

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



# Fire This Time!



## TRUMP & TRUDEAU HANDS OFF MADURO!

### Venezuelan Democracy vs. Imperialist Aggression

Page 7-15

Repeal Bill C-51! Scrap Bill C-59!



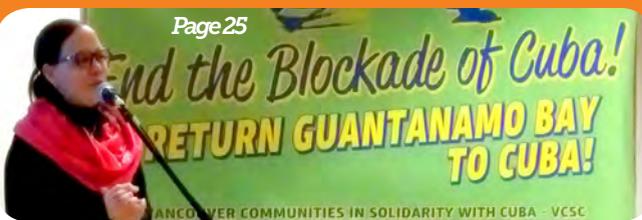
Page 18

### THE 2014 MOUNT POLLEY DISASTER:

WHEN CAPITALIST PROFITS OVERRULE THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE

Page 5

### CUBAN CONSUL GENERAL SPEAKS



Page 25

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA - VCSC



### IF Bernie Sanders were to oppose sanctions against Venezuela



Page 15

### CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW!



Page 2

### FREE MUMIA! FREE PELTIER!



Page 20



# TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

"What's a [few] billion dollars between friends?"



*By Thomas Davies*

We don't look to mainstream media for political or moral leadership, but this Maclean's magazine headline is as good as anything we could come up with: "Trans Mountain's price tag: What's a billion dollars between friends?" It took the government of Canada over-paying at least a billion dollars to its corporate friends for an aging pipeline and doomed expansion project to finally provoke some critical content – which given the absurdity of the situation did not get nearly enough coverage.

## **Who is Benefiting?**

It was the Canadian government's own Parliamentary Budget Officer who was the bearer of bad news. His report found that while the government purchased the Trans Mountain Pipeline, the Trans Mountain Expansion Project and its related assets for \$4.4 billion, the actual value of all those together is between \$3.6 billion and \$4.6 billion. Which

means the government paid pretty much the highest possible price it could have. Close to a billion dollars right into the pockets of Kinder Morgan.

More bad news from the PBO, "It's very likely that construction will be delayed and construction costs will increase and that these two factors will probably decrease the value of the pipeline and its expansion by a billion dollars." So taxpayers look to be on the hook for two billion in straight losses right from the get-go.

Meanwhile, Kinder Morgan Canada reported it distributed \$3.98 billion of the proceeds from the Trans Mountain sale to shareholders, many of which are major Canadian banks. So while Prime Minister Trudeau repeats constantly that the pipeline purchase is in "the national interest" – the only ones benefiting are the banks and the oil corporations. It's just another indication that this

tunnel vision insistence on oil pipeline construction has little to do with the interests of poor and working people.

## **National Energy Board – Rubber Stamp Central**

February 22 is the deadline for the National Energy Board to release its rushed review of the possible marine impacts of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion. It's worth noting that the NEB initially refused to consider these impacts in its original review – arguing that the sevenfold increase in oil tanker traffic was somehow beyond its jurisdiction. It's also worth noting that a 2017 federal report acknowledged the NEB has a serious public confidence deficit, "Canadians have serious concerns that the [board] has been 'captured' by the oil and gas industry, with many board members who come from the industry that the NEB regulates, and who — at the very

least appear to — have an innate bias toward that industry,” the report noted.

Leading the opposition to this process is the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, whose traditional territories are located where the pipeline would terminate, and the oil tankers would be filled. “Unfortunately, the NEB repeated many of the same errors that landed the government in court last time,” said Rueben George, spokesperson for Tsleil-Waututh Nation’s Sacred Trust Initiative. “The ridiculously short timeline, the limited scope of the review, and limited testing of evidence made this re-do even worse than the first hearing.”

Ahead of the NEB’s final report, it released some of its draft recommendations. They look more like suggestions for something they’ve already decided to go ahead with. This includes requiring a vague “marine mammal protection plan”, and the hapless proposal to limit whale-watching ships. The NEB purposely ignores the relevant issues: there is no known cleanup for the “diluted bitumen” oil product the seven-fold increase in tankers would be carrying, and that there is a greater than 50% chance that the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale population would go completely extinct from the increased oil tanker traffic.

### Wrong Direction

Again, another of the government’s own reports demonstrates how far behind it is on its minimum United Nations climate commitments. The latest climate pollution projections report, “Canada’s Greenhouse Gas and Air Pollutant Emissions Projections 2018” shows that the gap between the government’s commitments and the reality of its CO2 emissions grows larger every year. This year Canada’s actual carbon dioxide emissions are projected to be 115 Megatonnes above their 2030 UN target, or less than halfway through the promised reductions with no clear plan to meet them.

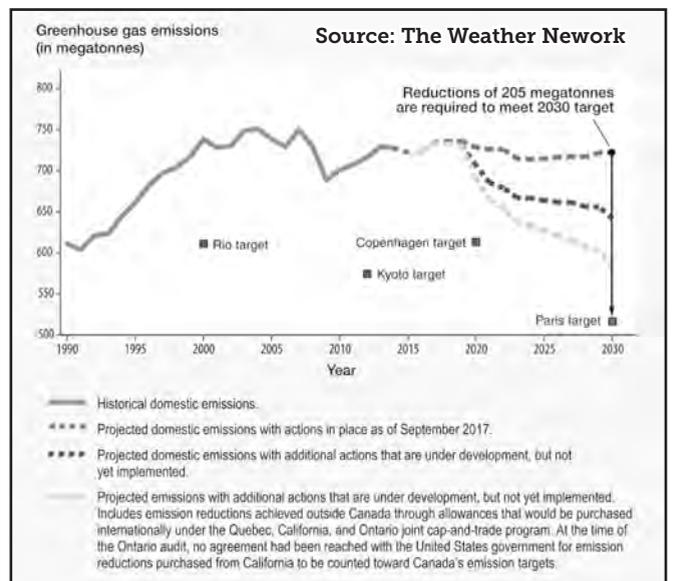
Instead of confronting the crisis head on, they are trying to rely on tricks and deception to lower that number. The government is trying to “reduce” the official number by 37 Megatonnes in

“emissions credits” which would be bought from California. This is essentially trying to buy the ability to pollute more, but this move is not permitted under the UN agreement Canada is pretending to adhere to.

### Build Our Future, Not a Pipeline!

It’s understandable for many to be frustrated by a government doing so much damage to benefit so few. However, there are important signs of hope and resistance. Following the lead set by 16 year of Greta Thunberg, who skips school every Friday to protest government climate inaction in front of Sweden’s parliament buildings, thousands of students around the world are doing the same thing. The rallies are urgent and they are growing. Thousands of students from over 200 schools across Australia took to the streets in coordinated protests. In Belgium an environment minister has been forced to resign after falsely claiming the country’s intelligence services held evidence that the tens of thousands of students skipping school to demonstrate over climate change were being directed by unnamed powers.

Sophia Mathur, 11, of Sudbury, Ontario



told CBC that, “I walk out of school because what’s the point of going to school if I won’t have a future? I want to see adults start cooperating and listening to the experts and whatever they are saying, we have to do because my life, my family’s life, everyone’s life is at risk.”

The accelerated international response to the attempts to begin building the Coastal Gas Link LNG pipeline on Wet’suwet’en territories is another indication of the power and potential of climate justice and Indigenous solidarity organizing. More than 55 coordinated protests happened on days notice. This ensured that a police raid on a checkpoint established by local Indigenous Nations was news around the world. Solidarity actions are ongoing, while construction has been halted as Coastal GasLink is trying to find a way to justify destroying Indigenous hunting trap lines during construction.

### For Who and For What

*“Some people say that the climate crisis is something that we will have created, but that is not true, because if everyone is guilty then no one is to blame. And someone is to blame. Some people, some companies, some decision-makers in particular, have known exactly what priceless values they have been sacrificing to continue making unimaginable amounts of money. And I think many of you here today belong to that group of people.”*

- Greta Thunberg at World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland

Sometimes it takes a 16 year old to stand up in front of government and corporate leaders and speak truth to power, and remind the world that the climate crisis wasn’t created by an unforeseen accident. Kinder Morgan, PM Trudeau, the National Energy Board members – they all know the consequences of their actions and have decided to continue to push the planet to the brink for short-term and short-sighted corporate profits. We too need to understand the consequences of our actions, and that we have a fighting chance to stop the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion if we organize together. While Trudeau and the NEB try and revive the disaster project, we need to do everything we can to ensure it ends up in the dust heap of history. We’re committed to building a better world, not dirty oil pipelines.

No Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion – Not Now, Not Ever!  
System Change Not Climate Change!

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59



Climate Convergence Metro Vancouver has been supporting the many Wet’suwet’en solidarity rallies in Vancouver.



“All Nations United with Wet’suwet’en”. Vancouver solidarity rally on January 8, 2019.

## Battle of Ideas Press

Available Now

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.



**UNITED FOR PEOPLE & PLANET!**  
**NO TRUDEAU PIPELINE EXPANSION!**  
N.E.B. DECISION DAY OF ACTION - PROTEST RALLY & MARCH

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND 4:30PM**  
NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD OFFICE - 800 Burrard St. @ Robson St.  
**CLIMATE CONVERGENCE WWW.CLIMATECONVERGENCE.CA**

# THE 2014 MOUNT POLLEY DISASTER: WHEN CAPITALIST PROFITS OVERRULE THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY OF PEOPLE

By Doug Pittman

Something which has been conveniently ignored since August 4, 2014 when it occurred is penalizing those responsible for the massive tailings dam breach and spill into the environment of central BC just east of Williams Lake at the Mt Polley Mine. On that date, 21 million cubic metres of toxic tailings solids and mill wastewater from this copper-gold mine burst through the dam embankment and inundated Hazelton Creek right down to its confluence with Quesnel Lake. This amount of material is the size of 10,000 Olympic sized pools and according to the Oct. 18, 2016 Mining Watch report it “destroyed or permanently affected 2,612,470m<sup>2</sup> of aquatic and riparian habitats-equivalent to washing away 2/3 of the area of Stanley Park”. The purpose of this Mining Watch report is to lay out the known facts of the deleterious effects and reasons for the spill in order to justify a private prosecution citizens lawsuit to hold those responsible for it, including continuing negligence on the part of both the Mt Polley Mining Company (MPMC) and the BC Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) in lieu of government action to prosecute the guilty parties, for their contravention of the Fisheries Act, now over four years after the event.

Like everything in this world, this set of circumstances did not happen overnight and there was ample time to have corrected these situations. While there was warning from both MPMC employees, and from the MEM about these hazardous conditions, no action was taken either by the company or the government to stop them so the consequence was probably inevitable.

As for the harm to the fish in the area there are 20 different fish species including: Sockeye, Coho, Chinook, Kokanee, Rainbow trout, Lake Trout, Pygmy Whitefish, Mountain Whitefish, Lake Whitefish and Burbot. Section 35 (1) of



A sign warning the public not to enter area of Mount Polley disaster.

the Fisheries Act states that “No person shall carry on any work, undertaking or activity that results in serious harm to fish that are part of a commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fishery, or to fish that support such a fishery” and “For the purposes of this Act, serious harm to fish is the death of fish or any permanent alteration to or destruction of fish habitat”.

For the harm to the local fish and fish habitat, it suffices to say that Hazelton Creek which connects Polley Lake with Quesnel Lake was drastically affected by the tailings breach. The ensuing debris flow down this 9 km creek “carved a new valley, wider and deeper” than ever before observed. Hazelton Ck was known as a Rainbow Trout spawning and rearing environment and fish species in the lower creek included Sockeye, Coho and Chinook salmon. Golder Associates EIA Report concluded that Hazelton Ck “was no longer a viable habitat following the dam failure”.

Also, juvenile habitat especially 15% of the High rated juvenile habitat on the West Arm of Quesnel Lake was “permanently altered” as a consequence of the estimated 18.6 million m<sup>3</sup> of tailings material that

entered the Lake. According to the Mining Watch 2016 report, “in Hazelton Ck, arsenic, copper, iron and nickel were elevated above pre-event concentrations. In the Quesnel Lake littoral zone, “copper was 24 times the pre-event reference concentration”.

Ignoring this damage to the environment and to the fish in particular sends the wrong message to the BC and federal governments that it is okay to harm the environment and that it is also okay to put profits first before environmental protection of precious BC wilderness and the associated fisheries.

## Not Only Mt. Polley

The Westray coal mine disaster in the Pictou coalfields of Nova Scotia in 1992 was where human life of 26 miners was lost in a similar situation of negligence on the part of both the mining company and the Nova Scotia government. According to a report by Melissa Hughes of Western University entitled “The Westray Mine Incident: Corporate Violence and Governmental Crime as the Roots of Disaster”, it was “the negligent actions of inspectors from the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and managers

Members of a Secwepemc delegation and the Yuct Ne Senxiymetkwe Camp blockade Red Chris Mine site, demanding: Shut Down Imperial Mines & Clean up Mount Polley. September 2014.



from Curragh Resources Inc. led to the conditions in the mine that allowed the explosion to occur” (of methane gas). Also, due to a delay in federal funding for the mine, it significantly reduced the time to prepare production in the mine before the deadline for the first coal shipment so that means there was a speed-up in which corners are cut and safety violations are ignored.

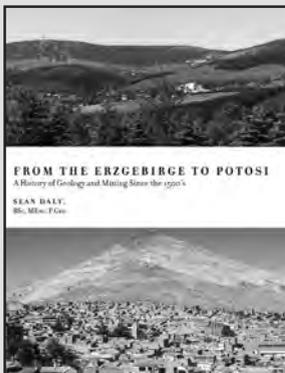
While the Department of Labour issued orders based on its inspections to make the mine safer, “it did nothing within its power to ensure compliance with these orders.” Inspectors never shut the mine down in spite of unsafe working conditions or do follow-up visits to ensure compliance with the orders. So careful investigation of the Westray disaster shows that similar to the Mt Polley tailings dam burst, profits of these capitalist companies came first and foremost before safety. This was also

the case in Chile where the miners who were trapped underground for 69 days were ordered to go there despite warnings by lead miners of imminent failure in the mine, supposedly to not hold up production (putting profits before people) and it was extremely fortuitous that they were rescued alive.

### We Must Organize and Mobilize

What this all says is that we cannot rely on the government of Canada to protect working and poor peoples’ best interests. All governments of Canada are governments of the capitalist class and consequently serve their interests. We, working and poor people, need to have our own government to protect and extend our interests and secure and protect mother nature and our resources. Let’s organize, educate, mobilize and protest the degradation of environment by mining companies and their backers, the government of Canada.

### Fire This Time Recommends:



**From the Erzgebirge to Potosi:  
A History of Geology and Mining Since the 1500s**  
Friesen Press, 2018

Written by: Sean Daly, BSc, MEng, P.Geo.

In this book, *From the Erzgebirge to Potosi*, the powerful tools of both the miners and the geologists, dialectical and historical materialism are explained in detail in relation to both earth’s processes, the mining cycle and social redress. The environmental movement and the struggle of the miners for better working conditions and a more humane social system are discussed, as is the very different use of the Inca mit’a system between the Incas and the Conquistadores in the Bolivian mines. Richly illustrated with 76 figures, and images of the famous people and maps and photographs to explain technical points make it highly readable.

Available now: <https://books.friesenpress.com>

## 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.*

“One of the most important phenomena in the school system is the colonization of students be the persons of authority who exercise their power arbitrarily and oppressively. Their power is derived from the authority of their position and by the grading that they give children. Their oppressive authority is a source of motivation of student behaviour. Much of the learning that occurs involves manipulation by educators acting according to their assumptions about the authoritarian purposes of education. What is called teaching is in reality eliciting appropriate behaviour from students. “

*Excerpt from Prison of Grass – Chapter 12 – Schooling the Redman*



# Imperialist Aggression & What We Can Learn from the Attempted Coup Against Venezuela

*By Alison Bodine*

On January 23, 2019 Juan Guaidó declared himself to be the “acting President” of Venezuela. He was immediately recognized as the interim President of Venezuela by the United States government, followed in quick succession by the government of Canada, and right-wing governments in Latin America.

In order to achieve his new-found executive status, Guaidó didn't need to win the support of the majority of the people in Venezuela, let alone even run in any election. In order to get this appointment, all that he had to do was pledge allegiance to his bosses at the U.S. capital, Washington, DC.

The day before Guaidó's self-declaration, U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence was so excited at the prospect of overthrowing the democratically elected President of Venezuela Nicolás Maduro that he could barely contain himself. He recorded a video message of support to the Venezuelan opposition: “As the good people of Venezuela make your voices heard tomorrow, on behalf of the American people, we say: estamos con ustedes. We are with you. We stand with you, and we will stay with you until Democracy is restored and you reclaim your birthright of Libertad.”

But, what exactly does Pence mean when he claims support for Libertad (“Freedom” in Spanish)?

In the new era of war and occupation, which began with the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, “human rights,” “democracy,” “freedom,” have all become euphemisms in the deadly song of the U.S. war machine. Millions of people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Libya and across the Middle East and North Africa have been murdered by U.S. led wars, occupations, and covert and overt military operations in their countries. Millions of other people suffer needlessly under brutal imperialist sanction regimes imposed on people in North Korea, Iran and Venezuela.

For over the last 17 years, the United States government and their allies, including the government of Canada, have been on a mad path of destruction to regain hegemony in the Middle East, North Africa, and Latin America. As the U.S. government and other imperialist countries face increasing financial crisis, they will stop at nothing to find new markets, people and resources to exploit.

In order to retake complete control for their own economic gain, the U.S. government must destroy the independent and sovereign peoples and governments that stand in their way. This is how the democratically elected government of President Nicolás Maduro and the revolutionary people of Venezuela came squarely into their cross-hairs.

## **The U.S.-Led War on Venezuela**

Without there being a single firefight, the U.S. government is at war with the people of Venezuela and their Bolivarian revolutionary process. It is an imperialist war of aggression imposed on the people of Venezuela through a coordinated campaign of political, economic and military threats and attacks.

When the U.S. government and their allies recognized Juan Guaidó as the “interim President” of Venezuela – it was nothing short of an attempted coup d'état against the democratically elected President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro. It was an escalation in their anti-democratic and illegal intervention in Venezuela, which has included imposing brutal sanctions, threatening military attack, and giving financial and political support to Venezuela's violent opposition.

*Continued on page 11*

# VANCOUVER RALLIES AGAINST COUP IN VENEZUELA



By Janine Solanki

Today, the governments of the U.S. and Canada are supporting violent right-wing counter-revolutionary forces in Venezuela. On January 23 2019, the U.S. and Canada backed an attempted coup when Juan Guaidó declared himself president of Venezuela, violating Venezuela's democracy which elected President

the U.S., Canada and the European Union, and an economic war which has crippled Venezuela's economy. The western mainstream media has no shortage of inflammatory news against the Venezuelan government, but ignore the gains made since Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution began in 1999.

picketing. After the action wrapped up, organizers setup an information table at the busy Robson square, where passers-by stopped to get more information, talk with organizers and sign the petition against Canada's



**Alison**

“We are standing here united together in defense of Venezuela's right to sovereignty and self-determination, to choose their own president - not by the governments of Canada and the U.S.”

Maduro in the fair and transparent May 2018 elections.

This failed coup is coming after years of increasingly harsh sanctions from

In Vancouver, Canada, the Fire This Time (FTT) Movement for Social Justice – Venezuela Solidarity Campaign has been standing up in defense of the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela and Venezuelans right to self-determination. Just in the first month of 2019, the Venezuela Solidarity Campaign organized two protest actions demanding U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!

On January 4, the FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign held a monthly action, which started out at the U.S. consulate in downtown Vancouver. Protesters picketed with signs reading “No Regime Change in Venezuela!” and “Self-Determination for Venezuela!”, and stopped to hear from speakers in between rounds of



**Naty**

“The FMLN in Vancouver condemns the government of the United States and Canada and their actions to control Venezuela and plans to create destabilization and violence.”

sanctions on Venezuela.

On January 26, the FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign made an emergency call for organizations and individuals to join together against the U.S. backed attempted coup in Venezuela. Over 80 people came together in downtown Vancouver's Robson square, stretching out across

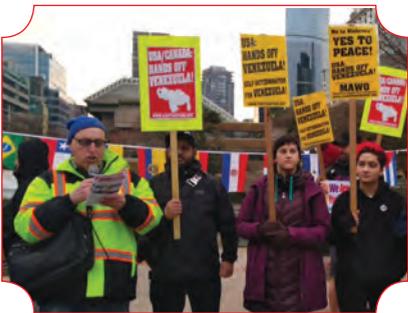




**Tamara**

“We know that the governments of Canada and the United States are threatened by the gains of Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolutionary Process for the people of Venezuela.”

the busy walkway and attracting attention with a huge Venezuelan flag and a long banner reading “U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!”. The action brought together people from many different political parties, organizations and grassroots groups, who united against the illegal and undemocratic attempts of the U.S. and Canada to overthrow Venezuela’s president and violate their self-determination and sovereignty.



**Brian**

“We demand that the Canadian government respect the democratic decision of the Venezuelan people. Hands off Venezuela!”

The program of the action was MC’d by Alison Bodine, coordinator of the FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign, who spoke to those walking by about what the action was about and invited people to find out more at the information table. Speakers included:

Nino Pagliccia, a Venezuelan Canadian journalist and social justice activist who writes regularly for many media outlet including People Voice, central organ of Communist Party of Canada and an organizer with the Hugo Chavez People’s Defense Front Southwest Canada Chapter; Naty Rosales of the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) – Vancouver; Nicaraguan Sandinista fighter and social justice activist Mayra Climaco; Salvadorian Vancouver-based poet Lucy Ortiz, Tamara Hansen, coordinator of Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) and an editorial member of Fire This Time newspaper; Brian Sproule from the



**Lucy**

“We are an international movement, which repudiates the criminal acts of the countries of the North against a country which struggles for its people.”

Communist Party of Canada (Marxist Leninist); and Chilean activist and radio host of Coop Radio’s El bus de las 7, Macarena Cataldo Hernandez. This wide-ranging and diverse group of speakers spoke strongly to denounce the actions of Canada and the U.S. against Venezuela. Many of the speakers referred to their own experiences of U.S.-backed coups and interventions in other Latin American countries, experiences which they do not wish to see repeated in Venezuela. With a strong and defiant spirit, protesters joined their voices in both English and Spanish to demand “Manos fuera de Venezuela!” (Hands

off Venezuela!).

Here in Vancouver and around the world, people are coming together in defense of Venezuela’s sovereignty and self-determination. The FTT



**Mayra**

“As a combatant of the Sandinista Front, I’m very proud to see the people of Nicaragua standing with Venezuela in struggle and supporting President Nicolas Maduro.”

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign is committed to keep organizing both protest actions and educational events about Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution, and working together with groups in Vancouver, the U.S. and beyond to build a strong and united defense against imperialist attacks on Venezuela. To find out more about these actions visit [www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @FTT\_np .

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*



**Macarena**

“We are from Latin American countries and we can decide for ourselves what we want for our countries. We don’t need USA saying what we need to do!”

**EXCERPT FROM SPEECH  
BY NINO PAGLICCIA AT  
THE RALLY IN VANCOUVER  
ORGANIZED BY FIRE  
THIS TIME MOVEMENT  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY  
CAMPAIGN IN DEFENSE  
OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REVOLUTION  
JANUARY 26, 2019.**

Last Wednesday January 23rd, the most absurd event took place in Caracas. An unknown Juan Guaidó of the Venezuelan opposition party appointed himself interim President of Venezuela without fulfilling a single requirement of the protocol required for a presidential investiture ceremony to take place. No one knew him until a few days ago when he was declared president of the National Assembly that has been in contempt and therefore not legally functioning since 2016. Just the day before on January 22nd in a widely distributed video the U.S. Vice President Mike Pence gave him the blessing for what was going to happen the next day on January 23rd. Our own Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland spoke with him on the phone probably trying to reassure him that Canada has his back in case he was getting cold feet. The only experience we know he has is as a 'guarimbero'. He actively participated in the most violent 'guarimbas' in 2017 in Venezuela. We all remember all those terrorist actions where they destroyed property, built barricades, attacked the police and burned people alive.

Guaidó called on Article 233 of the Venezuelan Constitution of 1999 to appoint himself. That article clarifies the circumstances when there is no presence of the president in order to replace him. None of the assumptions to establish the absolute absence of the president has taken place: neither death, nor resignation, nor dismissal by Supreme Court, nor physical or mental incapacity, nor abandonment of office, nor recall by the people. Nicolas Maduro is alive, in power and is the legitimate democratically elected president of Venezuela according

to the Venezuelan constitution.

Foreign intervention in Venezuela is not new. The US has tried to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution since the failed attempted coup against Hugo Chavez in 2002. Fast forward to 2014 and to this day, Venezuela is confronting severe sanctions from the US, Canada, the EU and some Latin American countries. Sanctions are crippling the Venezuelan economy and affecting the population

In the same way that Guaidó appoints himself as illegal president in Venezuela, the likes of Trump and Trudeau in our



**Nino Pagliccia**

“Foreign intervention in Venezuela is not new. The US has tried to destroy the Bolivarian Revolution since the failed attempted coup against Hugo Chavez in 2002.”

continent appoint themselves as judges in the internal affairs of Venezuela. They use their own twisted reasons imperial and colonial power to impose their sentence and they refuse to meet with Nicolas Maduro. What are they afraid of?

The principal reason given in Canada is that the Canadian government does not recognize the elections on May 2018, that elected Nicolas Maduro. 16 political parties participated in the elections that year. The fact that 3 parties decided not to participate does not make the electoral process illegitimate.

The Canadian government position is reckless. Maduro won with a wide margin. He obtained 6,2 million votes that 67.8% of the electoral vote. Close to 200 international observers were present. The UN refused to send an observer, why?

But here is where it gets personal. I was forbidden by the Canadian government

to vote at the Venezuelan consulate in Vancouver together with many others Venezuelans across Canada. That was my right as a Venezuelan and the Canadian government took that away from me.

And here's where the U.S. and Canadian governments fall into ridicule in this whole tragedy: Of the 25 elections at different levels that have taken place in Venezuela, over the last 20 years, the only one that they would recognize is the election of the National Assembly of 2015, where the opposition won a majority that was recognized right away by the Venezuelan electoral authority. However, three candidates committed fraud and another election in those districts had to be called. The National Assembly refused to do that. The Supreme Court of Venezuela declared it in contempt, and it was suspended in 2016.

The Canadian government is complicit in a U.S. sponsored coup attempt in Venezuela. It's committing a reckless action and it's not speaking for all Canadians, certainly not for me. I join all those Canadians and organizations who are speaking up against the Canadian government's dangerous illegal interventionist colonial and imperial attack on Venezuela.

As a Venezuelan, I make a special appeal to all Venezuelans in this country to be on the side of peace for Venezuela and not to fall into the trap of a coup. As a Canadian I call on the Canadian government to end all sanctions against Venezuela and recognize the legitimate president Nicolas Maduro.

Hands off Venezuela! Long live the Bolivarian Revolution! Viva Nicolas Maduro!



It is especially relevant to the recent U.S.-led aggression against Venezuela to understand that just as President Trump refuses to recognize the 2018 electoral victory of President Maduro, so did President Obama refuse to recognize President Maduro's first term victory in 2013. For the U.S. government and their allies – “democracy” is only “democracy” when their selected candidates take office.

### Canada's Vicious Role Against the People of Venezuela

The government of Canada is complicit in the imperialist war against the people of Venezuela and their democracy. Armed with their own set of interests in Venezuela's natural resources, the government of Canada has effectively served as a proxy for the U.S. government in the international arena where the U.S.'s own history in Latin America would be an obstacle to their imperialist project to overthrow the government of Venezuela.

The government of Canada does so consciously and willingly. Chrystia Freeland, the Foreign Minister of Canada, exposed the government when she said, “We have a very direct interest in what happens in our hemisphere, that's why we have been so active and will consider to be so active,” during a Press Conference on Venezuela on January 28.

It is with this same reasoning that Minister Freeland has taken up her role as a leader in the illegitimate Lima Group, which was formed by the U.S. government in order to pursue further intervention against Venezuela, when their efforts in the Organization of American States failed.

The government of Canada has also imposed three rounds of sanctions against Venezuela and given support and an ear on Parliament Hill to Venezuela's violent right-wing opposition.

Following the appointment by the U.S. government of Guaido as interim President of Venezuela, the Prime Minister of Canada



A woman at a rally against the attempted coup in Venezuela holding a sign that reads, “Maduro only legitimate and constitutional president of Venezuela”.

Justin Trudeau released a statement that “commended Juan Guaido for his courage and leadership in helping to return democracy to Venezuela and offered Canada's continued support.” With more or less nuance, this is the same sentiment expressed in official statements

by leaders of the Conservative party and the NDP as well – as if somehow the government of Canada has the right to tell the people of Venezuela who their President is, and if their elections are free and fair.

Maduro Elected by People, Guaido Selected by the U.S. Government On January 15, 2019 appointed “interim President” Juan Guaido was given an editorial in the Washington Post. Heavy on rhetoric and devoid of facts, Guaido claimed in this editorial that President Maduro was an “usurper” when he took office for his second Presidential term on January 10, 2019 “because we didn't have an election.”

No election? Then, what was it when over 9.3 million Venezuelans voted in the Presidential election on May 20, 2018, choosing from four candidates representing 16 political parties? What did 14 electoral commissions from eight countries observe

on the election day in Venezuela, if not a Presidential election?

On May 20, 2018 President Maduro was elected to a second term in office with nearly 68%, or over 6.2 million votes. The opposition candidate who won the greatest votes was Henri Falcón who received almost 21%, or 1.9 million votes. This election was a resounding victory for the people of Venezuela and the Bolivarian revolutionary process.

If, according to Guaido, there was no election, it is because not only did he not run in the election, neither did his pro-U.S. political party. Voluntad Popular was one of three opposition political parties that boycotted the election. However, as Pasqualina Curcio, a Venezuelan economist, researcher and academic wrote in an article “The Maduro government: why illegitimate?”, “The fact that three parties (AD [Accion Democratica], VP [Voluntad Popular] and PJ [Primera Justicia]) freely decided not to participate does not make the electoral process illegitimate.”

In fact, based on the election results, President Maduro has a stronger claim to Presidential legitimacy than most of the heads of state that are now attempting to force his overthrow. 31.7% of eligible voters in Venezuela cast their votes for Maduro, compared to only 27.3% for U.S. President Trump and an even lower 26.8% for Prime Minister of Canada Trudeau.



Mass rally in support of president Nicolas Maduro in Barinas, Venezuel., January 30, 2018.

It is also important to note that in the eight months since the Presidential election, none of the candidates or political parties that ran in the election have made any claims of fraud. They haven't contested the results.

In the weeks leading up to the attempted coup and Juan Guaido's Washington DC appointment as “interim President” of Venezuela, he was in frequent

communication with leaders in Venezuela's violent counter-revolutionary opposition, as well as the U.S. government and the government of Canada. The architects of the coup attempt, Maria Corina Machado, Leopaldo Lopez, Antonio Ledezma and Julio Borges all have close ties to the Untied States, and a direct-line to the Oval Office through right-wing U.S. Senator Marco Rubio.

Juan Guaido was assigned by the government of the United States as the "interim President" of Venezuela as he promised to deliver them exactly the kind of government in Venezuela that they desired.

### Who is Guaido Anyhow?

Juan Guaido had not been a significant or well-known politician in Venezuela. In 2015 he was elected to Parliament with only 26% of the vote. The only reason that he became President of Venezuela's National Assembly was because the opposition parties have decided to rotate the leadership as a way of dealing with their differences. Guaido became President of the National Assembly when it was the turn for his party, Voluntad Popular or Popular Will, in English, to take the position.

Voluntad Popular is a violent counter-revolutionary political party in Venezuela. Their methods of their leaders, like Leopaldo Lopez, range from participation in a coup against President Chavez in 2002 (which was overturned by the mass action of people in Venezuela in less than 48 hours), to violent street riots known as the

"Guarimbas" that killed 43 people in 2014 and over 125 people in 2017.

Today, Guaido and the opposition controlled National Assembly, are claiming Constitutional authority. However, since 2016 Venezuela's National Assembly has been held in contempt of court after refusing to correct electrical irregularities in the 2015 National Assembly elections. Even prior to this declaration, the National Assembly had been incapable of passing any legislation that complied with Venezuela's Constitution.

### Sanctions and Humanitarian Aid – Which One is It?

The crocodile tears of imperialist governments and their mainstream media minions are the most bitter when they describe the suffering of the people of Venezuela, who they claim are being denied food, medicines and basic goods by a corrupt and callous government that is unable and uninterested to manage its own affairs, and care for its people.

Never a word is spoken about the devastating effects of U.S. sanctions on the lives of every day people in Venezuela.

For example, the attempted coup against Venezuela was enforced with another round of sanctions, this time targeting Venezuela's state-run oil company Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PDVSA). Trump administration officials reported that the sanctions "are expected to block \$7 billion in assets and result in \$11 billion



Rally in Caracas, Venezuela in support of President Nicolas Maduro.

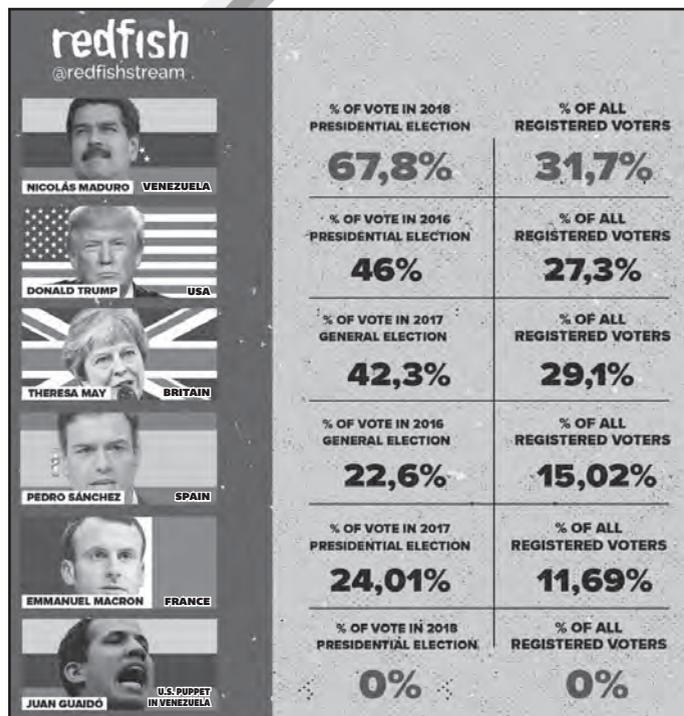
in export losses over the next year for Venezuela's government," as reported by the New York Times. (Of course, these same officials also reported "Purchases of Venezuelan oil by American companies would be released once PDVSA is controlled by a government led by Mr. Guaido.")

Mainstream media isn't condemning sanctions on Venezuela because they still are working exactly how their imperialist government bosses intended. Sanctions are an attempt to strangle the economy of Venezuela. With this, imperialist governments are betting that the people of Venezuela will be brought to such misery that they support the overthrow of their democratically elected government.

Imposing crippling sanctions on Venezuela has also opened the possibility for the U.S. government and their allies to make the claim that Venezuelans need "humanitarian aid." This claim is not only a good way to try to win over the hearts and minds of people living in the U.S. to their campaign for increased intervention in Venezuela, it also serves as a way for the U.S. government to bolster the "human rights defender" image of their appointed puppet Guaido.

In a January 24, 2019 Editorial, the Washington Post even suggests, "The administration's best approach would be to join with its allies in initiatives that would help Venezuelans while bolstering Mr. Guaido. A multilateral operation to deliver humanitarian supplies to Venezuela or to its borders, in cooperation with the National Assembly, is one possibility." If that isn't turning humanitarian aid into a political tool, then what is it?

Continued on page 19





**JANUARY 24, 2019 - STATEMENT OF THE FIRE THIS TIME MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
-VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN**

After two days of intense pressure and a concerted campaign by the US and Canada to install Juan Guaidó as the new “self-declared” interim President of Venezuela, it is clear that they have failed in this objective. It is also clear that their illegal and undemocratic attempts to destabilize the country and overthrow the democratically elected President of Nicolás Maduro will continue—with incessantly harmful consequences. Despite this, the people of Venezuela have risen once again to defend their country and democracy against hostile foreign intervention. It is essential that we support them in this fight.

The mainstream media is full of “Who is Juan Guaidó?” articles, which is fair given that the President of the National Assembly has never been an important leader in Venezuela until the US and Canada tried to make him one. Indeed, he was elected to the National Assembly in 2015 with only 26% of the votes. The New York Times and Wall Street Journal have also already published details of the months of meetings and planning between U.S. officials and Guaidó before his January 23 self-declaration as interim President.

It was not accidental that the night before planned opposition protests and Guaidó’s announcement on January 23 that US Vice President Mike Pence put out a video message encouraging Venezuelan’s to overthrow their government, “We are with

you. We stand with you, and we will stay with you until Democracy is restored and you reclaim your birthright of Libertad.”

The next day, the US and Canada recognized Juan Guaidó as President of Venezuela almost immediately following his self declaration at a rally. The day after that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo frantically failed to get a meeting of the Organization of American States to recognize his new “President”. Speaking with the hypocrisy and aggression which comes only from the mouths of imperialist politicians, he also called for the overthrow of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, “His regime is morally bankrupt, it’s economically incompetent and it is profoundly corrupt.”

Pretty rich words coming from a leading official of U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration, for which the terms “morally bankrupt”, “economically incompetent” and “profoundly corrupt” would be much better applied.

Following not far behind, Canada’s Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland quickly issued a statement recognizing Guaidó as President. Details also emerged of discussions between Freeland and Guaidó in the weeks leading up to his announcement.

We have already seen the Middle East raided and ravaged for the last twenty

years by the “democracy” imposed by the U.S and Canada. Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen are all still suffering its horrifying outcomes. We cannot now allow them to sink their bloody claws further into Latin-America!

One final undeniable truth: If Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro did not have the support of millions upon millions of Venezuelans, he would not still be in power. This support for the Bolivarian Revolution has been decisive time and time again in thwarting decades of coup attempts and foreign aggression. Living as we do in the “belly of the beast”, peace-loving people in the U.S. and Canada have a special responsibility to mobilize against these government’s illegal and undemocratic “regime change” programs. Especially in tense, decisive times such as these we need to speak loud and clear to emphasize that Trump, Pence, Pompeo, Trudeau and Freeland do not speak in our names. We demand the governments of the US and Canada immediately halt their aggression against Venezuela and accept the Venezuelan people’s democratic election of Nicolás Maduro as their President.

Alison Bodine

Coordinator—Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign

January 24, 2019

# EL GOLPE DE ESTADO FALLIDO DE LOS EE.UU. Y CANADÁ EN VENEZUELA

## EN DEFENSA DE LA DEMOCRACIA Y LA AUTODETERMINACIÓN DEL PUEBLO DE VENEZUELA

24 DE ENERO 2019 - DECLARACIÓN DE LA CAMPAÑA DE SOLIDARIDAD CON VENEZUELA DEL MOVIMIENTO POR JUSTICIA SOCIAL "FIRE THIS TIME"

**\* EN ESPAÑOL \***

Después de dos días de intensa presión y una campaña concertada por parte de EE. UU. y Canadá para instalar a Juan Guaidó como el nuevo presidente interino "autodeclarado" de Venezuela, está claro que han fracasado en este objetivo. También está claro que sus intentos ilegales y antidemocráticos para desestabilizar el país y derrocar al presidente democráticamente elegido de Nicolás Maduro continuarán, con consecuencias incesantemente perjudiciales. A pesar de esto, el pueblo de Venezuela se ha levantado una vez más para defender su país y la democracia contra la intervención extranjera hostil. Es esencial que los apoyemos en esta lucha.

Los principales medios de comunicación están llenos de artículos de "¿Quién es Juan Guaidó?", lo cual es justo dado que el presidente de la Asamblea Nacional nunca ha sido un líder importante en Venezuela hasta que EE. UU. y Canadá intentaron convertirlo en uno de ellos. De hecho, fue elegido para la Asamblea Nacional en 2015 con solo el 26% de los votos. El New York Times y el Wall Street Journal también han publicado detalles de los meses de reuniones y planificación entre los funcionarios de los Estados Unidos y Guaidó antes de su auto-declaración del 23 de enero como presidente interino.

No fue casual que la noche anterior a las protestas planeadas y el anuncio de Guaidó el 23 de enero de que el



vicepresidente de los EE. UU. Mike Pence publicara un mensaje de video alentando a Venezuela a derrocar a su gobierno, "Estamos con usted. Estamos junto a usted y nos quedaremos con usted hasta que se restaure la democracia y usted reclame su derecho de nacimiento de Libertad".

Al día siguiente, los EE. UU. y Canadá reconocieron a Juan Guaidó como presidente de Venezuela casi inmediatamente después de su declaración en una manifestación. Al día siguiente, el Secretario de Estado de los EE. UU., Mike Pompeo, frenéticamente, no logró reunir a la Organización de los Estados Americanos para reconocer a su nuevo "presidente". Hablando con la hipocresía y la agresión que viene solo de la boca de los políticos imperialistas, también pidió el derrocamiento del presidente venezolano Nicolás Maduro: "Su régimen está moralmente en quiebra, es económicamente incompetente y está profundamente corrupto".

Palabras muy ricas provenientes de un importante funcionario de la administración del presidente de los Estados Unidos, Donald Trump, para el cual los términos "moralmente en bancarrota", "económicamente incompetente" y "profundamente corrupto" se aplicarían mucho mejor.

Siguiendo no muy lejos, la ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Canadá, Chrystia Freeland, emitió rápidamente una declaración en la que reconocía a Guaidó como presidente. También surgieron detalles de las discusiones entre Freeland y Guaidó en las semanas previas

a su anuncio.

Ya hemos visto el Medio Oriente asaltado durante los últimos veinte años por la "democracia" impuesta por los Estados Unidos y Canadá. Afganistán, Irak, Libia, Siria y Yemen todavía están sufriendo sus terribles resultados. ¡Ahora no podemos permitir que hundan sus garras sangrientas más en América Latina!

Una última verdad innegable: si el presidente venezolano Nicolás Maduro no contara con el apoyo de millones y millones de venezolanos, no estaría todavía en el poder. Este apoyo a la Revolución Bolivariana ha sido decisivo una otra vez para frustrar décadas de intentos de golpe y agresión extranjera. Al vivir como lo hacemos en el "vientre de la bestia", las personas amantes de la paz en los Estados Unidos y Canadá tienen la responsabilidad especial de movilizarse contra los programas ilegales y antidemocráticos de "cambio de régimen" de estos gobiernos. Especialmente en tiempos tensos y decisivos como estos, necesitamos hablar alto y claro para enfatizar que Trump, Pence, Pompeo, Trudeau y Freeland no hablan en nuestros nombres. Exigimos a los gobiernos de Estados Unidos y Canadá que detengan de inmediato su agresión contra Venezuela y acepten la elección democrática del pueblo venezolano de Nicolás Maduro como su presidente.

Alison Bodine

Coordinadora — Fire This Time  
Venezuela Solidarity Campaign

24 de enero 2019

**¡EE.UU. /CANADA: ¡MANOS FUERA DE VENEZUELA!**

*By Steve Ellner*

As Nicolás Maduro is sworn in for a new presidential term on January 10, Washington is bound to ratchet up its campaign to isolate Venezuela politically and economically. A few days earlier, U.S. Congressional Representatives belonging to the Democratic Party – with somewhat of a new face – initiated their term 2019-2021. Its Progressive Caucus now has 98 congressional members, by far the party's largest.

If the Progressive Caucus were to place the issue of Venezuela on the table for discussion as part of its critique of the policies of the Trump Administration, it would be doing a great service to the campaign against the illegal financial sanctions that have caused so much suffering to the people of Venezuela. In particular, Bernie Sanders, who needs to assume bold and principled positions as he did in 2016 to differentiate himself from other Democratic politicians with presidential ambitions, would do well to take up the issue.

Of course, Sanders and other Democrats cannot – even if they wanted to – use the arguments employed by those further to their left. If Sanders were to point to the progressive policies initiated by Hugo Chávez which Maduro has retained – such as his nationalistic foreign policies and social programs empowering the poor – the Democratic National Committee aided by the mainstream media would show Sanders to the party's door.

So if Sanders were to take up the issue, how would he respond to the predictable objections from the media as well as political adversaries to his right? The following are the politically-charged questions which Sanders would likely get from the press, along with his possible – and hypothetical – responses.

**Press:** You oppose sanctions against the Maduro dictatorship, but you support measures against Saudi Arabia for the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Isn't that contradictory, if not hypocritical?

**Sanders:** No one in Washington is talking about regime change in the case of Saudi Arabia. That's up to the Saudi people. In the case of Venezuela

that's what the sanctions are all about: getting rid of Maduro. If there's anything hypocritical, it's Washington's activism in favor of regime change of governments we don't like, while maintaining friendly relations with others which are anything but democratic. To make matters worse,



## Bernie Sanders were to oppose sanctions against Venezuela, what would be his talking points?



**A boy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, during a rally in support of Maduro. "Who are you calling illegitimate? Maduro - 67.8%, Trump - 46%, Macri - 51%. Check your numbers!"**

we provide generous amounts of aid, including military aid, to those same regimes.

**Press:** Are you opposed to trying to remove an unpopular regime?

**Sanders:** I wouldn't say it's out of the question, but history shows that such a strategy needs to be carefully thought out because the results have often been disastrous. One factor that has to be taken into account is whether there is a united opposition with recognized credibility that can take over and maintain stability. That certainly wasn't the case in Libya and Syria. And it doesn't appear to be the case in Venezuela. The Venezuelan opposition is divided between those who favor participation in elections and those who oppose it, between those who support a military option and those who are against it. Furthermore, some of the opposition parties have lost credibility because they went so quickly from backing demonstrations to oust Maduro, which resulted in scores of deaths, to participating in elections. I am told that many of those who are adamantly opposed to Maduro are also extremely skeptical of the opposition.

**Press:** But shouldn't Maduro be placed in the same category as that of the Saudi government and other brutal dictatorial regime?

**Sanders:** First, let me make clear, I am no defender of the Maduro government. But it seems to me that distinctions need to be made. Khashoggi was murdered even though he wasn't leading a movement to overthrow the government. In fact, he was a moderate. While police brutality has to be condemned regardless of circumstances – and there's been plenty of it in Venezuela under Maduro – nevertheless, the context has to be considered. In the protests in Venezuela there has been extremes on both sides. Six national guardsmen and two policemen were killed in the protests in 2014 calling for regime change. What would happen here in the U.S. if protesters attempting to overthrow the government killed policemen? Venezuela and Saudi Arabia are separate cases and have to be considered separately.

**Press:** Then the U.S. should turn a blind eye to what is happening in Venezuela? Are you an isolationist?

**Sanders:** Definitely not. I think Washington should play an active role

*Continued on page 30*

# MLK "BEYOND VIETNAM" ANTIWAR SPEECH - APRIL 4, 1967

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I need not pause to say how very delighted I am to be here tonight, and how very delighted I am to see you expressing your concern about the issues that will be discussed tonight by turning out in such large numbers. I also want to say that I consider it a great honor to share this program with Dr. Bennett, Dr. Commager, and Rabbi Heschel, some of the most distinguished leaders and personalities of our nation. And of course it's always good to come back to Riverside Church. Over the last eight years, I have had the privilege of preaching here almost every year in that period, and it's always a rich and rewarding experience to come to this great church and this great pulpit.

I come to this great magnificent house of worship tonight because my conscience leaves me no other choice. I join you in this meeting because I am in deepest agreement with the aims and work of the organization that brought us together, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam. The recent statements of your executive committee are the sentiments of my own heart, and I found myself in full accord when I read its opening lines: "A time comes when silence is betrayal." That time has come for us in relation to Vietnam.

The truth of these words is beyond doubt, but the mission to which they call us is a most difficult one. Even when pressed by the demands of inner truth, men do not easily assume the task of opposing their government's policy, especially in time of war. Nor does the human spirit move without great difficulty against all the apathy of conformist thought within one's own bosom and in the surrounding world. Moreover, when the issues at hand seem as perplexing as they often do in the case of this dreadful conflict, we are always on the verge of being mesmerized by uncertainty. But we must move on.

Some of us who have already begun to break the silence of the night have found that the calling to speak is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak. We must speak with all the humility that is appropriate to our limited vision, but we must speak. And we must rejoice as well, for surely this is the first time in our nation's history that a significant number of its religious leaders have chosen to move beyond the prophesying of smooth patriotism to the high grounds of a firm dissent based upon the mandates of conscience and the reading of history. Perhaps a new spirit is rising among us. If it is, let us trace its movement, and pray that our inner being may be sensitive to its guidance. For we are deeply in need of a new way beyond the darkness that seems so close around us.

Over the past two years, as I have moved to break the betrayal of my own silences and to speak from the burnings of my own heart, as I have called for radical departures from the destruction of Vietnam, many persons have questioned me about the wisdom of my path. At the heart of their concerns, this query has often loomed large and loud: "Why are you speaking about the war, Dr. King? Why are you joining the voices of dissent?" "Peace and civil rights don't mix," they say. "Aren't you hurting the cause of your people?" they ask. And when I hear them, though I often understand the source of their concern, I am nevertheless greatly saddened, for such questions mean that the inquirers have not really known me, my commitment, or my calling. Indeed, their questions suggest that they do not know the world in which they live. In the light of such tragic misunderstanding, I deem it of signal importance to state clearly, and I trust concisely, why I believe that the path from Dexter Avenue Baptist Church—the church in Montgomery, Alabama, where I began my pastorate—leads clearly to this sanctuary tonight.

I come to this platform tonight to make a passionate plea to my beloved nation. This speech is not addressed to Hanoi or to the National Liberation Front. It is not addressed to China or to Russia. Nor is it an attempt to overlook the ambiguity of the total situation and the need for a collective solution to the tragedy of Vietnam. Neither is it an attempt to make North Vietnam or the National Liberation Front paragons of virtue, nor to overlook the role they must play in the successful resolution of the problem. While they both may have justifiable reasons to be suspicious of the good faith of the United States, life and history give eloquent testimony to the fact that conflicts are never resolved without trustful give and take on both sides. Tonight, however, I wish not to speak with Hanoi and the National Liberation Front, but rather to my fellow Americans.

Since I am a preacher by calling, I suppose it is not surprising that I have seven major reasons for bringing Vietnam into the field of my moral vision. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the war in Vietnam and the struggle I and others have been waging in America. A few years ago there was a shining moment in that struggle. It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor, both black and white, through the poverty program. There were experiments, hopes, new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam, and I watched this program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plathying on a society gone mad on war. And I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

Perhaps a more tragic recognition of reality took place when it became clear to me that the war was doing far more than devastating the hopes of the poor at home. It was sending their sons and their brothers and their husbands to fight and to die in extraordinarily high proportions relative to the rest of the population. We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would hardly live on the same block in Chicago. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

My third reason moves to an even deeper level of awareness, for it grows out of my experience in the ghettos of the North over the last three years, especially the last three summers. As I have walked among the desperate, rejected, and angry young men, I have told them that Molotov cocktails and rifles would not solve their problems. I have tried to offer them my deepest compassion while maintaining my conviction that social change comes most meaningfully through nonviolent action. But they asked, and rightly so, "What about Vietnam?" They asked if our own nation wasn't using massive doses of violence to solve its problems, to bring about the changes it wanted. Their questions hit home, and I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent.

For those who ask the question, "Aren't you a civil rights leader?" and thereby mean to exclude me from the movement for peace, I have this further answer. In 1957, when a group of us formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, we chose as our motto: "To save the soul of America." We were convinced that we could not limit our vision to certain rights for black people, but instead affirmed the conviction that America would never be free or saved from itself until the descendants of its slaves were loosed completely from the shackles they still wear. In a way we were agreeing with Langston Hughes, that black bard of Harlem, who had written earlier:

O, yes, I say it plain,

America never was America to me,

And yet I swear this oath—

America will be!

Now it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America's soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read "Vietnam." It can never be saved so long as it destroys the deepest hopes of men the world over. So it is that those of us who are yet determined that "America will be" are led down the path of protest and dissent, working for the health of our land.

As if the weight of such a commitment to the life and health of America were not enough, another burden of responsibility was placed upon me in 1954.\* And I cannot forget that the Nobel Peace Prize was also a commission, a mission to work harder than I had ever worked before for the brotherhood of man. This is a calling that takes me beyond national allegiances.

But even if it were not present, I would yet have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask me why I am speaking against the war. Could it be that they do not know that the Good News was meant for all men—for communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the Vietcong or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this one? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?

Finally, as I try to explain for you and for myself the road that leads from Montgomery to this place, I would have

offered all that was most valid if I simply said that I must be true to my conviction that I share with all men the calling to be a son of the living God. Beyond the calling of race or nation or creed is this vocation of sonship and brotherhood. Because I believe that the Father is deeply concerned, especially for His suffering and helpless and outcast children, I come tonight to speak for them. This I believe to be the privilege and the burden of all of us who deem ourselves bound by allegiances and loyalties which are broader and deeper than nationalism and which go beyond our nation's self-defined goals and positions. We are called to speak for the weak, for the voiceless, for the victims of our nation, for those it calls "enemy," for no document from human hands can make these humans any less our brothers.

And as I ponder the madness of Vietnam and search within myself for ways to understand and respond in compassion, my mind goes constantly to the people of that peninsula. I speak now not of the soldiers of each side, not of the ideologies of the Liberation Front, not of the junta in Saigon, but simply of the people who have been living under the curse of war for almost three continuous decades now. I think of them, too, because it is clear to me that there will be no meaningful solution there until some attempt is made to know them and hear their broken cries.

They must see Americans as strange liberators. The Vietnamese people proclaimed their own independence in 1954—in 1945 rather—after a combined French and Japanese occupation and before the communist revolution in China. They were led by Ho Chi Minh. Even though they quoted the American Declaration of Independence in their own document of freedom, we refused to recognize them. Instead, we decided to support France in its reconquest of her former colony. Our government felt then that the Vietnamese people were not ready for independence, and we again fell victim to the deadly Western arrogance that has poisoned the international atmosphere for so long. With that tragic decision we rejected a revolutionary government seeking self-determination and a government that had been established not by China—for whom the Vietnamese have no great love—but by clearly indigenous forces that included some communists. For the peasants this new government meant real land reform, one of the most important needs in their lives.

For nine years following 1945 we denied the people of Vietnam the right of independence. For nine years we vigorously supported the French in their abortive effort to reconlize Vietnam. Before the end of the war we were meeting eighty percent of the French war costs. Even before the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu, they began to despair of their reckless action, but we did not. We encouraged them with our huge financial and military supplies to continue the war even after they had lost the will. Soon we would be paying almost the full costs of this tragic attempt at reconlization.

After the French were defeated, it looked as if independence and land reform would come again through the Geneva Agreement. But instead there came the United States, determined that Ho should not unify the temporarily divided nation, and the peasants watched again as we supported one of the most vicious modern dictators, our chosen man, Premier Diem. The peasants watched and cringed and Diem ruthlessly rooted out all opposition, supported their extortionist landlords, and refused even to discuss reunification with the North. The peasants watched as all of this was presided over by United States influence and then by increasing numbers of United States troops who came to help quell the insurgency that Diem's methods had aroused. When Diem was overthrown they may have been happy, but the long line of military dictators seemed to offer no real change, especially in terms of their need for land and peace.

The only change came from America as we increased our troop commitments in support of governments which were singularly corrupt, inept, and without popular support. All the while the people read our leaflets and received the regular promises of peace and democracy and land reform. Now they languish under our bombs and consider us, not their fellow Vietnamese, the real enemy. They move sadly and apathetically as we herd them off the land of their fathers into concentration camps where minimal social needs are rarely met. They know they must move on or be destroyed by our bombs.

So they go, primarily women and children and the aged. They watch as we poison their water, as we kill a million acres of their crops. They must weep as the bulldozers roar through their areas preparing to destroy the precious trees. They wander into the hospitals with at least twenty casualties from American firepower for one Vietcong-inflicted injury. So far we may have killed a million of them, mostly children. They wander into the towns and see thousands of the children, homeless, without clothes, running in packs on the streets like animals. They see the children degraded by our soldiers as they beg for food. They see the children selling their sisters to our soldiers, soliciting for their mothers.

What do the peasants think as we ally ourselves with the landlords and as we refuse to put any action into our many words concerning land reform? What do they think as we test out our latest weapons on them, just as the Germans tested out new medicine and new tortures in the concentration camps of Europe? Where are the roots of the independent Vietnam we claim to be building? Is it among these voiceless ones?

We have destroyed their two most cherished institutions: the family and the village. We have destroyed their land and their crops. We have cooperated in the crushing of the nation's only noncommunist revolutionary political force, the unified Buddhist Church. We have supported the enemies of the peasants of Saigon. We have corrupted their women and children and killed their men.

Now there is little left to build on, save bitterness. Soon the only solid physical foundations remaining will be found at our military bases and in the concrete of the concentration camps we call "fortified hamlets." The peasants may well wonder if we plan to build our new Vietnam on such grounds as these. Could we blame them for such thoughts? We must speak for them and raise the questions they cannot raise. These, too, are our brothers.

Perhaps a more difficult but no less necessary task is to speak for those who have been designated as our enemies. What of the National Liberation front, that strangely anonymous group we call "VC" or "communists"? What must they think of the United States of America when they realize that we permitted the repression and cruelty of Diem, which helped to bring them into being as a resistance group in the South? What do they think of our condoning the violence which led to their own taking up of arms? How can they believe in our integrity when now we speak of "aggression from the North" as if there was nothing more essential to the war? How can they trust us when now we charge them with violence after the murderous reign of Diem and charge them with violence while we pour every new weapon of death into their hands? Surely we must understand their feelings, even if we do not condone their actions. Surely we must see that the men we supported pressed them to their violence. Surely we must see that our own computerized plans of destruction simply dwarf their greatest acts.

How do they judge us when our officials know that their membership is less than twenty-five percent communist, and yet insist on giving them the blanket name? What must they be thinking when they know that we are aware of their control of major sections of Vietnam, and yet we appear ready to allow national elections in which this highly organized political parallel government will not have a part? They ask how we can speak of free elections when the Saigon press is censored and controlled by the military junta. And they are surely right to wonder what kind of new government we plan to help form without them, the only real party in real touch with the peasants. They question our political goals and they deny the reality of a peace settlement from which they will be excluded. Their questions are frighteningly relevant. Is our nation planning to build on political myth again, and then shore it up upon the power of a new violence?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence, when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

So, too, with Hanoi. In the North, where our bombs now pummel the land, and our mines endanger the waterways, we are met by a deep but understandable mistrust. To speak for them is to explain this lack of confidence in Western worlds, and especially their distrust of American intentions now. In Hanoi are the men who led this nation to independence against the Japanese and the French, the men who sought membership in the French Commonwealth and were betrayed by the weakness of Paris and the willfulness of the colonial armies. It was they who led a second struggle against French domination at tremendous costs, and then were persuaded to give up the land they controlled between the thirteenth and seventeenth parallel as a temporary measure at Geneva. After 1954 they watched us conspire with Diem to prevent elections which could have surely brought Ho Chi Minh to power over a unified Vietnam, and they realized they had been betrayed again. When we ask why they do not leap to negotiate, these things must be considered.

Also, it must be clear that the leaders of Hanoi considered the presence of American troops in support of the Diem regime to have been the initial military breach of the Geneva Agreement concerning foreign troops. They remind us that they did not begin to send troops in large numbers and even supplies into the South until American forces had moved into the tens of thousands.

Hanoi remembers how our leaders refused to tell us the truth about the earlier North Vietnamese overtures for peace, how the president claimed that none existed when they had clearly been made. Ho Chi Minh has watched as America has spoken of peace and built up its forces, and now he has surely heard the increasing international rumors of American plans for an invasion of the north. He knows the bombing and shelling and mining we are doing are part of traditional re-invasion strategy. Perhaps only his sense of humor and of irony can save him when he hears the most powerful nation of the world speaking of aggression as it drops thousands of bombs on a poor, weak nation more than eight hundred, or rather, eight thousand miles away from its shores.

At this point I should make it clear that while I have tried to give a voice to the voiceless in Vietnam and to understand the arguments of those who are called "enemy," I am as deeply concerned about our own troops and as anything else. For it occurs to me that what we are submitting them to in Vietnam is not simply the brutalizing process that goes on in any war where armies face each other and seek to destroy. We are adding cynicism to the process of death, for they must know after a short period there that none of the things we claim to be fighting for are really involved. Before long they must know that their government has sent them into a struggle among Vietnamese, and the more sophisticated surely realize that we are on the side of the wealthy, and the secure, while we create a hell for the poor.

Surely this madness must cease. We must stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroy, whose culture is being subverted, I speak for the poor in America who are paying the double price of smashed hopes at home, and dealt death and corruption in

Vietnam. I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as one who loves America, to the leaders of our own nation: The great initiative in this war is ours; the initiative to stop it must be ours.

This is the message of the great Buddhist leaders of Vietnam. Recently one of them wrote these words, and I quote:

Each day the war goes on the hatred increased in the hearts of the Vietnamese and in the hearts of those of humanitarian instinct. The Americans are forcing even their friends into becoming their enemies. It is curious that the Americans, who calculate so carefully on the possibilities of military victory, do not realize that in the process they are incurring deep psychological and political defeat. The image of America will never again be the image of revolution, freedom, and democracy, but the image of violence and militarism.

Unquote.

If we continue, there will be no doubt in my mind and in the mind of the world that we have no honorable intentions in Vietnam. If we do not stop our war against the people of Vietnam immediately, the world will be left with no other alternative than to see this as some horrible, clumsy, and deadly game we have decided to play. The world now demands a maturity of America that we may not be able to achieve. It demands that we admit we have been wrong from the beginning of our adventure in Vietnam, that we have been detrimental to the life of the Vietnamese people. The situation is one in which we must be ready to turn sharply from our present ways. In order to atone for our sins and errors in Vietnam, we should take the initiative in bringing a halt to this tragic war.

I would like to suggest five concrete things that our government should do to begin the long and difficult process of extricating ourselves from this nightmarish conflict:

Number one: End all bombing in North and South Vietnam.

Number two: Declare a unilateral cease-fire in the hope that such action will create the atmosphere for negotiation.

Three: Take immediate steps to prevent other battlegrounds in Southeast Asia by curtailing our military buildup in Thailand and our interference in Laos.

Four: Realistically accept the fact that the National Liberation Front has substantial support in South Vietnam and must thereby play a role in any meaningful negotiations and any future Vietnam government.

Five: Set a date that we will remove all foreign troops from Vietnam in accordance with the 1954 Geneva Agreement. [sustained applause]

Part of our ongoing [applause continues], part of our ongoing commitment might well express itself in an offer to grant asylum to any Vietnamese who fears for his life under a new regime which included the Liberation Front. Then we must make what reparations we can for the damage we have done. We must provide the medical aid that is badly needed, making it available in this country if necessary. Meanwhile [applause], meanwhile, we in the churches and synagogues have a continuing task while we urge our government to disengage itself from a disgraceful commitment. We must continue to raise our voices and our lives if our nation persists in its perverse ways in Vietnam. We must be prepared to match actions with words by seeking out every creative method of protest possible.

As we counsel young men concerning military service, we must clarify for them our nation's role in Vietnam and challenge them with the alternative of conscientious objection. [sustained applause] I am pleased to say that this is a path now chosen by more than seventy students at my own alma mater, Morehouse College, and I recommend it to all who find the American course in Vietnam a dishonorable and unjust one. [applause] Moreover, I would encourage all ministers of draft age to give up their ministerial exemptions and seek status as conscientious objectors. [applause] These are the times for real choices and not false ones. We are at the moment when our lives must be placed on the line if our nation is to survive its own folly. Every man of humane convictions must decide on the protest that best suits his convictions, but we must all protest.

Now there is something seductively tempting about stopping there and sending us all off on what in some circles has become a popular crusade against the war in Vietnam. I say we must enter that struggle, but I wish to go on now to say something even more disturbing.

The war in Vietnam is but a symptom of a far deeper malady within the American spirit, and if we ignore this sobering reality [applause], and if we ignore this sobering reality, we will find ourselves organizing "clergy and laymen concerned" committees for the next generation. They will be concerned about Guatemala and Peru. They will be concerned about Thailand and Cambodia. They will be concerned about Mozambique and South Africa. We will be marching for these and a dozen other names and attending rallies without end unless there is a significant and profound change in American life and policy. [sustained applause] So such thoughts take us beyond Vietnam, but not beyond our calling as sons of the living God.

In 1957 a sensitive American official overseas said that it seemed to him that our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution. During the past ten years we have seen emerge a pattern of suppression which has now justified the presence of U.S. military advisors in Venezuela. This need to maintain social stability for our investments accounts for the counterrevolutionary action of American forces in Guatemala. It tells why American helicopters are being used against guerrillas in Cambodia and why American napalm and Green Beret forces have already been active against rebels in Peru.

It is with such activity that the words of the late John F. Kennedy come back to haunt us. Five years ago he said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." [applause] Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken, the role of those who make peaceful revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investments. I am convinced that if we are to get on to the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin [applause], we must rapidly begin the shift from the thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside, but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho Road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. [applause]

A true revolution of values will soon look unceasingly on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth. With righteous indignation, it will look across the seas and see individual capitalists of the West investing huge sums of money in Asia, Africa, and South America, only to take the profits out with no concern for the social betterment of the countries, and say, "This is not just." It will look at our alliance with the landed gentry of South America and say, "This is not just." The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just.

A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war, "This way of settling differences is not just." This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death. [sustained applause]

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in this revolution of values. There is nothing except a tragic death wish to prevent us from reordering our priorities so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood.

This kind of positive revolution of values is our best defense against communism. [applause] War is not the answer. Communism will never be defeated by the use of atomic bombs or nuclear weapons. Let us not join those who shout war and, through their misguided passions, urge the United States to relinquish its participation in the United Nations. These are days which demand wise restraint and calm reasonableness. We must not engage in a negative anticommunism, but rather in a positive thrust for democracy [applause], realizing that our greatest defense against communism is to take offensive action in behalf of justice. We must with positive action seek to remove those conditions of poverty, insecurity, and injustice, which are the fertile soil in which the seed of communism grows and develops.

These are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against old systems of exploitation and oppression, and out of the wounds of a frail world, new systems of justice and equality are being born. The shirtless and barefoot people of the land are rising up as never before. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. We in the West must support these revolutions.

It is a sad fact that because of comfort, complacency, a morbid fear of communism, and our proneness to adjust to injustice, the Western nations that initiated so much of the revolutionary spirit of the modern world have now become the arch antirevolutionaries. This has driven many to feel that only Marxism has a revolutionary spirit. Therefore, communism is a judgment against our failure to make democracy real and follow through on the revolutions that we initiated. Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism. With this powerful commitment we shall boldly challenge the status quo and unjust mores, and thereby speed the day when "every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low [Audience:] (Yes); the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain."

A genuine revolution of values means in the final analysis that our loyalties must become cumencial rather than sectional. Every nation must now develop an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in their individual

# A TRUE REVOLUTION OF VALUES WILL SOON LOOK UNEASILY ON THE GLARING CONTRAST OF POVERTY AND WEALTH. WITH RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION, IT WILL LOOK ACROSS THE SEAS AND SEE INDIVIDUAL CAPITALISTS OF THE WEST INVESTING HUGE SUMS OF MONEY IN ASIA, AFRICA, AND SOUTH AMERICA, ONLY TO TAKE THE PROFITS OUT WITH NO CONCERN FOR THE SOCIAL BETTERMENT OF THE COUNTRIES, AND SAY, "THIS IS NOT JUST." - DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 1929-1968

societies.

This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all mankind. This oft misunderstood, this oft misinterpreted concept, so readily dismissed by the Nietzsches of the world as a weak and cowardly force, has now become an absolute necessity for the survival of man. When I speak of love I am not speaking of some sentimental and weak response. I'm not speaking of that force which is just emotional hosh. I am speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as the supreme unifying principle of life. Love is somehow the key that unlocks the door which leads to ultimate reality. This Hindu-Muslim-Christian-Jewish-Buddhist belief about ultimate reality is beautifully summed up in the first epistle of Saint John: "Let us love one another (Yes), for love is God. (Yes) And every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. . . . If we love one another, God dwelleth in us and his love is perfected in us." Let us hope that this spirit will become the order of the day.

We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate. As Arnold Toynbee says: "Love is the ultimate force that makes for the saving choice of life and good against the damning choice of death and evil. Therefore the first hope in our inventory must be the hope that love is going to have the last word." Unquote.

We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked, and dejected with a lost opportunity. The tide in the affairs of men does not remain at flood—it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words, "Too late." There is an invisible book of life that faithfully records our vigilance or our neglect. Omar Khayyam is right: "The moving finger writes, and having writ moves on."

We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace in Vietnam and justice throughout the developing world, a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the sons of God, and our brothers wait eagerly for our response. Shall we say the odds are too great? Shall we tell them the struggle is too hard? Will our message be that the forces of American life militate against their arrival as full men, and we send our deepest regrets? Or will there be another message—of longing, of hope, of solidarity with their yearnings, of commitment to their cause, whatever the cost? The choice is ours, and though we might prefer it otherwise, we must choose in this crucial moment of human history.

As that noble bard of yesterday, James Russell Lowell, eloquently stated:

Once to every man and nation comes a moment do decide,

In the strife of truth and Falsehood, for the good or evil side,

Some great cause, God's new Messiah offering each the bloom or blight,

And the choice goes by forever 'twixt that darkness and that light.

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong

Though her portions be the scaffold, and upon the throne be wrong

Yet that scaffold sways the future, and behind the dim unknown

Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch above his own.

And if we will only make the right choice, we will be able to transform this pending cosmic elegy into a creative psalm of peace. If we will make the right choice, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our world into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream. [sustained applause]

\*King says "1954," but most likely means 1964, the year he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

# FIRETHISTIME.NET

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

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST UNDEMOCRATIC LAWS



*By Thomas Davies*

The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 returned to the station where its weekly protest campaign first began for the 200<sup>th</sup> consecutive action –

Commercial Station in Vancouver. The weekly actions have continued for almost four years, and the campaign to defend democratic and human rights has continued to resonate

with people and give urgency to the demands of “Repeal Bill C-51!” and “Scrap Bill C-59!”

Not content to rest on past accomplishments, the Working

## WORKING GROUP TO STOP BILL C-51 STATEMENT IN SOLIDARITY WITH WET'SUWET'EN LAND DEFENDERS

**PM Trudeau: Stop Criminalizing Dissent! Repeal Bill C-51 and Scrap Bill C-59!**

**Our Security Lies in Defending the Rights of All!**

The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 joins together with people, human rights, and social justice organizations around the world in denouncing the recent siege of the RCMP against Wet'suwet'en Nation people defending their unceded traditional territories against the forced construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline. This type of escalated and unjustified police violence against peaceful opposition is exactly what we have been organizing against since the adoption of Bill C-51 under Stephen Harper, and its continuation under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The Coastal GasLink Pipeline is part of the recently approved \$40 billion LNG Canada mega-project. Supported by both the federal and B.C provincial government, the LNG Canada project would take “fracked” natural gas from Northern B.C. to the coast for export. Beyond environmental concerns, the proposed pipeline would run through hundreds of kilometres of Wet'suwet'en Nation territory. The Hereditary Chiefs of all five Wet'suwet'en clans have clearly and consistently opposed this pipeline.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Canada officially endorsed in 2016, clearly states that “free prior and informed consent” is required from

Indigenous Nations before decisions are made affecting their traditional territories. This consent has obviously not been achieved, and the RCMP were still willing to forcibly arrest 14 people for peacefully standing up for the rights the Canadian government has already promised to uphold.

In its 2015 statement opposing then proposed Bill C-51, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs warned, “Due to the expanded powers that Bill C-51 would provide to government agencies, Indigenous Peoples of this country will be further muzzled and restricted in our ability to voice our concerns with respect to the actions of industry, government and governmental agencies...Further, it is likely we would see more heavy-handed approaches to policing based on the changes proposed by Bill C-51 especially in light of the Harper's government agenda to expand resource extraction and development.”

Harper has been replaced with Trudeau, but the warnings have come true. Trudeau's proposed fix, “Bill C-59”, includes most of the worst parts of Bill C-51, and adds a further cyber surveillance component.

Bill C-51 allows the police to target those they decide are “interfering with the economic or financial stability of Canada.” Given that the government



of Canada's most go-to justification for approving massive resource extraction projects is the “national interest”, the criminalization of those who oppose them is not an irrational concern. Especially when government intelligence reports consistently refer to those opposing pipeline construction as “violent aboriginal extremists”.

It is more important that ever to stand up for human and democratic rights, and to defend the Wet'suwet'en against further government and police attacks. This is an important struggle with consequences for us all. The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 reaffirms its commitment to the full Repeal Bill C-51, and the scrapping of Bill C-59. We will continue to defend all those targeted by these unjust government policies, which threaten our basic rights to freedom of speech and assembly. We cannot afford to go backwards!

Working Group to Stop Bill C-51

Web: [www.RepealBillC51.org](http://www.RepealBillC51.org)  
E-Mail: [stoppolicestatebillc51@gmail.com](mailto:stoppolicestatebillc51@gmail.com)  
Phone: 778-889-7664  
Twitter: @stopbillc51

Continued from page 18

Stop Bill C-51 & C-59 picket action at Scott Road Skytrain, January 14, 2019. On Right page: Stop Bill C-51 & C-59 picket action at 22nd Street Skytrain, January 7, 2019.

Group held five actions in the first month of 2019. Moving through East, South and Downtown Vancouver to the suburbs of Surrey and New Westminster - continuing to connect with people despite the early sunsets and cold weather.



Thousands of people have signed petitions and supported the weekly actions with the understanding of how dangerous the government's broad "Anti-Terrorism" laws are. Police, spy, and government agencies are given huge new powers and secrecy at the expense of public accountability and fundamental rights.

It would have been impossible to continue such a long and persistent campaign without consistent support and feedback. The Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 will continue the ongoing work to defend democratic and human rights as long as we have governments in power who continue to try and violate them.

Repeal Bill C-51!

Scrap Bill C-59!

Our Security Lies in Defending the Rights of All!

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59

**BILL C-51 / C-59  
FEBRUARY ACTIONS  
WEEKLY PICKET  
& PETITION DRIVE**

Weekly Action #205  
Monday February 4  
Lougheed Skytrain Station  
Burnaby

Weekly Action #206  
Monday February 11  
Joyce Skytrain Station  
Vancouver

Weekly Action #207  
Monday February 18  
Call 778-889-7664

Weekly Action #208  
Monday February 25  
Call 778-889-7664

**All Actions are at 4:30pm**

THE HEREDITARY CHIEFS HAVE SPOKEN

**NO TO ALL PIPELINES**

**STAND WITH UNIST'OT'EN IN THEIR FIGHT AGAINST LNG CANADA & TRANSCANADA**

Support the daily needs of the camp and contribute to the ongoing legal defense fund by donating at:  
[www.unistoten.camp/support-us/donate/](http://www.unistoten.camp/support-us/donate/)

**#NoPipelines #TheTimeIsNow**

I STAND WITH UNIST'OT'EN

Continued from page 12

In all, U.S. sanctions are reported to have cost Venezuela at least \$6 billion. So, how is it a humanitarian gesture of any shade that the U.S. government has pledged only \$20 million for aid? That is barely 3% of what the sanctions have denied people of Venezuela. The people of Venezuela don't need handouts - they need an end to the war and sanctions against their economy. So-called humanitarian aid is nothing, but an empty gesture meant to confuse people, both in Venezuela and back in the United States and around the world.

**Why the U.S and Other Imperialists Hate the Maduro government**

In an interview on January 28, 2019 on Fox News U.S. National Security Advisor and war-monger John Bolton exposed one reason why the U.S. government is so determined to overthrow the government of President Maduro, "It will make a big difference to the United States economically if we could have American oil companies invest in and produce the oil capabilities in Venezuela."

One of the gains of the Bolivarian revolutionary process is that the oil wealth of Venezuela has been taken out of the pockets of transnational companies, and redirected to funding social programs for poor, working and oppressed people in Venezuela. Yes, it is in the interests of the government of U.S. to have their hands on the Venezuela's natural resources, including oil, once again.

Exactly how the revolutionary government of Venezuela poses a threat to U.S. control of Latin America deserves an even closer look.

Once again, the words of John Bolton are an important view into the strategic thinking of the U.S. government and their imperialist allies. On November 1, 2018 Bolton made a speech at the Freedom Tower in Miami, where he first coined the term "Troika of Tyranny," in reference to the governments of Nicaragua, Venezuela and Cuba. His speech continued, "Yet today, in this Hemisphere, we are also confronted once again with the destructive forces of oppression, socialism, and totalitarianism. In Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, we see the perils of poisonous ideologies left unchecked, and the dangers of domination and suppression."

Continued on page 29

# FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD IN U.S. JAILS!

By Thomas Davies

## ***New Victory in the Fight to Free Mumia Abu Jamal Free Mumia! Free all Political Prisoners in U.S. Jails!***

The campaign to free U.S. political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal took an important step forward this week, with the decision by Court of Common Pleas Judge Leon Tucker to grant Mumia Abu-Jamal new rights of appeal. This is a big victory for a solidarity campaign which has been ongoing for almost 40 years, and which was also able to get Abu Jamal off of "death row" and later secure previously denied life-saving Hepatitis C treatment in jail.

Judge Tucker ruled former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille denied Abu-Jamal fair and impartial appeals by not recusing himself from the defendant's appeals between 1998 and 2012. The ruling referenced Castille's public statements of being a "law and order" prosecutor, responsible for 45 men on death row, the support of the Fraternal Order of Police and the new evidence of Castille's having singled out men convicted as "police killers."

The judges ruling means that Mumia Abu-Jamal's appeals of his 1982 conviction could be reheard.

Abu-Jamal, and human rights organizations around the world, have always maintained his innocence in the fatal shooting of police officer Daniel Faulkner. His prosecution was politically motivated because of his previous Black Panther Party membership and public profile as a radical journalist. His trial was racially biased, and the court stenographer actually overheard trail judge Albert Sabo declare, "I'm gonna help them fry the n---r." The prosecution also excluded African Americans from the jury.

District Attorney Larry Krasner still has an opportunity to appeal this ruling. Abu-Jamal's supporters have already rallied in front of his office to demand he allow the judgement to stand. We echo this demand, as well the demand that after 37 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit, all charges against Mumia Abu Jamal should be dismissed and he should be immediately freed.

'An eye for an eye'

But the family of Faulkner, the slain officer, sees that outcome as a nightmare. They plan to plead with Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner to challenge the ruling in favor of Abu-Jamal. Krasner, through a spokesman, said he was reviewing the decision and had not yet decided whether to oppose it.

Tucker, in his opinion, said Abu-Jamal should be given another chance to argue his innocence in front of the state's high court, now that Castille is no longer a sitting judge.

"The court finds that recusal by Justice Castille would have been appropriate to ensure the neutrality of the judicial process in [Abu-Jamal's appeals] before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court," Tucker wrote.

Abu-Jamal's lawyers have 30 days to inform Pennsylvania's courts of their intent to pursue an appeal.

## **FREE LEONARD PELTIER NOW!**

*Leonard Peltier is an indigenous activist and political prisoner in the United States. In 1975, Leonard was set up and convicted of the death of two FBI agents who had sped on to the Jumping Bull compound in an unmarked car and who began a shoot-out with the Indigenous people who were there. He is 74 years old and has been imprisoned for 43 years. Regardless of his innocence and huge health problems, the U.S. refuses to release him. Despite huge adversity he continues to speak out for indigenous rights and social justice*

*The campaign to demand his freedom continues. In November a 1500 mile "Spirit Ride" was completed in his honour. Horse riders travelled all the way from Minnesota to Coleman, Florida, where Leonard Peltier is being held. From there they travelled to Washington, DC to bring a message to President Trump demanding he free the internationally respected political prisoner.*

*Peltier continues to defend his innocence and speak out for justice around the world. Below is an excerpt of his most recent public statement.*

## **Statement of love and respect from Leonard Peltier By Leonard Peltier posted on December 3, 2018**

Greetings Sisters, Brothers, Elders, Friends and Supporters.

Well here it is, sorry to say, another year, and I'm still writing to you from a prison cell. I am still in pain from my illnesses with no knowledge of whether I will ever get treatments for them. But I'm alive and still breathing, hoping, wishing, praying for not just my pains, but for all Native Nations and the People of the World who care and have positive feelings about what is happening to Mother Earth and against the evils committed by Wasi'chu in their greed for her natural resources.

I t doesn't seem as if any changes for the good or safety of Mother Earth will happen soon. But the good hearted people are fighting back, and some good people are winning in the struggles to beat back some of this evil and to make the Changes, the safety networks, we need for our grandchildren and great grandchildren so that they will be able to live happy, successful lives, at least decent lives, that most of the poor underprivileged in my generation never got to experience or enjoy in [their] short lives.

Politically we are finally making gains in Congress; two great Native ladies made it in the House of Representatives! They are Shanice Davids, Ho Chunk of Wisconsin, for Kansas and Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, for New Mexico. On Pine Ridge my nephew Julian Bear Runner made it as President of the great Lakota Nation! I'm

hearing more states are doing away with Columbus Day! Hell, we may just win the War for Survival yet.

My last thoughts on this day, that we Native People call a Day of Mourning, are for my sisters' and brothers' family by blood and by AIM that are now in the Spirit World, and to them I say Lila Pilamaya, thank you for your love and work for The People.

My thoughts are also with the youth such as the Water Protectors and all people young and old who are working to protect Mother Earth. I hope someday in the near future to be with you and part of this march and join you in the feast prepared by Native People and wonderful supporters who have joined together today to honor our Ancestors.

In The Spirit of Crazy Horse

Doksha

Leonard Peltier



## FROM YEMEN TO VENEZUELA SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL OPPRESSED NATIONS!



By Janine Solanki

Within the first few weeks of 2019, the imperialist war drive led by the United States continued to wreak havoc against oppressed nations around the world. On January 19, 2019, the Saudi-led coalition bombed the capital city of Sana'a, killing civilians and further destroying the already fragile infrastructure. Yemen has faced near continuous bombings over almost four years of a U.S.-backed, Saudi-led war.

Imperialist forces have also been busy in Venezuela. On January 23, 2019, Venezuela faced a coup attempt, the latest dangerous attempt at "regime change" led by the U.S. and Canada against the legitimate and democratically elected Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. The governments of the U.S. and Canada immediately recognized Juan Guaidó as the new "self-declared" interim President of Venezuela.

In Vancouver, Canada, Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) started 2019 out by protesting the new era of war and occupation, which the U.S. and other imperialist countries have been waging since 2001. This new era started with the war in Afghanistan and has continued with U.S.-led war, occupation, sanctions and military aggression against independent nations including in Iraq, Libya, Syria, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela.

On Friday January 25, MAWO held a monthly antiwar rally and petition drive in downtown Vancouver. Alongside the demands of "U.S./Saudi Arabia Hands

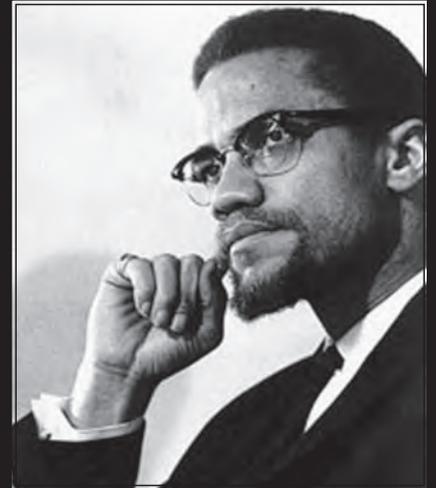
Off Yemen" the action called on U.S. President Trump and Canada's Prime Minister Trudeau to respect Venezuela's self-determination and sovereignty, and to stop their illegal and undemocratic attempts to destabilize the country. Organizers setup with antiwar banners and picket signs, and an info table which attracted the attention of people passing by the busy downtown plaza, who stopped to get more information and talk to organizers. Protesters also set out in teams to talk to passers-by, and asked them to sign on to a petition against Canada's \$15 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Beyond MAWO's own actions, MAWO is often out on the street alongside other important social justice struggles. On January 19, the third annual Women's March in Vancouver was part of global actions on this day, which was sparked by the anti-women policies of the newly elected U.S. President Trump in 2017. MAWO joined in the march and rally, and with a banner held high saying "Women of the World Unite Against War and Occupation!" bringing an antiwar perspective to this action.

MAWO is committed to continue educating, organizing and mobilizing against war and occupation into 2019 and beyond, until this new era of war and occupation is stopped. To find out about upcoming antiwar events and actions visit [www.mawovancouver.org](http://www.mawovancouver.org) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @mawovan

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

## "By Any Means Necessary..."



### MALCOLM X SPEAKS

*Excerpt from Malcolm X Speech "Not Just An American Problem, But a World Problem" (Feb. 16, 1965)*

And we have that set up because we realize that we have to fight against the evils of a society that has failed to produce brotherhood for every member of that society. This in no way means that we're anti-white, anti-blue, anti-green, or anti-yellow. We're anti-wrong. We're anti-discrimination. We're anti-segregation. We're against anybody who wants to practice some form of segregation or discrimination against us because we don't happen to be a color that's acceptable to you...

We don't judge a man because of the color of his skin. We don't judge you because you're white; we don't judge you because you're black; we don't judge you because you're brown. We judge you because of what you do and what you practice.

# A LESSON IN DEMOCRACY

By Ben Lefebvre\*

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Cuba began a three-month process to revise the nation's Constitution whereby its citizens debated proposals put forth by the National Assembly of People Power (ANPP). In Canadian terms the ANPP would be the equivalent of our federal parliament.

The draft constitution was unveiled to more than 8.9 million people who attended one of the 133,681 meetings held across the country. More than 1.7 million citizens commented on the proposed changes.

In the end, more than 780,000 concrete proposals came forth to modify, add or eliminate particular sections of the draft. All of the proposals were vetted by a large number of employees who had the unenviable task of collating them thematically and rewording the document before it was forwarded to the National Assembly for further discussion.

The public consultation process ended on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The final draft of the new constitution was debated and finally approved by the National Assembly on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The document will be printed and distributed widely before a national referendum is held on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in order to ratify the new Cuban Magna Carta.

Not only was this an exercise in democracy, it was an indication of the faith the Cuban government has in its citizens. It is a remarkable reflection of the engagement of any country's population when more than 80% of the nation takes an interest in the drafting of a document that will help guide the country over the foreseeable future.

After more than 400 years of Spanish colonial rule, followed by 60 years of political and economic control by American interests, Cuba set out on its own path. After two years of guerilla warfare the country was liberated on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1959 by the rebel army and its charismatic leader, Fidel Castro.

Cuba is at a crossroads as a nation. Despite the fact that only one political party has existed on the island for nearly 60 years the country's revolutionary leadership has always maintained that democracy can thrive through the collective will of the population.

Not all Cubans agree with the political system that has existed since the revolution was won and it has not been an easy transformation from a capitalist to a socialist system of governance. However, the results are truly impressive when comparisons are made with other Latin American and Caribbean nation states, not to mention several other so-called "first world" countries.

The economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed unilaterally by then U.S. President John F. Kennedy's "democratic" administration following their failed attempt to overthrow the new government at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 has caused immeasurable hardship for the Cuban people.

*Continued on page 29*

**\* EN ESPAÑOL \***

## Una lección de democracia

By Ben Lefebvre

El 13 de agosto de 2018, Cuba comenzó un proceso de tres meses para revisar la Constitución de la nación mediante la cual sus ciudadanos debatieron las propuestas presentadas por la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular (ANPP). En términos canadienses, el ANPP sería el equivalente de nuestro parlamento federal.

El proyecto de constitución se dio a conocer a más de 8,9 millones de personas que asistieron a una de las 133,681 reuniones que se llevaron a cabo en todo el país. Más de 1.7 millones de ciudadanos comentaron sobre los cambios propuestos.

Al final, surgieron más de 780,000 propuestas concretas para modificar, agregar o eliminar secciones particulares del borrador. Todas las propuestas fueron examinadas por un gran número de empleados que tuvieron la difícil tarea de compilarlas temáticamente y redactar el documento antes de enviarlo a la Asamblea Nacional para su posterior discusión.

El proceso de consulta pública finalizó el 15 de noviembre. El borrador final de la nueva constitución fue debatido y finalmente aprobado por la Asamblea Nacional el 22 de diciembre.

El documento se imprimirá y distribuirá ampliamente antes de que se realice un referéndum nacional el 24 de febrero de 2019 para ratificar la nueva Carta Magna cubana.

Esto no solo fue un ejercicio de democracia, sino también una indicación de la fe que el gobierno cubano tiene en sus ciudadanos. Es

un reflejo notable del compromiso de la población de cualquier país cuando más del 80% de la nación está interesada en la redacción de un documento que ayudará a guiar al país en el futuro previsible.

Después de más de 400 años de dominio colonial español, seguidos por 60 años de control político y económico por parte de los intereses estadounidenses, Cuba emprendió su propio camino. Después de dos años de guerra de guerrillas, el país fue liberado el 1 de enero de 1959 por el ejército rebelde y su líder carismático, Fidel Castro.

Cuba se encuentra en una encrucijada como nación. A pesar de que solo un partido político ha existido en la isla durante casi 60 años, el liderazgo revolucionario del país siempre ha sostenido que la democracia puede prosperar a través de la voluntad colectiva de la población.

No todos los cubanos están de acuerdo con el sistema político que ha existido desde que se ganó la revolución y no ha sido una transformación fácil de un sistema de gobierno capitalista a uno socialista. Sin embargo, los resultados son realmente impresionantes cuando se hacen comparaciones con otros estados nacionales de América Latina y el Caribe, por no mencionar otros llamados países del "primer mundo".

*continúa en la página 29*



Reading the Draft Constitution in Havana.

# OUR HERITAGE



**NANCY MOREJÓN**

(1944- )

*One of the most preeminent and internationally successful Cuban poets today. Growing up within Cuba's revolutionary process, she became the first widely published black woman poet in Cuba, winning prizes in Cuba and internationally for her work. As a Cuban revolutionary and poet, she is known for celebrating women and blackness in her poems.*

## Black Man

Your hair,  
 some said,  
 was the devil's work from hell;  
 but the hummingbird built  
 her nest there, never hesitating,  
 as you dangled on high from the beam,  
 in front of the palace  
 of the captains.  
 They said, yes, dust from the road  
 made you disloyal and blue-black,  
 like those winter flowers  
 from the tropics, always  
 so astonishing and haughty.  
 Now as you are dying  
 they suspect that your smile was salty  
 and your moss too soft for the act of love.  
 Others assert that your sticks and branches  
 brought us this shadowy damage  
 which keeps us from shining in the eyes of Europe  
 and thrusts us into the ritual whirlpool,  
 into that impossible rhythm  
 of unnamable drums.  
 We will love forever  
 the mark you've left on us and your bronze spirit  
 because you brought that vibrant light from the past flowing by,  
 that pain of having entered the battle pure of heart, †  
 that honest fondness for bells and rivers,  
 that whisper of breath set free in the spring,  
 that races to the sea, comes back,  
 then sets off again.

**Join us to build a revolutionary movement!  
 Distribute Revolutionary Change in Your Area!**

For distribution of Fire This Time in your area, across BC, and internationally, please contact:

**Thomas Davies**  
 Publicity & Distribution Coordinator  
 Phone: (778) 889-7664  
 Email: firethistimecanada@yandex.com



*Hey Trump*

## *Lift the U.S. Blockade on Cuba!*

*By Janine Solanki*

After nearly 60 years of the cruel and inhumane U.S. blockade on Cuba, the United States government still hasn't gotten the message – The Cuban Revolution is still progressing despite the immense pressure of the U.S. blockade, and people around the world are continuing to stand in solidarity with the Cuban people. However, the U.S. is still escalating their hostile and aggressive campaign against Cuba. In January 2019, U.S. President Trump announced he is considering implementing part of the Helms-Burton Act, which codifies the U.S. blockade into law, in order to allow U.S. citizens to sue foreign companies and individuals over property nationalized in Cuba in the 1960s.

Furthermore, the U.S. government is considering including Cuba on its list of state sponsors of terrorism – an extremely hostile move that opens the door for further U.S. aggressive actions against Cuba. In addition to these recent developments and the ongoing mainstream media campaign against Cuba, the U.S. continues its illegal occupation of the Cuban territory of Guantánamo Bay.

On January 17, Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade – Vancouver held their first monthly picket action of 2019. These monthly actions started after December 17, 2014, when former U.S. President Barack Obama and former Cuban President Raul Castro

made the historic announcement to normalize U.S./Cuba relations. Activists in Vancouver, Canada then recognized that this important first step towards ending the U.S. blockade signaled a critical time to increase public pressure to make this hope a reality.

On January 17 activists held protest signs and banners high and picketed in front of the U.S. consulate demanding “U.S. Hands off Cuba!” and “Lift the Blockade on Cuba Now!” In between rounds of picketing, protesters gathered to hear from local speakers, as well as a voice message of solidarity from Ottawa Cuba Connections, who were also out in protest on this day. This monthly Vancouver action is made stronger with the unity and coordination of other groups protesting the blockade on the same day each month, in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada as well as Kiev, Ukraine!

In Vancouver and around the world, supporters of Cuba will continue to defend the sovereignty and self-determination of Cuba, demanding an end to the U.S. blockade and the return of the U.S. occupied territory of Guantánamo Bay. To find out about upcoming actions in Vancouver visit [www.vancubavblockade.org](http://www.vancubavblockade.org) or follow on Facebook and Twitter @NoBloqueoVan

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*

# 60 YEARS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION & HOW FAR WE HAVE COME! VANCOUVER HOSTS CUBAN CONSUL GENERAL TO DISCUSS 60 YEARS OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

By Janine Solanki

60 years on, the Cuban Revolution is remarkable, even by the simple fact that despite all odds it did not collapse, and instead has survived and thrived! In 1959 the revolutionary Cuban rebel forces under the exceptional leadership of Fidel Castro took power of Cuba and set about overcoming incredible challenges.

Cuba's infrastructure, economy and institutions needed drastic changes at every level to serve its people. Cuba faced attacks from the worlds most powerful country, the United States, including the 1961 U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion, bombings and sabotage by U.S. supported terrorists, assassination attempts against Cuba's former President Fidel Castro and covert "regime change" actions by the U.S. which continue today. Most all-encompassing is the almost 60 years of a crippling U.S. blockade on Cuba, which puts enormous strain on Cuba's economy and limits access to everything from medicine to construction equipment.

Yet, today Cuba is celebrating 60 years of a vibrant, dynamic Cuban Revolution which has made huge accomplishments in every field of human endeavor – medicine, education, sports, arts, technology and agriculture to name a few! This has not just provided Cubans with a society based on human needs instead of capitalist profit, but has benefited the world through their advances.

On January 20, 2019, Vancouver



**Top: Sangre Morena performs; Bottom: The crowd applauds for the Cuban Consul General, Tania Lopez Larroque.**

Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) held a community event titled "60 Years of the Cuban Revolution and How Far We Have Come!" featuring Tania Lopez Larroque, the Consul General of Cuba in Toronto. The event endorsed by Fire This Time Movement for Social Justice, Communist Party of Canada (Marxist Leninist) and Friends of Cuba Against U.S. Blockade -Vancouver. The evening brought together over 120 people interested in and inspired by the Cuban Revolution! The evening was opened by Coast Salish elder and activist Kelly White and Vivian Sandy, an Indigenous elder of the Shuswap and Northern Diné nations. Through drumming and song, they welcomed participants who acknowledged that the event

was taking place on unceded and traditional Indigenous territories.

Following the opening, Tamara Hansen, the coordinator of VCSC, spoke to highlight 60 years of remarkable Cuban history and the importance of the revolutionary leadership which has guided the Cuban Revolution through enormous challenges. The program went on to show video footage from the early days of the Cuban Revolution to today, from the rebel army fighting in the Sierra Maestra to Cuba's famed music and culture. Reflecting the important relationship between two nations resisting U.S. imperialism, Cuba and Venezuela, the audience then heard

greetings from the Cónsul de Segunda Tatiana Vizcaya on behalf of the Consulate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Vancouver.

The audience then had the special treat of a live performance by the Latin music duo Sangre Morena, who shared their passionate singing and flamenco guitar!

The highlight of the evening was special guest Tania Lopez Larroque, Consul General of Cuba in Toronto. Tania shared the struggles, accomplishments and dynamic vision of the Cuban revolutionary process and the continued struggles they face against U.S. imperialism, from her perspective as a Cuban and her experience as a representative of Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MINREX) for 17 years.

Following Tania's presentation a question and answer period was opened between participants and the Consul General. This was a great opportunity for Vancouverites interested in Cuba to have a direct

representative from Cuba to answer their questions, and they took advantage of this time to ask many interesting and important questions!

60 years into their revolutionary process, Cuba remains an inspiration to those fighting for peace and justice around the world. This event was an opportunity to build solidarity with Cuba, as well as to learn from Cuba's steadfast resistance to U.S. imperialism and commitment to building a better world!

*See next page for Tania Lopez speech at the event.*

*Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki*

*Speech by Tania Lopez Larroque*

Good evening. Thank you everybody for being here tonight. Particularly, I would like to thank our friends from Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba for inviting our Consulate to be here tonight to celebrate 60 years of revolution.

I also appreciate our Consul from Venezuela, our dear friend, Tatiana Vizcaya. I would like to make a comment because, just a few minutes ago Tamara made a mistake, she wanted to say 'Tania' and she said 'Tatiana'. And in fact, Tatiana, Tamara, and Tania are three different versions of the same name. In Russian you can commonly use them for the same person. So, that's a nice coincidence. So, thank you again.

It is quite unfair for me and for you to have me talking after such a wonderful presentation from our musicians. Now, we will be getting a little more serious.

Just to support the reasons why we're here. I'm always really lucky to gather with our friends from the solidarity movement. I think it is one of the more pleasant parts of our jobs because I don't need to explain why Cuba is Cuba, because I know you know that. Otherwise you wouldn't be here. I know that you are here because you know what Cuba is and what Cuba represents, and that Cuba is not only for the Cuban people, and tonight is a very good example. So, I thank you again for that.

So, Cuba just a little approach. How are we doing now sixty years after the triumph of the revolution? After that we can share, and talk, if you'd like to ask some questions.

### **Cuba Before the Revolution**

Just some details about how we were before 1959. Don't get afraid, I won't include too much history. But I'd like to bring some figures that might help illustrate changes that we are facing right now. So you can see, at that point we had 57% of our population that was illiterate. This was solved in just a year, with voluntary teachers that came together after the initiative by our



# **CUBA: 60 YEARS OF REVOLUTION & COUNTING!**

## **A SPEECH BY CUBAN CONSUL GENERAL OF TORONTO, TANIA LOPEZ LARROQUE**

Commander in Chief, Fidel Castro. So we saw our revolution solve the issue of illiteracy in just one year.

Cuba became the first country, as you might all know, in Latin America to be free of illiteracy. There were only, at that time, 17,000 classrooms and 45% of our young children who were supposed to be in elementary school did not attend schools. In public schools most of the children did not reach the sixth grade. Less than eight percent of our rural population received medical attention. Life expectancy was 58 years old. Infant mortality rates, you can see the rates there [42 per 1,000 live births]. Also, maternal mortality rate 120 to 100,000 births. Women represented, at that time, 17% of our active population. Only, 3% of university students were women. So it was a really dramatic situation for the Cuban population.

### **Cuba Today After 60 Years of Revolution**

But today, 60 years after that - Now 55% of state resources are allocated to the budgeted activity among which education and public health are the sectors that stand out. We have the

highest rate of child school attendance in the region. And the total number of students in higher education is around 250,000.

Concerning healthcare, right now our country is facing for four years consecutively the lowest infant mortality rate in the region, 4.0 per 1,000 live births and the maternal mortality rates is 38 per 100,000 live births. Life expectancy at birth is now 78.45 years. You'll remember it was 58 before the triumph of the revolution. As well, Cuba has been declared the first country in the world to eliminate the mother to child transmission of HIV and syphilis. These are just to mention a few aspects of recent achievements.

Women - who, in fact, I am humbly proud to represent - are 60.5% of university student graduates; 67.2% of technical and professional workers; 48.6% of our leaders; 81.9% of professors, teachers, and scientists. Today Cuba is the second country in all the world with the highest representation of women in Parliament. (applause) It's not that we are discriminating against men, so please don't start to complain about that. (laughter) I must add that in our

foreign services there are huge representations as well of women. Just in Canada, our Ambassador is a female, and our Consul General in Montreal is also a female. So, we have three women representatives of Cuba in Canada. (applause)

So, how are we doing now? We always need to go to the economics, to the base. So, when you see a country and a state that devotes more than 50 percent of our state income to these social bases, like health and education for instance, economics cannot be disregarded, as it cannot be in any other country's development.

As you all may have known, Cuba is not a developed country, Cuba has a lot of shortages. Most of them, or many of them, are increased by the blockade, which we will be talking about later. But these are the facts right now. In 2018, we ended with discrete growth in the gross domestic product 1.2%, which is not too much in the midst of so many adverse factors. But the behavior of the economy closed towards a positive sign. Similar levels of economic growth are in the forecast for 2019. We are expecting growth of 1.5%.

This is despite the impact of hurricane Irma, which you might all recall from 2017, which was really devastating for Cuba and many other countries in the Caribbean region. This hurricane severely affected the commercialization of Cuba as a tourist destination in the high season of 2017-2018 under measures taken by the U.S. government close to that time to hinder travel to our country. Despite all of those effects, tourism continued to grow, and we reached the figure of 4,731,363 visitors, with more than one million from Canada. (applause) For eight years consecutively, more than one million people from Canada come to Cuba, so you are all more than welcome.



**Top: A Cuban internationalist doctor returns from fighting Ebola in East Africa, 2015. Bottom: Cuban students in Santiago march in honour of the 2nd anniversary of Comandante Fidel Castro's interment, Dec. 4, 2018.**

Right now - and this is one of the main challenges we are facing - we need to consolidate our economy. In this regard we are really focused, because it is a priority to organize the economic activity in our country. This is particularly in the private sector of the economy, which is quite new for us, and the integration of all new actors that are taking part in our economy, as well as, the forms of ownership and management present in our social and economic environment today. As you may all know, from some years ago we have been making some changes in our economic system, without the intention to change the social basis of our economics but to reorganize, to open, to fix or to create the ones we need to fit in the market right now. But again, without losing the social character and the socialist basis of our system. So we need, in this regard, a boost in foreign investment and to promote exports from our country.

### **The U.S. Blockade on Cuba**

There is the blockade, which I mentioned before, not to complain. It is not that we are always talking about the blockade because of political issues. It is because it is a reality. It is a reality that the U.S. blockade against Cuba imposed almost six decades ago, it was 1961, is the main obstacle for the development of Cuba and for the normalization of economic relations between our two countries. The quantifiable damages accumulated so far, as a result of the U.S. blockade amount to that unpronounceable figure you can see there [\$933,678,000,000]. You see there are two different figures because they are taking into account the devaluation of the U.S. dollar against the price of gold. At current prices the damages will amount to that other unpronounceable figure [\$134,499,800,000].

This is a fact. It gives you an idea of how much could have been possible for us to do if we wouldn't have lost such an amount of income.

Despite that we have done a lot. So definitely I always say when we are on anniversaries, like we do in our personal lives, we are not satisfied, but we are quite proud. (applause)

### **Cuba's New President & New Constitution**

The social and political aspects, I would like to also highlight some specific events, Tamara mentioned some before. Last year we elected the first president who is not part of the historic generation that initiated the revolution. And that was an important change and important challenge faced by our revolution and by our people. However, I must tell you that the media, as you might see, was paying all the attention, and they say 'Oh! what's going on now there's not a Castro in power? What will happen with the Cuban Revolution?' As they did when Fidel died, you might remember that it was amazing how many supposedly really serious media started asking,

'What's going to happen with Cuba without Fidel? If they don't have Fidel?' Well Fidel was no longer the president for ten years before that. And Raul when he was appointed, it was because of his position. He was then elected, after that, and when he was elected, he said it would be five years, after that we would need to move on to new generations. So our people were prepared. Miguel Diaz-Canel, our new president has been working with our government, with our leaders for many many years so it's not a new phase. And our people definitely put all our confidence in him.

I must tell you my friends that this is going very well, very well. Our people are really confident in the new changes. People are really glad that Diaz-Canel is going into many places to know what is going on. He doesn't like to talk only to the principal figures in specific institutions. If he goes to a school, he goes first to see the students and asks them how everything is going, 'what do you think about this?' and after that he will talk to the Minister of Education. (laughter) So that's the way that the Cuban people like it. So we are really confident that things are moving very well. So it has been proved, as Fidel and Raul always said, that the life of the revolution is not limited to the people that initiated it, because they have a legacy that we are committed to continue.

The new constitution, as Tamara mentioned, as you may have seen on the video that was presented before. Because of the changes we have faced during the last years and the ones we need face in the future, our current constitution was approved in 1976. Please don't do the math because that's my age. So it might be old for our constitution but that's it. (laughter)

We are right now in a process of renewal. We need to make a legal framework and to put in stated words all the changes we have been needing



**Top: Cuban farmer in Holguin province represents an important sector in Cuba's economy, Dec. 2018. Bottom: Cuban women are involved in all sectors of Cuba's economy, including music.**

to make and to open the possibility to do other changes, however if we don't update the constitution, the changes would be unconstitutional, and it is not possible to do that. So far, we don't have the new text in English, but I am sure that when the constitution is passed, it will take some time, but we will have the whole text in English. So, on February 24th after three months of popular consultations - which I may tell you - this was a process that involved our people more than many of the processes in which we have tried to invite and to call the people to be involved, because people were really interested to know what's going on and what's changing. our people, you know, are very argumentative.

We are always asking and wanting to know why. It is because Fidel told us that we must read, not just believe. When he taught us to do so, our people they're really going to take a stand and they're really argumentative people. We like debate. And this debate on the constitution was no different than the ones we have everyday for everything - about buses or transportation or food - and it got into so many details that 60% of the articles from the first draft were changed. For the final text that will be

subject to the referendum it was needed, because people had a lot of suggestions and omissions they wanted to make. It was a huge process, a deep process of revision after the consultation process ended on November 15. After that they got only two months of revisions of all the opinions and suggestions from the people, so it resulted in the modification of 60% of the articles. The constitutional reform responds, as I told you before, to the important economic and social changes that have taken place in the country in recent years. It aims to consolidate and to give continuity to a socialist country, to a democratic, prosperous, and sustainable system.

So, here we are now, 60 years of revolution and counting! Thank you.

**Battle of Ideas Press**

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

**Five Decades of the  
CUBAN  
REVOLUTION  
The Challenges of an  
Unwavering Leadership**  
TAMARA HANSEN

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

April 2010, paperback, \$14.00  
314 pages, illustrated,  
Copyright © 2010 by Battle of Ideas Press

**WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**  
**INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**

# Cuba says: "Canada's decision made public today is incomprehensible"

## Statement by the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Josefina Vidal January 30, 2019

Cuba understands the obligations of the government of Canada to protect its diplomatic personnel posted anywhere in the world and to try to find answers to the health symptoms reported in Cuba, however, it considers that Canada's decision made public today is incomprehensible.

Cutting Canada's staff at its Embassy in Cuba and adjusting the mission's programs are actions that do not help find answers to the health symptoms reported by Canadian diplomats, and which will have an impact on the relations.

This decision contrasts with the level, status and presence of Canadian diplomatic staff in other world capitals where they do not enjoy as much safety, tranquility, good health situation, and hospitality as in Cuba.

This behavior favours those who in the United States use this issue to attack and denigrate Cuba. It is well known that some individuals with high-level positions within US foreign policy are trying very hard to create a climate of bilateral tension seeking to portray our country as a threat.

Since the Canadian Embassy reported the first case, Cuba has offered to cooperate and has worked together with numerous entities in the Canadian government; it has requested information and has provided all evidence available; and has put at their disposal the best Cuban experts in the most diverse fields.

During the exchanges that had been held, it has become clear that there is no evidence that might reveal any brain damage, or that may explain the varied symptoms reported, or that may indicate that these symptoms had occurred due to the stay of the affected diplomats in Cuba.

The symptoms reported are varied, with a common denominator which is that they are difficult to measure or verify through technical means.

Unfortunately, the decision made by the Canadian government fuels speculation and contrasts with the exchanges held by both parties on the matter.

Despite Canada's government decision, Cuba remains committed to keeping the good state of bilateral relations and strengthening the links with a country with which we keep strong bonds of friendship and cooperation.

# Cuba "considera incomprensible la decisión hoy anunciada" por Canadá

## Declaración de la Embajadora de Cuba en Canadá, Josefina Vidal, 30 de enero de 2019

Cuba comprende las obligaciones del gobierno de Canadá de proteger a su personal diplomático en cualquier parte del mundo, y de tratar de encontrar respuestas a los síntomas de salud reportados en Cuba, pero considera incomprensible la decisión hoy anunciada.

Reducir el personal de la Embajada y ajustar los programas de la misión son acciones que no ayudan a solucionar o a encontrar respuestas a los síntomas de salud que han reportado los diplomáticos y tendrán impacto inevitable en la conducción de las relaciones.

La decisión contrasta con el nivel, el estatus y la presencia de personal diplomático canadiense en capitales de otras partes del mundo, donde no disfrutaban del grado de seguridad, tranquilidad, salud y acogida que encuentran en Cuba.

Este comportamiento favorece a quienes en Estados Unidos utilizan este tema para agredir y desacreditar a Cuba. Se conoce, que individuos con alta responsabilidad de política exterior de Estados Unidos están empeñados en provocar un clima de tensión bilateral y poder señalar a Cuba como una amenaza.

Desde el primer reporte de la Embajada de Canadá, Cuba ha ofrecido cooperar y ha cooperado con distintas instancias del gobierno canadiense, ha solicitado información y ha brindado toda

la evidencia con que cuenta, y ha puesto a su disposición a los mejores expertos cubanos en los más diversos ámbitos.

En los intercambios sostenidos, ha quedado claro que no hay pruebas que demuestren la existencia de daño cerebral, que explique los síntomas diversos reportados o que señalen que tales síntomas son resultado de la estancia en Cuba de los diplomáticos.

Se trata de síntomas muy diversos, cuyo denominador común fundamental es que son difíciles de medir o verificar por medios

técnicos.

Las decisiones tomadas por el gobierno de Canadá desafortunadamente alimentan las especulaciones y contrastan con los intercambios sostenidos por ambos gobiernos sobre el tema.

A pesar de la decisión del gobierno de Canadá, Cuba permanece comprometida con preservar el buen estado de las relaciones y ampliar sus vínculos con un país al que nos unen fuertes lazos de amistad y cooperación.



*Continued from page 22*

And yet, the U.S. continues to claim the God-given right to impose its will on other countries as is presently the case in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Venezuela, Nicaragua, etc., ad infinitum.

Canada's foreign policy has mirrored that of the U.S. for far too long and we are now living with the consequences of our economic dependence and loss of national sovereignty to our southern neighbor.

We in Canada, can do much more as a country and we have to claim the high ground. We might even take a lesson in democracy from Cuba some day!

*Ben Lefebvre is a community volunteer, organizer, activist and social democrat. He has been sharing his time between rural Canada and Cuba where he has been writing extensively about Latin American and Caribbean culture and politics.*

*\* Original article with some minor edits*

*Viene de la página 22*

El bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial impuesto unilateralmente por el gobierno "democrático" del entonces presidente de los Estados Unidos, John F. Kennedy, luego de su intento fallido de derrocar al nuevo gobierno en Playa Girón en 1961, ha causado inmensas dificultades para el pueblo cubano.

Y, sin embargo, los Estados Unidos continúan reclamando el derecho de origen divino a imponer su voluntad en otros países como es el caso actualmente en Afganistán, Irak, Siria, Venezuela, Nicaragua, etc., hasta el infinito.

La política exterior de Canadá ha reflejado la de los Estados Unidos durante demasiado tiempo y ahora estamos viviendo las consecuencias de nuestra dependencia económica y la pérdida de la soberanía nacional a nuestro vecino del sur.

En Canadá, podemos hacer mucho más como país y tenemos que reclamar el terreno elevado. ¡Podríamos incluso tomar una lección de democracia de Cuba algún día!

*Ben Lefebvre es un voluntario comunitario, organizador, activista y socialdemócrata. Ha estado compartiendo su tiempo entre el Canadá rural y Cuba, donde ha escrito extensamente sobre cultura y política latinoamericana y caribeña.*

*Continued from page 19*

Bolton's comments followed similar rhetoric and fear-mongering from U.S. President Trump at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018, where he condemned the "socialist Maduro regime and its Cuban sponsors, not long-ago Venezuela was one of the richest countries on earth, today socialism has bankrupted the oil-rich nation and driven its people in abject poverty. Virtually everywhere, socialism, or communism has been tried, it has produced suffering, corruption and decay."

These comments expose that Venezuela is not only a threat to the hegemony of the United States in Latin America, it is also a threat because it challenges capitalist ideology that has proclaimed the death of socialism. The government of President Maduro and the Bolivarian revolutionary process have dared to proclaim that a better world, a world that puts the interests of people before those of profits, is not just necessary, but also possible.

For the last 20 years the Bolivarian revolutionary process has implemented measures in Venezuela that have massively elevated the quality of life for poor, working and oppressed people in Venezuela. The revolutionary government calls these measures anti-capitalist and socialist, and this is exactly how they have managed to create so much fear and anxiety among imperialist powers. Since the election of President Hugo Chavez in 1998, these anti-capitalist measures have paved the road for a better life and a socialist future for the people of Venezuela. With sanctions, provocations, inciting violence, and threatening military attacks, the United States is preventing this from happening.

Imperialist countries know full well where the Bolivarian revolutionary process is going if left unchecked. The anti-capitalist measures that are taking place in Venezuela today have the potential to culminate with the people of Venezuela deciding that they do not want capitalism anymore. This is the main reason why the U.S. government and their allies must prevent revolutionaries and the people of Venezuela from succeeding with their social justice projects.

Therefore, President Trump's "military option," has never been taken off the table. Now that Mike Pompeo, an ex-CIA director is Secretary of State, John Bolton, a war-monger and regime change engineer is National Security Advisor, and a war criminal Elliot Abrams is special envoy to Venezuela, the conditions are ripe for increasing war on Venezuela.

### **People of Venezuela are Resisting in Defense of Their Popular Government**

Although millions of people in Venezuela have been mobilized in the streets in defense of the democratically elected government of President Maduro, not one has received even a mention on prime-time news. People from all sectors of life in Venezuela, have been organizing in defense of their sovereignty and self-determination, in schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

There has also been little to no reporting on the opinions of people in Venezuela themselves when it comes to U.S. intervention and sanctions against their country. In a poll conducted in early January by the private firm Hinterlaces, 81% of Venezuelans disagreed with the "US economic and financial sanctions that are currently applied against Venezuela to remove President Maduro from power." When asked, "Would you agree or disagree if there were international intervention in Venezuela to remove President Maduro from power?" 78% replied "I would disagree."

What is the most important sign that the people of Venezuela support their democratically elected government of President Maduro and the Bolivarian revolutionary process? With all of imperialism's tremendous effort and coordination, the U.S.-backed January 23 coup attempt failed.

### **Venezuela Solidarity - Now More Than Ever Before**

"Our solidarity with the Venezuelan people and our brother Nicolás Maduro in these decisive hours in which the claws of imperialism seek again to mortally wound the democracy and self-determination of the peoples of South America." – Evo Morales, President of Bolivia (via Twitter, January 23, 2019)

Although the U.S. government and their allies, including Canada, have not been successful

*Continued on page 30*



Workers at the nationalized steel plant SIDOR rally in support of President Nicolas Maduro on February 4, 2018

in its relations with Venezuela, but of a different nature. The prime minister of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, is no buddy of Maduro, but he has stated that he wants Spain to help broker negotiations between both sides in Venezuela and reach a consensus as to what needs to be done. Venezuela is in a crisis-type situation economically and no side has magical answers for getting the country out of it. Only through some kind of consensus can the country move forward. If that doesn't happen Venezuelans of all classes and political persuasions will suffer and they will continue to leave the country, thus aggravating instability throughout the region. We have to think of an effective approach to reverse this trend. Trump's policy of sanctions, threats of military intervention and support for a military coup has been anything but effective.

These, in short, are arguments that Bernie Sanders and other members of the Progressive Caucus can use to counter the inevitable barrage of attacks that any opposition to sanctions on the Hill will invite.

Fear of facing these issues has made criticism of U.S. policy toward Venezuela virtually taboo, even for bold politicians like Sanders. Given the major blunders in U.S. foreign policy over the recent past, revision and debate are in order. Specifically, in the case of Venezuela, the issue of international sanctions needs to be placed on the table.

*Steve Ellner has taught economic history at the Universidad de Oriente in Puerto La Cruz, Venezuela since 1977. He is the author of numerous books and journal and magazine articles on Venezuela history and politics. He frequently lectures on Venezuela and Latin American political developments in the U.S. and elsewhere. He received his Ph.D. in Latin American history at the University of New Mexico in 1980.*

Follow Steve Ellner on Twitter: @Sellner74



to overthrow President Maduro and reverse the Bolivarian revolutionary process, the struggle of the people of Venezuela against imperialist intervention is far from over. As President Morales emphasizes, these are decisive times for poor, working and oppressed people around the world.

In the days following Guaidó's self-declaration as President of Venezuela, hundreds of actions were organized around the world, from Africa to Asia to Europe and across North and South America. People from many different walks of life came out into the streets in defense of Venezuela's sovereignty and self-determination. These actions do and must continue, especially from within the United States, Canada and Europe where imperialists are preparing for further attacks to bring chaos and destruction to Venezuela's shores.

However, following their failed coup in Venezuela, there is one thing that the US and other imperialists learned very well, Venezuela is not and will not be alone.

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

**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.

October 2017, paperback, \$10.00  
190 pages, illustrated, ISBN 978-0-9864716-5-0  
Copyright © 2016 by Battle of Ideas Press

**WWW.BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**  
**INFO@BATTLEOFIDEASPRESS.COM**

# UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS

**TRUMP & TRUDEAU  
HANDS OFF MADURO!**

Venezuelan Democracy vs.  
Imperialist Aggression

**PUBLIC FORUM  
& DISCUSSION**

**SATURDAY  
MARCH 2 2019**

**5 PM**

VANCOUVER PUBLIC  
LIBRARY CENTRAL  
BRANCH  
350 W. GEORGIA ST. @  
HAMILTON ST.



\*SPEAKERS\*  
\*VIDEOS\*  
\*DISCUSSION\*

FIRE THIS TIME  
VENEZUELA  
SOLIDARITY  
CAMPAIGN

[WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET](http://WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET)  
FIRETHISTIMECANADA@YANDEX.COM

@MAWVAN @FTT\_NP

**U.S. & SAUDI ARABIA  
STOP BOMBING YEMEN!**



**CANADA CANCEL THE ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA!  
LIFT THE NAVAL, AERIAL & LAND BLOCKADE ON YEMEN!**

**PROTEST ACTION**

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5 5PM

U.S. CONSULATE 1075 W. PENDER ST.  
VANCOUVER, CANADA

@MAWVAN MOBILIZATION AGAINST WAR & OCCUPATION

[WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG](http://WWW.MAWOVANCOUVER.ORG)

*The Newspaper of*  
**FIRE THIS TIME**  
MOVEMENT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
[www.firethistime.net](http://www.firethistime.net)  
Volume 13 Issue 2  
February 2019  
Published Monthly

**Political Editor:**

Ali Yerevani - editorftt@mail.com @aliyerevani

**Editor:** Tamara Hansen @thans01

**Editorial Board:**

Tamara Hansen, Alison Bodine, Janine Solanki,  
Thomas Davies, Ali Yerevani, Azza Rojbi

**Layout & Design:**

Max Tennant, Azza Rojbi, Alison Bodine, Thomas  
Davies, Tamara Hansen, Janine Solanki

**Copy Editors:**

Tamara Hansen & Alison Bodine

**Publicity & Distribution Coordinator:**

Thomas Davies

**Production Manager:**

Azza Rojbi

**Contributors to this Issue:**

Sanam Soltanzadeh, Nino Pagliccia, Ben Lefebvre,  
Steve Ellner & Doug Pittman

**Contact:**

**Phone** (778) 938-1557

**Email** firethistimecanada@yandex.com

**Mail** PO Box 21607 Vancouver BC, V5L 5G3

**Subscriptions**

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

**Distribution**

For Fire This Time in your area across BC, Canada,  
and Internationally contact Publicity and Distribution  
Coordinator *Thomas Davies*  
Phone : (778) 889-7664

**Submissions & Suggestions**

We welcome articles, letters, unsolicited submissions, and  
suggestions. However, we cannot promise publication.  
Submissions and suggestions can be made by email  
by contacting [firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com) fax, or  
regular mail. Submissions will not be returned.

The opinions expressed in the newspaper are those of the  
authors, and do not necessarily represent those of Fire This  
Time.

**Donations**

If you find Fire This Time to be an effective tool in the  
struggle of oppressed people for justice, more than ever,  
we need your support. On top of our regular costs of  
production, we regularly send members of our editorial  
board on assignment throughout North America, the  
Caribbean and beyond in order to make Fire This Time a  
better resource. These efforts have strained our finances.

If you would like to help with a donation, please make  
cheques payable to "Thomas Davies".

Fire This Time is an independent newspaper and publishing  
Fire This Time could not be possible without the generous  
contributions from our supporters.

**Reprint Policy**

Reprinting of articles from Fire This Time by progressive  
media is welcomed, with source credit to the author and  
Fire This Time Newspaper. All other media, including main  
stream media or institutions must request permission.

**Advertisement Policy**

Fire This Time does not accept commercial ads. Ads in this  
newspaper are political ads and Fire This Time makes no  
profit off of these ads. The presence of ads are solely for  
political purposes.

Fire This Time Newspaper is written, produced and  
distributed entirely by volunteer labour and printed in  
Burnaby, Greater Vancouver, Canada

**-ISSN-1712-1817-**

Celebrate International Women's Day 2019

CELEBRATING THE REVOLUTIONARY

# WOMEN OF CUBA, VENEZUELA & THE WORLD!

MUSIC  
SPEAKERS  
POETRY  
TRIVIA



**FRIDAY MARCH 8 - 7:00PM**  
Britannia Community Centre  
"Canucks Family Education Centre"  
1655 William St, Vancouver, Canada

@VanCuba\_VCSC 778-882-5223

Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba

**VCSC** [www.vancubasolidarity.com](http://www.vancubasolidarity.com)

**Subscribe to Fire This Time!**

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE (optional)

For a one year subscription,  
12 issues, make cheque  
payable to: **Thomas Davies**

Send along with form to:  
PO Box 21607  
Vancouver BC  
V5L 5G3

Canada \*SPECIAL OFFER\* \$10  
USA \*SPECIAL OFFER\* \$15  
International \$30  
Cuba & Venezuela FREE!

**Distribute  
Revolutionary Change  
in Your Area!**

For distribution of  
Fire This Time in your  
area, across BC, and  
internationally, please  
contact:

**Thomas Davies**

**Publicity &  
Distribution  
Coordinator**

**Phone: (778) 889-7664**

**Email:**  
[firethistimecanada@yandex.com](mailto:firethistimecanada@yandex.com)

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION  
NOWARONVENEZUELA.ORG**



**NO WAR ON**

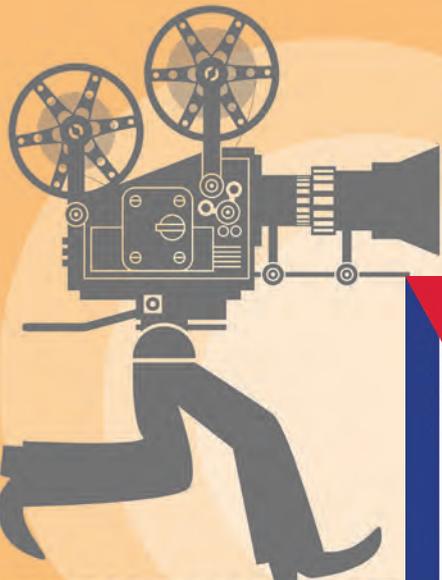
**VENEZUELA**

**HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!  
NO SANCTIONS, NO COUP, NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23  
2PM**

**VANCOUVER ART GALLERY  
ROBSON at HOWE  
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER, CANADA**

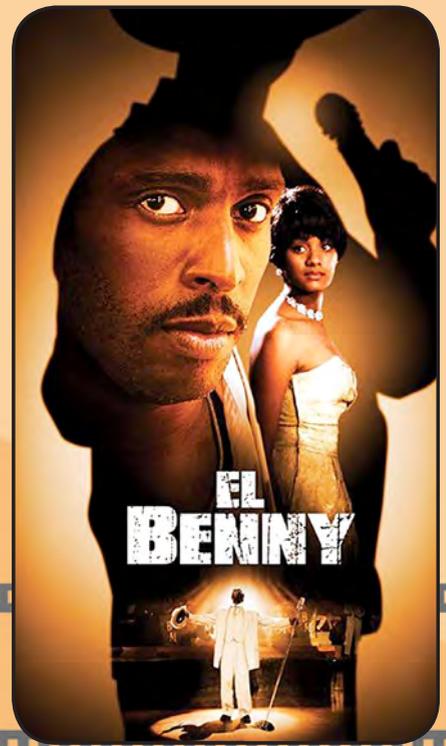
**ORGANIZED BY FIRE THIS TIME VENEZUELA SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN  
WWW.FIRETHISTIME.NET**



**CUBA FILM NIGHT  
WITH FILM, MUSIC & POETRY  
FEATURING:**

**“El Benny”**

FILM BASED ON THE LIFE  
OF THE FAMOUS CUBAN  
MUSICIAN BENNY MORÉ



**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 15 - 7:00PM  
BRITANNIA COMMUNITY CENTRE  
“CANUCKS FAMILY EDUCATION CENTRE”  
1655 WILLIAM ST, VANCOUVER, CANADA**

 @VANCUBA\_VCSC

 778-882-5223

 VANCOUVER COMMUNITIES IN SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

**WWW.VANCUBASOLIDARITY.COM**