones de personas y más de tres millones del analfabetismo que se erradicó en Venezuela, Bolivia y Nicaragua.



Raul Castro y Miguel Díaz-Canel encabezando la Asamblea Nacional de Cuba, 27 de diciembre de 2016

También se graduaron más de 20 mil médicos latinoamericanos y caribeños en la Escuela Latinoamericana de Medicina, y se devolvió la visión a más de dos millones 900 mil pacientes extranjeros mediante la operación milagro, unido a más de un millón en Cuba.

Igualmente, recordó que con la generosa colaboración venezolana surgió Petrocaribe, y emergieron las condiciones propicias para la integración regional que dio lugar a la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) y la Unión de Naciones del Sur, a donde acudieron países de tendencias políticas diferentes pero con el principio de la unidad en la diversidad. De igual forma, hizo hincapié en la reactivación del Mercosur y el accionar de la Caricom.

Evocó que los Jefes de Estados y de Gobierno de América Latina (AL) y el Caribe firmaron en La Habana, en el 2014, la Proclama de AL y el Caribe como Zona de Paz, que los comprometió a respetar el derecho de todo Estado de elegir su sistema político y a no intervenir en los asuntos internos de cualquier país.

Esta coyuntura, enfatizó, no resultaba agradable para los círculos de poder de Washington, quienes pusieron en práctica los métodos de guerra no convencional para obstaculizar el avance de gobiernos progresistas, y rememoró los golpes militares perpetrados en Honduras, Paraguay y Brasil.

También la derecha, reconoció, consiguió recuperar en algunos países el poder mediante triunfos electorales, algunos fraudulentos, y otros al amparo de la manipulación. Y como era de esperar, no vacilaron en desmotar las políticas sociales de amplio beneficio popular.

En palabras de Raúl, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos hace algunos meses declaró la total vigencia de la doctrina Monroe, que se resume en América para los americanos y reserva para las naciones latinoamericanas y caribeñas un estatus de dependencia y sumisión.

Aseguró que uno de sus propósitos es revertir los avances en la integración y el ejercicio de la soberanía sobre los recursos naturales, para imponer su agenda mediante una ofensiva neoliberal, dirigida a destruir una década de desarrollo y ahondar las diferencias.

También dijo que los EE.UU., con la complicidad de algunos gobiernos, ha intentado revigorizar la OEA y emprender su arremetida contra Venezuela, y socavar la unidad regional. Ello vuelve a demostrar que el camino es no descuidar la

unidad de los revolucionarios y mantener la lucha, pues los adversarios nunca cejan en su empeño de imponerse, y no vacilan en acudir a los golpes de estado, la violencia, e incluso la guerra.

Sobre el recién concluido Foro de Sao Pablo, en La Habana, manifestó que evidenció la necesidad de reconducir la lucha de la izquierda y sus movimientos progresistas y su declaración final es un verdadero programa unitario de acción.

Reiteró la solidaridad con Venezuela, Nicaragua, y el reclamo de libertad para Lula. También felicitó al pueblo mexicano y su presidente López Obrador.

## CUBA JAMÁS RENUNCIARÁ A SUS PRINCIPIOS

Respecto a las relaciones con Estados Unidos, el General de Ejército dijo que se mantienen vínculos diplomáticos formales, varios acuerdos bilaterales y una cooperación mutuamente beneficiosa dentro de un grupo limitado de áreas.

A pocos días de haberse anunciado el restablecimiento de las relaciones diplomáticas entre ambos países, recordó, señalamos que

entre nuestros gobiernos existen profundas diferencias en los modelos políticos y las relaciones internacionales y reiteramos la disposición de diálogo sobre las discrepancias, sin pretender q Cuba renunciara a las ideas que había defendido por más de un siglo.

Desde agosto del año pasado, reiteró, con el pretexto de agresiones sónicas, cuyo origen nadie ha podido explicar ni probar, se han degradado los vínculos bilaterales y fueron expulsados 17 funcionarios de nuestra embajada en Washington y se redujo el personal diplomático en La Habana. Además, se ha recrudecido la aplicación del bloqueo, en particular la persecución de nuestras transacciones financieras

Es propicio, puntualizó, recordar el memorando de un subsecretario asistente de Estado para Asuntos Interamericanos, con fecha 6 de abril de 1960:

«La mayoría de los cubanos apoyan a Castro, no existe una oposición política efectiva, el único modo efectivo para hacerle perder el apoyo es provocar el desaliento mediante la penuria... Hay que poner en práctica los medios para debilitar la vida económica, negándole suministros, para reducir los salarios nominales, producir hambre, desesperación y el derrocamiento del Gobierno...»

Yo nunca he leído, aseguró Raúl, nada más cínico, y esas agresiones continúan hoy renovadas.

Los pronunciamientos públicos contra Cuba, sentenció, se caracterizan con la manipulación y se destinan millones para revertir el orden político en nuestro país. En junio, un funcionario estadounidense expresó que los países de América tienen que aceptar que Cuba es la madre de todos los males en términos de debilitamiento de democracia en el continente y de derechos humanos, y ello nos recuerda la actitud de George W. Bush.

No es casual, expresó, que en el proyecto de nuestra Constitución se reafirma que la defensa de nuestra patria socialista es el más grande honor y deber de los cubanos.

Los cubanos, patentizó, somos un pueblo pacífico y amistoso, no amenazamos a nadie, y para nosotros evitar una guerra equivale a ganarla, y para ello es preciso derramar ríos de

sudor, preparándonos para combatir hasta la victoria.

En palabras de Raúl, otra vez, se ha configurado un escenario adverso, pero no será la primera vez ni la última que la Revolución enfrente retos y amenazas. Hemos corrido riesgos y hemos resistido invictos 60 años, Para nosotros, al igual que Venezuela y Nicaragua, está claro que se estrecha el cerco y tenemos que estar preparados para hacerle frente con fe inquebrantable en la victoria.

Los revolucionarios, afirmó, desde el 26 de Julio, hemos llegado hasta aquí sobreponiéndonos a reveses. Fidel, con el Moncada, nos enseñó a convertir los reveses en victorias y ya nada pudo contener el avance de nuestro pueblo. Nos mostró la fuerza de las ideas y la lección permanente de la perseverancia en los propósitos justos.

Entonces decía Fidel: Nuestros muertos heroicos no cayeron en vano, ellos nos acompañaron en las cárceles, y ellos combatieron junto a nosotros en la guerra y los vemos renacer en las nuevas generaciones...

En 1959, enumeró el General de Ejército, hubo que enfrentar bandas armadas, y después sabotajes, planes de atentados, sobre todo contra Fidel, el bloqueo, campañas mediáticas, la invasión a Girón, la Crisis de Octubre, la introducción de plagas y enfermedades, acciones terroristas.

Y en los años 90 del pasado siglo, continuó, enfrentamos la desaparición de la Unión Soviética y el Campo socialista, y ante la arremetida del imperialismo, los cubanos, en medio de enormes carencias, pusimos nuestra inquebrantable capacidad de resistencia y la voluntad de defender la soberanía y el socialismo, y eso fue posible por el pueblo y la unidad forjada por Fidel.

Hoy, subrayó Raúl, a 65 años del Moncada, con la independencia ya conquistada y la presencia permanente de Fidel entre nosotros, podemos afirmar que por grandes que sean los desafíos, nuestro pueblo defenderá su Revolución socialista. La historia ha demostrado que sí se puso, sí se puede y siempre se podrá.

Para conmemorar el triunfo de la Revolución, prometió, nos volveremos a encontrar en Santiago.

Desde: *Granma.cu*



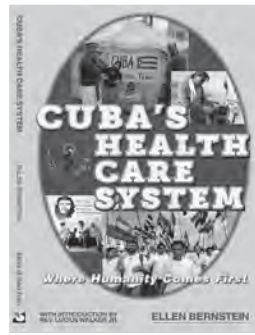
## Battle of Ideas Press

### CUBA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM WHERE HUMANITY COMES FIRST

BY ELLEN BERNSTEIN

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

Ellen Bernstein has served as Associate Director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) since 2003. She has been a key staff member of IFCO's project Pastors for Peace, and has been deeply and integrally involved in IFCO's historic work with Cuba.

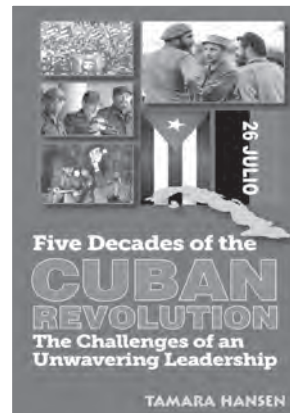


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## Battle of Ideas Press

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



By Tamara Hansen

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

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# HEY TRUMP! LIFT THE BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!

By Azza Rojbi

"Hey Trump Lift the Blockade on Cuba!  
NOW! Return Guantanamo to Cuba  
NOW!"

Those were the chants heard by people as they walked by the United States Consulate in downtown Vancouver on July 17 where Friends of Cuba Against the Blockade- Vancouver (FCAB-Vancouver) held its monthly picket action. Protesters held signs and banners demanding the end of the U.S. blockade on Cuba and heard from local speakers as well as a solidarity greeting via phone from Ottawa Cuba Connections, which have held earlier that day their protest against the blockade in front of the U.S. embassy in Ottawa.

In addition to Ottawa, every 17th of the month, supporters of Cuba in Montreal and Kiev, Ukraine have also joined FCAB-Vancouver in taking the streets in solidarity with the Cuban people as they continue facing the over 56 years old unjust U.S. blockade against their country. The consequences of this blockade affect

the daily life of the Cuban people. An example is the damages caused to the Cuban public health system, one of the sectors the most affected by the U.S. blockade, the monetary damage is estimated at more than 87 million dollars only in the period from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

In addition to the blockade being in full force, the United States government continues its illegal occupation of the territory of Guantánamo Bay, Cuba and its so called "democracy programs" and subversive activities against the Cuban government.

Despite all these severe challenges, Cuba has made extraordinary gains in education and healthcare. Today, Cuba is world renowned for its healthcare system, which has achieved a lower infant mortality rate than many first world countries, including the United States and Canada.

Supporters of Cuba around the world continue to stand with the Cuban people to defend their right to self determination and their right to live freely without the hostile and aggressive

U.S. policies towards their country. On August 17, activists in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montreal, Canada and Kiev, Ukraine, will unite their voices once again to demand an end to the U.S. blockade on Cuba. To find out about the next action in Vancouver visit [www.vancubavblockade.org](http://www.vancubavblockade.org) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @NoBloqueoVan.



By Tamara Hansen

*Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) was busy throughout July 2018 attending and organizing festivals and events across the lower mainland. Here are some photo highlights! If you would like more information or to get involved please get in touch!*

Email: [vancubasolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:vancubasolidarity@gmail.com)

Twitter: @Vancubasolidarity

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/vancubasolidarity](http://www.facebook.com/vancubasolidarity)



Commercial Dr Car Free Day Festival, July 8.



Fraser Valley Pride, July 14.



Vancouver Pride Premiere, July 27.



"Sopa Sur" Celebration with Proyecto Cultural Sur - Vancouver, July 27.



"Sopa Sur" Celebration with Proyecto Cultural Sur - Vancouver, July 27.

## VANCUBA SOLIDARITY ONGOING ACTIONS IN JULY!





# A Successful Celebration of Cuba's Moncada Day & the Birthday of Venezuela's Comandante Hugo Chavez



By Tamara Hansen

As a heatwave in Vancouver broke records, Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) invited everyone out to beat the heat with an outdoor BBQ and celebration of Cuba's Moncada Day and the gains of the Cuban Revolution. This celebration also marked the 64<sup>th</sup> birthday of Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías, leader of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela. Over 100 people participated in this electric event featuring live music, salsa dancing, an Indigenous cultural exchange, speakers, poetry, great food, community and friendship.

The event began with the BBQ and many people brought items to share. The spread was arranged across two long tables, and the line was twice as long! As everyone filled up their plates, Tamara Hansen, coordinator of VCSC welcomed everyone to the event and explained a brief history of Cuba's Moncada Day.

"On July 26th, 1953 Fidel Castro led a group of young Cuban revolutionaries in an attack against the Moncada Army Barracks in Santiago de Cuba.

This was their initial strike against the U.S.-backed Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although this attack was a military defeat for the young revolutionaries, it is seen as the beginning of the Cuban Revolution. Tonight, we remember this important action and honour the heroic fighters including: Fidel Castro, Raúl Castro, Juan Almeida, Abel Santamaría, and two women compañeras Melba Hernández and Haydée Santamaría," Tamara explained. She went on to outline the important gains made throughout the Cuban Revolution since this initial action in 1953. Tamara also brought attention to the important role the Venezuelan Bolivarian revolution continues to play in supporting Cuba, and the legacy of its leader Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías.

The program continued with a poem by VCSC organizer Shakeel Lochan, who asked how revolutionary Cuba does so much with so little? Inspiring the audience with his poem, he was followed by Andrew Baddoes, who recently went to Cuba with the 2018 Che Guevara Brigade. Andrew played his guitar,

getting the crowd to sing-a-long with him.

In recognition of the birthday of Comandante Chávez, VCSC was honoured to have Tatiana Vizcaya, the Second Consul of the Venezuelan Consulate in Vancouver bring greetings to the event on behalf of the Consul General, Wilfredo Pérez Bianco. The message emphasized the strong and beautiful connection between the revolutionary



Top to bottom: Delicious food; Beto & Terrel musical performance; Tatiana Vizcaya, Second Consul of the Venezuelan Consulate in Vancouver brings beautiful greetings; Aztec group teaches everyone a song!



peoples of Cuba and Venezuela,

as well as their eternal leaders, Fidel Castro and Hugo Chávez. Alison Bodine, coordinator of the Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign read the message in English encouraging audience members to get involved in Venezuela solidarity actions in Vancouver.

Shortly after, Beto and Terrel took to the stage. This amazing guitar and flute duo impressed everyone with songs that were both soothing and joyful, dedicated to the environment and enjoying the summertime heat.

Azza Rojbi, coordinator of Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver (FCAB-Vancouver) then spoke, explaining the cruel and harmful effects of the U.S. blockade on Cuba. She also reminded everyone that VCSC and FCAB-Vancouver participate annually in Vancouver's Pride Parade to bring attention to Cuba's campaign against homophobia and transphobia. She invited all audience members to get involved in monthly actions against the blockade, as also to join the Cuba delegation in the 2018 Pride Parade.

A highlight of the event was the participation of over 30 Aztec people from Mexico who are visiting Vancouver to share their cultural rituals and dances. They brought all audience members to join hands in a circle teaching everyone a song in honour of friendship, solidarity, and mother earth. Two of the Aztec dancers lived in the apartment in Mexico where revolutionary leader Che Guevara lived for two years with his first wife, Hilda Gadea during the time that he first met Fidel Castro in 1955. They shared this story with the audience, which was beautiful and reminded everyone of how connected the history of the Cuban revolution is with the people of Mexico.

Soon after Kelly White, a Coast Salish elder and Shona Shutter, from the Syilx nation (Okanagan), came forward to honour the Aztec guests and blanket them with a beautiful star blanket representing the four directions. Kelly sang a song to honour the guests and wish them well on their journeys, it was a moving gesture of friendship and solidarity.

It was then time for the piñata! A dozen children lined up for their chance to take a swing at the prize filled dragon. Salsa music played and many of the young at heart danced and enjoyed themselves, until it was time for the raffle draw! Prizes included Cuban keychains, books, t-shirts, honey, and most famously a bottle of Cuban rum! All winners went home with a big smile on their faces, but those who weren't so lucky left having enjoyed a beautiful evening of revolutionary politics, community, and celebration.



# OPEN THE BORDERS!

*By Alison Bodine*

“One comes to this country to seek asylum, not to be imprisoned like a criminal and for them to take your son. In all this time we’ve only spoken three times and the last time he told me that he is sad and asked ‘When are we going to be together?’ and that broke my heart. We want justice and that they reunite us with our children soon. We are human beings and there are many mothers suffering.” – Letter from Claudia, a woman imprisoned in the Hutto detention center in Texas to the organization Grassroots Leadership in Austin, Texas, June 28, 2018

The U.S. government has admitted to deporting 463 parents without their children. Claudia could have been one of them, or she might have been one of the over 2500 parents fortunate to be reunited with their child whom was ripped away from them at the U.S. border, only after a court ordered the Trump Administration to do so. Whichever the case may be, Claudia and her son have faced criminalization, detention, abuse and torture at the hands of the U.S. government, and they are not alone.

## **From Texas to Greece: No Where Safe for Refugees**

Since May 5, 2018 at least 2,551 children over the age of five, and 103 under the age of five were taken from their parents as they crossed the U.S. border together to seek asylum as refugees. As devastating photos of children in cages and recordings of their cries within immigration detention centers were released, the U.S. government was once again exposed for their inhuman and criminally callous treatment of migrants.

The Trump administration was ordered by a Federal judge to reunite all families by July 26, 2018. However, the U.S. government admits that as of the end of July, over 550 children remain in detention, including 46 children under the age of five. Although they try to justify their failure to reunite families by claiming that they are unable to locate the families (hundreds of whom they have deported!), or by citing concern for the safety of the children – these families would have never been in this devastating situation if the U.S. government hadn’t separated them in the first place.

Thousands of miles away from the U.S.-Mexico border, refugee mothers in Greece are facing the same inhumanity as they try to survive in squalid and dangerous refugee camps.

Roula, a mother from Syria told a Human



**A girl and family seeking refugee status in Canada, held in a detention centre in Quebec.**

Rights Watch researcher, “There is no peace, no safety, no dignity in Moria [one of the refugee camps on the island of Lesbos]. It’s worse than jail... We are not treated as belonging to society, as human beings.”

8,000 men, women and children are living in the Moria refugee camp, where “Conditions are so bad that people’s medical and mental health is being heavily compromised,” as reported by Doctors Without Borders.

The brutal treatment of migrant mothers in Texas and Greece are not isolated incidents, their experiences are only examples for millions of refugee and immigrant mothers. For the over 68.5 million people around the world who have been forcibly displaced from their homes by war, violence and economic devastation imposed on them by imperialist governments like the United States, Canada and the European Union, this inhumanity is their reality.

## **Migration Policy Steeped in Inhumanity**

A recent announcement by the European Union is an important example of this callous disregard for human life. In 2015 over 1 million refugees reached the shores of Europe, looking for somewhere safe to build a life. Since then, each year the number of arrivals into Europe has been decreasing while at the same time the Mediterranean crossing is becoming deadlier. This year, at least 1 out of every 34 people that has fled to Europe through the sea has died.

In June 2018, the E.U. proved once again that they are not interested in a migration policy that puts human rights and lives first when a new European Union agreement was reached following a summit held in Brussels. Part of this flimsy policy, which does not require E.U. countries to commit to anything, including measures regarding the safety and security of migrants in Europe, calls for the creation of “regional disembarkation platforms,” – more commonly called offshore processing centres.

## **Canada & U.S. immigration policies in conflict with humanity**

These offshore processing centres are proposed to be established in North Africa, in Libya, for example, a country that was obliterated by a NATO bombing campaign in 2011 and remains shattered to this day. Libya is a country rife with human trafficking and slave trade, where migrants already face imprisonment and brutality on their journey to Europe. So, just how is that a safe and humane place to process asylum seekers?

In fact, Australia has already implemented such a disastrous and criminal policy with offshore detention centres. As an article in the Guardian from November 2017 began, “The most dangerous mistruth in current Australian politics is that in order for lives to be saved at sea, other people – accused of no crime – must be indefinitely and arbitrarily punished offshore.” Now, European leaders are proposing implementing the same criminal policy, only in a different hemisphere, in “democratic” Europe.

## **Is Canada Better?**

In Canada it doesn’t take too much digging to discover that immigration and refugee policy here is also steeped in inhumanity.

Take, for example, the increasing numbers of refugees crossing the border into Canada from the United States due to the Trump administrations escalating attacks on refugees and immigrants. According to Canadian law, every person seeking asylum has the same rights, regardless of how they may have entered Canada. However, politicians and major media in Canada have taken to referring to people crossing the border as “illegal,” “queue-jumping asylum seekers,” “irregular border-crossers” and even “iffy immigrants with sketchy backgrounds.” They are escalating the rhetoric instead of offering solutions to protect refugees, which is an international obligation for Canada.

There is plenty that the government of Canada can and must do in response to increasing number of asylum seekers crossing the border. As Claire Roque, President of the Canadian Council for Refugees, explained, “It is absurd

to suggest that Canada is unable to cope with the modest numbers of people making refugee claims here. Canada is receiving far fewer refugees than many other countries, including much poorer countries.”

They could start by immediately increasing the amount of resources, staffing and funding available to the agencies and organizations that facilitate the asylum process. Then they must also cancel the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States. This treaty is what is forcing refugees to make often dangerous and precarious border crossings, as they face the peril of being returned to the U.S. if they claim asylum at an established border crossing.

### **Aren't the White Helmets an Example of Canada's Benevolence?**

In July, the government of Canada announced that they were going to re-settle 250 Syrians, all members of the White Helmets and their families. However, once again, this open arms approach to a group of Syrian refugees is far from altruistic.

Although they claim to be a civil defense organization, the White Helmets have been exposed, often through their own social media accounts, as working closely with, and even participating in, terrorist organizations in Syria such as Daesh (ISIS) and Jabhat al-Nusra (a split from al-Qaeda).

Thus, the “White Helmets” can hardly be considered refugees. No indeed, they are terrorist mercenaries paid by the U.S. and their allies (they received \$4.5 million from the government of Canada in 2016 alone) as part of the proxy war against democratically elected Syrian government that has displaced over 11 million people and killed at least 400,000 people.

So, what business does the government of Canada have in re-settling the White Helmets when there are millions of Syrian refugees looking for somewhere safe to be? The government of Canada is merely returning a favour for the work that the White Helmets carried out in Syria on the orders of the imperialists. As President Bashar Assad continues to gain ground against the terrorist forces and their imperialist allies in Syria, the White Helmets had to be evacuated, and the

government of Canada was right there to help.

### **What Shapes Immigration and Refugee Policy?**

It is a big lie and manipulation to claim that the economies of the U.S., Canada, the E.U. and many other Western countries do not need immigrants, and that the “border must be sealed.” Immigrants and refugees, whether documented or not, contribute to the productive forces in a country, build the economy, and have also families that consume and keep the capitalist economy running.

In 2012, the Globe and Mail in Canada, published an article “Why Canada Needs a Flood of Immigrants.” This article, written by a demographer, explains “When immigrants arrive, they not only fill gaps in the work force but pay taxes and spend money on housing, transport and consumer goods. Productive capacity increases and there is a ripple effect across the economy. And studies show that their offspring tend to be among the country’s best-educated and initiative-taking young people.”

The article goes on to further explore another important reason that immigration is necessary, “Today, there are 4.2 working-aged Canadians for every senior citizen, making contributions to cover retirees’ pensions and health care. By 2031, that ratio will be cut in half. The tax base will shrink, growth will slow and labour shortages will become even more dire.”

However, although Western countries are in urgent need of immigrants, these same governments also need to be able to tightly control the immigrants that they do receive. For example, the government of Canada has raised the language and education requirements for immigration, while at the same time making it increasingly difficult for Temporary Foreign Workers to apply for permanent residency and decreasing the number of refugees resettled in the country.

If the government of Canada cared at all about millions of refugees around the world, they would immediately accept 200,000 refugees, and instantly grant them full human and legal rights. Instead, they have made it crystal clear – they want the world’s wealthy and highly educated to come to Canada permanently, and the poorest and most vulnerable people to come here to be super-exploited for only a short time. Thus, it is not humanity that governs the government of Canada’s policies, it is the demands of the capitalist-imperialist



**Children walk between tents at a detention facility in Tornillo, Texas. June 2018**

economy.

### **Immigration Policy as a Form of Intimidation and Terror**

Another important dimension to immigrant and refugee policy in the U.S., Canada and the E.U. is its ability to terrify and divide poor and working people. “Zero-tolerance” policies, mass deportations and other forms of repression against immigrants and refugees are a way in which governments like the United States can control and exploit immigrants. They use intimidation and terror to bring immigrants “in-line” with what the capitalist system demands. If immigrants and refugees are criminalized and traumatized when entering the U.S., they will be far less likely to fight for their rights; such as for a living and dignified wage, housing or healthcare.

Xenophobic and Islamophobic immigration policies also allow these governments to divide poor and working people. This division enables them to unleash austerity at home and wars and occupations abroad that the capitalist economy requires to stave off impending crisis.

### **Immigrants and Refugees Are Welcomed; Stand Up! Fight Back!**

However, as the recent example of the separation of families at the U.S. border has shown, with every renewed attack against immigrants and refugees, there is the possibility of resistance. Organizing in the U.S. continues to push back the Trump administrations criminal immigration policies. In imperialist countries around the world, we must do the same to organize against racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia, and to demand that the borders must be opened unconditionally and immediately.

Migrants and refugees are fleeing countries that have been destroyed by imperialist war, occupations and theft of resources. All migrants deserve a chance to build a life within the countries that are responsible for the destruction of their homeland. To give them that opportunity, the borders must be opened immediately. No more to detentions, criminalization and dangerous crossings over land and sea.

*Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette*



**Like Canada, Britain has also announced open migration for “White Helmets”. Former British diplomat, Craig Murray, tweets about government hypocrisy, July 22, 2018.**



# VIVA PALESTINA! LONGLIVE PALESTINE!

Venezuela Lauds Ahd Tamimi Who Notes Maduro, Chavez Support



Tamimi expressed gratitude to the government, and specifically President Nicolas Maduro, for unwavering support for Palestine.

The Venezuelan ambassador to Palestine, Maher Taha, presented teen freedom fighter Ahd Tamimi with a communique issued by the Bolivarian government.

The envoy met with the formerly incarcerated 17-year-old activist and her parents at their home in Nabi Saleh village. The edict from the Venezuelan Government, in addition to celebrating the teen's release, highlights the significance of Tamimi's fearless commitment to fighting for the freedom of the Palestinian people. Taha noted the longstanding friendship and brotherhood which unite Palestine and Venezuela.

Tamimi, in turn, expressed gratitude to the government, and specifically President Nicolas Maduro, for unwavering support for Palestine as well as underscoring late Venezuelan president Comandante Hugo Chavez challenging injustice and working towards the freedom of oppressed peoples.

Tamimi was in Israeli custody for eight months after being arrested along with her mother on December 19, 2017. The teen – along with her cousin Nour Tamimi – was filmed slapping and kicking two Israeli soldiers who had invaded the Tamimi home, near Ramallah. One of the soldiers had earlier shot a 14-year-old relative in the face with a rubber bullet.

*From: TelesurTV.net*

*continued from page 12*

13. Protestors gathered on a sunny afternoon, raising their voices high and clear “Hey Trump! We Say No! The Sanctions Have Got to Go!” Between rounds of picketing – with Venezuelan flags and signs held high – speakers shared information about the U.S. campaign against Venezuela and appealed to people passing by to join.

After the picketing, participants moved up to the Vancouver Art Gallery. Here the action was focused on handing out information to combat the lies and manipulations of the governments of the U.S. and Canada, and major media against Venezuela. Passers-by were encouraged to sign a petition to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, demanding that Canada end their sanctions and threats against Venezuela immediately.

Earlier in the month, on July 5, the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign also supported an event organized by the Hugo

Chavez People's Defense Front – Southwest Chapter in recognition of the Venezuela's Declaration of Independence from Spain in 1811. This event featured powerful words by the Second Consul at the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Vancouver, Tatiana Vizcaya, who drew important connections between the independence struggle from Spain, and the one that the Bolivarian revolutionary process in Venezuela and people across Latin America continue to wage today against U.S. imperialism.

It is only through consistent, united and coordinated actions that we can end the vicious campaign of sanctions, threats and intervention by the governments of U.S. and Canada against the people of Venezuela and their democratically elected government.

To find out about Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice Venezuela Solidarity Campaign events and to get involved visit [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @FTT\_np

## “By Any Means Necessary...”



### MALCOLM X SPEAKS

“‘Conservatism’ in America’s politics means ‘Let’s keep the Black man in their place. And ‘liberalism’ means ‘Let’s keep the knee-grows in their place – but tell them we’ll treat them a little better; let’s fool them more, with more promises.’ With these choices, I felt that the American black man only needed to choose, which one to be eaten by, the ‘liberal’ fox or the ‘conservative’ wolf – because both of them would eat him. [At least] in a wolf’s den, I’d always known exactly where I stood; I’d watch the dangerous wolf closer than I would the smooth, sly fox. The wolf’s very growling would keep me alert and fighting him to survive, whereas I might be lulled and fooled by the tricky fox.”

- Autobiography of Malcolm X

continued from page 15

2016, due to amendments made to the BC Human Rights Code. BC also has a new curriculum which promotes Indigenous ways of knowing in all subject areas and all grade levels. However, despite being far ahead of the draconian policies of Premier Ford in Ontario, BC “does not yet meet expectations” (this is a tongue-in-cheek reference to the term the new curriculum uses instead of “fail”) when it comes to teaching

**Below: Examples of curriculum resources used in BC**

and respecting queer and Indigenous youth.

Though the BC curriculum is approved on paper, there is a huge lack of funding for teacher training, education, and resources. I believe that the BC government does this on purpose.

Firstly, while making safe spaces for queer youth is not inherently threatening to capitalism – and indeed much has been written about how corporations are profiting off queer/Pride celebrations and issues – fighting for true equality does. Capitalism relies heavily on free labour, especially from women in the home. It also relies on low self-confidence, traditionally in women, but increasingly in men as well. Keeping people ashamed of the way the look, the way they feel, and stressed about their social status is a fundamental way that capitalist/bourgeois ideology sells products and maintains divisions between people. The basis for queer oppression and women’s oppression are similarly the traditional family unit and its relationship with the patriarchal-class society and capitalist economical and political order.

In 1884 the co-author of the Communist Manifesto, Frederick Engels wrote, “The form of family corresponding to civilization [...] is monogamy, the domination of the man over the woman, and the single family as the economic unit of society. The central link in civilized society is the state, which in all typical periods is without exception the state of the ruling class, and in all cases continues to be essentially a machine for holding down the oppressed, exploited class.”

The power of LGBTQ+ identities is

that they ‘queer’ the institution of family, which is the basis of patriarchy and the economic unit of capitalist society. While it is true that capitalism is making space for queer identities and families to avoid a conscious movement of queer people questioning capitalism and its institutions, there are still huge limitations. We see these barriers and limitations spring up in the form of backlash in Ontario or the lack of funding, resources, and will in BC.

Secondly, when discussing Indigenous issues and the 94 “Calls to Action” of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, how could school curriculum promote true reconciliation? The government and provincial ministries of education all want to promote the “Can’t we all just get along” version of reconciliation. True reconciliation means giving Indigenous people their lands back, it means self-determination and sovereignty over their land and communities. Under capitalism Canada cannot afford to do that.

**Why We Must Defend and Expand Our Gains**

The reason we have won the right to free public education is because people demanded and organized for it. The reason the residential school system was shut down finally in 1998, is because people fought to shut it down. The reason same-sex marriage is legal or that gender identity is protected under various provincial Human Rights Codes, is because people fought for it. It is not possible that we receive any gifts under capitalism, the gains of working and oppressed people have been made through hard work, sacrifice, and struggle. If we do not fight to maintain and expand the rights that working and oppressed people have won, we may not get to keep them.

The changes to the curriculum in Ontario are no different, we are going to have to fight to improve and maintain the quality of education. Nevertheless, this is not only Ontario’s problem. Across Canada curriculum may exist, but where are the resources and the will to teach these challenging issues in a respectful and meaningful way? Where are the resources and the will to challenge stale and outdated knowledge about sexual health and Indigenous people? The work has begun, but we have a long way to go and many barriers ahead. It is important for all human loving people to defend the gains that have made and to push to expand them in a real way that will change the statistics facing these youth and build towards a more equal and human society for all. A new world is possible.

Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01



# ANTIWAR ACTIONS IN VANCOUVER TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE AND STRONG ANTIWAR MOVEMENT

By *Janine Solanki*

Since the 2001 U.S.-led war against Afghanistan began, we have been living in a new era of war and occupation characterized by an imperialist war drive continuously opening new fronts of war, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. The U.S. and their imperialist allies have been trying to regain hegemony of the Middle East and North Africa through their brutal military interventions, at the expense of innocent lives and the destruction of countries to the point of making them uninhabitable. It is no wonder that we are now seeing the worst refugee crisis in human history, with imperialist wars and occupations to blame.

Throughout this new era of war and occupation, Canada has taken a large and increasing role, especially with the wars, occupation and continuously bombings of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Libya. Most recently on July 11<sup>th</sup>, Prime Minister Trudeau announced that Canada would be taking on a leadership role in the continued occupation of Iraq. Canada will be in command of a new so-called “training and capacity building” NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) mission. This will involve at least 250 Canadian soldiers and four Griffon helicopters.

To protest these criminal and inhumane wars and occupations, every month Vancouver’s antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) holds an antiwar rally and petition campaign in downtown Vancouver. On **July 20<sup>th</sup>**, MAWO activists and organizers held picket signs and put up banners reading “U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands Off Yemen!” and “Don’t Attack Syria – U.S. Out of the Middle East!” Many people passing by

the busy downtown square stopped at the information table and left with antiwar literature to read through and buttons to pin to their shirts. Teams of activists talked with passers-by who stopped to sign on to a petition demanding that the government of Canada stop its \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia for so-called “light” armoured vehicles, which in reality are lethally armed military vehicles resembling tanks. This is on top of the more than \$284 million in exports of Canadian weapons and military goods to not only Saudi Arabia but also other countries which have been bombing and blockading Yemen for the past three years, creating what the United Nations has called “the worst man-made humanitarian crisis of our time”. Before wrapping up the action, MAWO chair spoke to bring more attention to the crisis that war has brought to the Yemeni people, as well as condemned the deaths of four Palestinian people that day, killed at the hands of Israeli Zionist forces. These deaths are on top of 135 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire since March 30, when a campaign of protests began.

Alongside MAWO’s events and actions, MAWO is also bringing antiwar politics to Vancouver summer festivals! On **July 8**, MAWO had a table at the Commercial Drive Car Free Festival, a 15 block street festival that draws tens of thousands of people. MAWO activists had the opportunity to talk to hundreds of people walking by, many who stopped to sign petitions and get more information!

As long as these imperialist wars and occupations are continuing, MAWO is committed to organizing, educating and mobilizing with the demands of

NO to war and occupation, YES to self-determination! To find out about upcoming MAWO events and actions, visit [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org) or follow on Facebook and Twitter at @MAWOVan



## MOTHER OF ALL STRUGGLES!

*Indigenous struggle  
against colonialism*



**Howard Adams (Métis)  
1921 - 2001**

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

“The white-supremacist school with its repressive attitudes towards children is the source of the so-called native “school problem.” The Métis and Indians with their supposed stupidity and laziness, their so-called lack of industry and ambition, and their apathy to a “progressive” school system are not the problem. The school systematically and meticulously conditions natives to a state of inferiorization and colonization. It does this in number of ways; most important, however, is that it teaches the language, literature, and history of the colonizer and thus forces the students to deny their language, culture, and essential being. The school and its teachers operate within typical racial stereotypes and coerce students into feeling ashamed and unworthy.”

*From Chapter 12: “Schooling the Redman” in Prison of Grass, 1975.*

they also utterly failed at welcoming the refugees as they also promised.” “Last year, when U.S. President Trump first instated the outrageous Muslim Ban Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau was boasting #WelcometoCanada on Twitter. Hypocritically at the same time as this tweet, the government of Canada was decreasing the number of government-assisted refugees it would accept in 2017.”

“Another gross example of the criminality of the government of Canada’s immigration policy is the ‘Safe Third Country Agreement’ currently in place between the governments of the U.S. and Canada. According to this agreement, a person making a refugee claim must do so in the first country that they arrive in - whether that be the United States or Canada. Therefore, if a refugee enters through the U.S./ Mexico border, but then travels to Canada before making their claim for asylum, they will be returned to the United States and told to make their claim there.”

“Ending the Safe Third Country Agreement is especially important now that the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Session has announced that asylum will no longer be given to those migrants fleeing domestic and gang violence.”

Also, given the current scandal of over 2300 children separated from their parents and detained by US immigration officials, applying the word “safe” to the United States when it comes to refugee claimants is more than a stretch.

**Do as I Say Not as I Do**

*“My friends, we beat fear with hope. We beat cynicism with hard work. We beat negative, divisive politics with a positive vision that brings Canadians together. Most of all, we defeated the idea that Canadians should be satisfied with less, that good enough is good enough and that better just isn’t possible.”*

Anybody really feeling like Trudeau has beaten fear with hope in Canada? The one thing that has defined his government so far has been its total mediocrity when it comes to standing up for their rights of poor, working and oppressed people, and total reliance upon presenting itself as “at least better than Harper.” This is not accidental, and this is not because they



**“...Justin Trudeau was boasting #WelcometoCanada on Twitter. Hypocritically at the same time as this tweet, the government of Canada was decreasing the number of government-assisted refugees it would accept in 2017.”**

don’t have the political power to do better. Trudeau has shown time and time again that he prioritizes the “rights” of big business interests and corporations over the rights of people. If we want to defend and extend our rights we need to organize a movement which understands that real power comes when people are mobilize in the defence of their interests, and which understands that the more we connect our struggles to more powerful we will all be.

**Repeal Bill C-51! Scrap Bill C-59!  
Our Security Lies in Defending the Rights of All!**

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59



**178th Weekly Action. Petition Drive at Joyce Station. July 30, 2018**



**177th Weekly Action. Banner Drop in Surrey. July 23, 2018**

# THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS!

## WORKING GROUP TO STOP BILL C-51 CONTINUES WEEKLY ACTION CAMPAIGN

*By Thomas Davies*

As the long hot July days continued, the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 kept very active with five weekly actions during the month. Now up to 178 consecutive weeks, the Working Group spread out to new locations for banner drops and pickets in Surrey and Coquitlam, before returning to some familiar favourite locations in Vancouver and Burnaby.

Despite the over two year long campaign, and now an almost total media blackout, the public response continues to be overwhelmingly positive to the demands, “Repeal Bill C-51!” and “Scrap Bill C-59!” As Prime Minister, both Harper and Trudeau justified their “Anti-Terrorism” laws by telling the public just to trust them not to abuse their increased powers to target, spy on and detain people. It is very obvious that neither of them were able to build that trust.

Bill C-51, with all of its human right violations, remains the law of the land in Canada. Trudeau’s Bill C-59, with all of its lacklustre adjustments, remains stalled in its second reading at the Senate. The fight to defend and extend human rights in Canada continues. The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 will continue to do everything possible to build the campaign to defeat these unjust laws.

**REPEAL BILL C-51!  
SCRAP BILL C-59  
OUR SECURITY LIES IN  
DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF  
ALL!**



continued from page 7

of weapons to Saudi Arabia. According to Stop the War Coalition in England, "Close to £3.8 billion worth of UK arms have been sold to the Saudi regime since the beginning of the war."

In addition to providing Saudi Arabia and the UAE with billions of dollars' worth of arms currently being used against the Yemeni people, the UK also provides training and targeting assistance to the Saudi military. In January 2016, Sky News reported that UK military experts are in Saudi Arabia working with the Saudi military in its Air Operation Centre.

### Canada's Role in Yemen

Don't let the government of Canada's so called "human rights defender" image foul you. Canada is an accomplice to the crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

According to Canada's National Post newspaper: "Saudi Arabia was the largest non-U.S. importer of Canadian-made military goods in 2016, receiving \$142 million in exports — nearly 20 per cent of all Canadian military exports."

The government of Canada has also moved ahead with a \$15 billion arms deals to supply Saudi Arabia with light-armored vehicles (LAV) equipped with heavy guns and cannon.

### U.S.'s Role in Yemen

Since day one, the United States has been supporting logistically, militarily and politically, Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen. The U.S. has been providing the Saudi-led coalition with intelligence gathering support, mid-air refuelling for the coalition's fighter jets, as well as

training for ground troops.

A team of U.S. Army special elite forces called "Green Berets" were secretly deployed to the border between Saudi Arabia and Yemen to join the Saudi military in planning their ground and aerial attacks on Yemen.

The U.S. also continues to supply the majority of weapons and arms used to carry out the Saudi-led coalition bombing and blockade of Yemen. In the period between 2011-17, Saudi Arabia and the UAE were the two biggest U.S. military hardware and weapons buyers.

Other imperialist allies of the United States such as Italy, Germany and Spain have also supplied military hardware and weapons to Saudi Arabia, the UAE and other countries that are part of the Saudi coalition bombing Yemen.

### Stop the War!

In 2017, Saudi Arabia placed third in the world in military spending, totaling \$69.4 billion. As well, the UAE has increased its military spending to \$20 billion in 2017. Despite all this weaponry and the military and logistical support that the two gulf monarchies receive from their imperialist masters, they haven't been able to defeat the resistance of the Yemeni people.

Peace-loving people around the world have the duty to join their voices with the Yemeni people and demand:

Imperialists/Saudi Arabia Hands off Yemen!  
Stop Bombing Yemen!  
Lift the Naval, Aerial and Land Blockade on Yemen!

Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza\_R14

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**LIFT THE U.S. BLOCKADE ON CUBA NOW!**



**RETURN GUANTANAMO TO CUBA NOW!**

**Monthly Protest Action!** **FRIDAY AUGUST 17 2018**  
**5PM**  
**U.S. CONSULATE**  
**1075 W. PENDER ST.**

FRIENDS OF CUBA AGAINST THE U.S. BLOCKADE-VANCOUVER  
 NoBloqueoVancouver@gmail.com | @NOBLOQUEOVAN  
[WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG](http://WWW.VANCUBAVSBLOCKADE.ORG)

**SELF-DETERMINATION**

**CANADA/NATO/US/UK**

**U.S. & SAUDI ARABIA**

**CANADA**



**OUT OF NATO!**  
**OUT OF IRAQ!**  
**STOP BOMBING YEMEN!**

**FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 5PM**  
**VANCOUVER ART GALLERY**  
**ROBSON @ HOWE . DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER**  
 MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION (MAWO)   
 @MAWO\_VAN   
[WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG](http://WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG)

A Free Community Event

**Humanity is Diversity**



**Jornada Cubana contra la HOMOFOBIA Y LA TRANSFOBIA**

\* Film \* Music \* Speakers \* Trivia\*  
**THURSDAY AUGUST 9 2018**  
**7:00PM**  
**MOUNT PLEASANT NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE**  
 800 E Broadway - Vancouver, Canada

Featuring the film:  
**"Mariela Castro's March: Cuba's LGBT Revolution"**

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba   @VanCuba\_VCSC  
[www.vancubasolidarity.com](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com)  778-882-5223



**HEY TRUMP & TRUDEAU: HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!**

**NO REGIME CHANGE IN VENEZUELA!  
 END THE SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 10 2018**

- 1. PROTEST ACTION 4PM**  
 U.S. CONSULATE IN VANCOUVER 1070 WEST PENDER ST.
- 2. INFO TABLING & PETITION 5:30PM**  
 VANCOUVER ART GALLERY ROBSON ST. @ HOWE ST.

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