

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



Fire This Time!

FREE CHELSEA MANNING!



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HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!



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END THE WAR ON YEMEN NOW!



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Her Excellency
Josefina Vidal
Cuban Ambassador to
Canada, Speaks in Vancouver
May 4, 2019 at 6pm
Info: vancubasolidarity.com



DESPITE THE U.S. BLOCKADE, CUBA ADVANCES



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No to NATO! No to War!





GRASSY NARROWS

INJUSTICE AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CANADA

By Tamara Hansen

Protester: “Prime Minister Trudeau, people of Grassy Narrows are suffering from mercury poisoning. You committed to addressing this crisis, when will you keep them?”

PM Trudeau [addressing the protester as they are carried out by security]: “Thank you for being here, thank you for your donation tonight. I really appreciate it.”

The above exchange took place at a posh Liberal Party fundraiser hosted by the Laurier Club on March 27, 2019. The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, was speaking to a room of guests, which according to Global News, “are considered high-end Liberal donors who must contribute a minimum of \$1,500 in order to join the ranks.”

Wealthy event attendees applauded and laughed at Trudeau’s cruel, mocking, and inhuman response

to the protesters, many themselves suffering from mercury poisoning. The interaction was caught on video and Trudeau’s remarks, as well as audience laughter, received a firestorm of condemnation. Trudeau was forced to apologize the next morning, he admitted that his response was “smug” and “lacked respect”. However, the mainstream media in Canada did not use the opportunity to educate people across Canada on what is really happening in Grassy Narrows, instead, they focused on the personality of Trudeau and whether Indigenous leaders would accept his apology.

The media has failed to properly highlight why members of Grassy Narrows, Wabaseemoong, and Wabauskang First Nations travelled 1,700 kilometres to Toronto to protest Prime Minister Trudeau and why they paid thousands of dollars to make sure a group of activists could disrupt this event.

Over 5 decades of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows

According to the activist & community website FreeGrassy.net, “In the 1970’s it was revealed that fish caught by the local fisheries contained dangerous levels of mercury. It was discovered that the source of the mercury was the Dryden paper mill upstream – then owned by Reed Paper.” This made the fish, an essential food of the community, inedible for many years and forced the closure of the thriving commercial fishery, which devastated the local economy. The website further explains, “Overnight employment rates in the community went from 90% to 10%. The community was left to deal with the loss of their traditional economy, unemployment and a mysterious new ailment that was rampant among members of their community – mercury poisoning.”

In September 2017, CBC News made a 20-minute radio documentary titled,

“Children of the Poisoned River” about the youth of Grassy Narrows. Reporter Jody Porter explains, “Mercury ‘bioaccumulates,’ meaning it passes from one generation to the next, from mother to child, through the placenta. Three generations after the contamination were discovered, teens in Grassy Narrows have seen their elders die and their parents stumble under the burden.”

Mercury is a neurotoxin. The CBC documentary further explains, “The disability board was established in 1986 as part of a court settlement with Ontario and Canada and the two paper companies involved in the contamination. Neither the companies, the governments nor the disability board has ever admitted that anyone at Grassy Narrows has been poisoned — only that some people experience symptoms of Minamata disease.” Minamata disease is also known as methylmercury poisoning.

A November 2017 article by the Toronto Star Newspaper titled, “Ontario knew about Grassy Narrows mercury site for decades, but kept it secret” explains, “Japanese scientist Dr. Masazumi Harada spent the majority of his career examining the symptoms of [Minamata] disease. Harada continued his work in Canada and first tested community members of Grassy Narrows in 1975. He found people with mercury levels more than three times the Health Canada limit in Grassy Narrows and seven times the limit in nearby Whitedog. When Harada returned in 2004, all of the people who had tested over the limit were dead.” The article continues, “Harada’s 2011 study found 74 percent of people diagnosed by his team as impacted or possibly impacted by mercury were not receiving any form of compensation.”

In interviews with the Toronto Star Newspaper in May 2018, Grassy Narrows residents outline a long list of issues they are facing: uncontrollable shaking, tingling legs and feet,

dizziness, seizures, and numbness — the lack of sensitivity means people drop things or cannot feel the touch of others. Some have hearing and vision loss, as well as psychological issues and learning disabilities associated with mercury poisoning. The Minamata

of the Grassy Narrows First Nation. In an interview with Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) following the release of the report Dr. Mergler, along with Grassy Narrows Chief Rudy Turtle, explain the direct link between fish consumption during pregnancy and



prenatal mercury exposure. They found that the more fish the mother ate, the more significant challenges and problems the doctor saw in her children.

When the interviewer asks Chief Turtle why community members continue to eat the fish, he explains, “First of all, our people are poor. The income level is one of the lowest levels in Canada. There are very few jobs in the community, so that is one of the reasons they have to eat fish because it’s

disease has also been blamed directly for many untimely deaths in the community.

For the past 5 decades, the people of Grassy Narrows have been dealing with the consequences of mercury poisoning. In December 2018 a new report, “The Legacy of Mercury Exposure in Grassy Narrows First Nation,” was jointly published by Dr. Donna Mergler, a Biologist at Université du Québec à Montreal, and Judy Da Silva, a member

part of their diet to sustain themselves. In addition, it is something that has been a part of their lives for centuries.”

Dr. Mergler adds, “The fish consumption levels, at which we began to see effects are under the Canadian guidelines for Walleye [fish] from that region, so we are not talking about the high levels of mercury exposure that we saw in the 70s. These are much lower levels and these levels are still having effects.”



Over 5 decades of intergenerational mercury poisonings and yet minimal supports have been set up for the community and those who are suffering. First, there is no hospital or treatment centre in Grassy Narrows. Second, the government has yet to clean up all the mercury found in the area or even finalize a plan for digging it up and disposing of it. Third, there is a need for educational specialists and special resources for children and youth affected by mercury poisoning. None of these needs are being addressed, although many government promises have been made.

The government of Canada's inaction is killing the people of Grassy Narrows

In an article for the Toronto Star Newspaper, Karen Wendling points out the blatant double-standard in Canada's care and attention to non-Indigenous versus Indigenous health and safety. She writes, "I first heard about Grassy Narrows when I moved to Canada in 1979. It astonished me then that nothing had been done in over a decade. It appalls me now, especially when I compare it to the international attention and immediate action that occurred when E. coli killed six people in Walkerton, Ont., in 2000."

On the record in April 2010, then-Health Minister Leonna Aglucaq told Parliament that they "reviewed" Grassy Narrows mercury levels and determined the fish to be "Safe".

In February 2016, the Ontario Environment Ministry again said on record that the river was basically cleaning itself over time.

The community has been assured by various levels of government that the fish is safe to eat, while many peoples' lived experiences demonstrate the

opposite. It is only in the last two years that journalists from the Toronto Star Newspaper and the report issued by Dr. Mergler have backed up community claims and forced the

government to make new promises to the people to Grassy Narrows.

In 2017, for example, the Toronto Star uncovered provincial government reports from the 1990s revealing that



they knew there was still mercury in the soil and did not inform the people of Grassy Narrows. The journalists

also did on the ground testing and reported on possible sites of ongoing mercury leakage into the river. The provincial government responded to the media coverage promising \$85 million towards clean up, and Ontario's provincial Environment Minister, Rod Phillips promised to send dig plans over a year ago to Chief Turtle, but they have yet to materialize.

On November 27, 2017, then-Indigenous Services Minister, Dr. Jane Philpott, promised the federal government would build a specialized mercury poisoning treatment facility in Grassy Narrows. The "Mercury Home" is an important community demand so that those suffering from the effects of mercury poisoning can receive treatment in their community, rather than paying hundreds or thousands of dollars to travel back and forth to the closest hospitals in Kenora, Winnipeg or Thunder Bay.

The protest held at Trudeau's Liberal Party fundraiser on March 27, 2019, happened to fall almost exactly 500 days after Philpott's promise of a Mercury home for Grassy Narrows. The group gathered to protest the fact that after 500 days the money has yet to arrive and they have not yet broken ground towards building the facility.

Injustices against Indigenous people are systemic in colonial Canada

While we must challenge the governments of Canada and Ontario to do more for Grassy Narrows First Nation, the injustices



Grassy Narrows Protest in Toronto, June 2, 2016

committed against this community, while sickening, are not an isolated incident in Canada.



Many comparisons between the standards of living on First Nations reserves in Canada and the so-called “third world” countries can be made. For example, many Indigenous communities in Canada are currently under boil water advisories, which means the water is not safe to drink out of the tap. A Metro Newspaper article from June 2017 explains, “As Canada spends a half-billion dollars celebrating its 150th year since confederation, it appears more than 150 drinking water advisories still exist, most of them in First Nations communities.”

In all significant health indicators: infant mortality, maternal mortality, and life expectancy – Indigenous people in Canada are more at risk than non-Indigenous people in Canada. Every statistic shows that Canada’s healthcare system is not providing equal care for all. According to Statistics Canada at birth, I was expected to live 10 years longer than a baby girl born to an Inuit mother, simply because I was born a baby girl to a white mother.

If clean drinking water and healthcare are not convincing enough to demonstrate that Canada has a systemic problem, look to the youth suicide epidemic on reserves across Canada; look to the low employment numbers for people living on reserves; look to the high incarceration rates of Indigenous people; look to the over 1,200 murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls across Canada; or look to the consistent Indigenous protests

demanding their rights.

When all statistics, reports, and research demonstrate that we have fundamental inequality in our country between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, we cannot afford to see the mercury poisonings in Grassy Narrows as an anomaly. While it is government inaction, it is also much deeper. It is a whole system that feels it owes nothing to Indigenous people, and indeed that Indigenous people are in the way of its monstrous capitalistic “progress”.

Justice for Grassy Narrows!

On social media the demands of the Grassy Narrows, Wabaseemoong, and Wabauskang First Nations are clear. They want what all people in Canada want and deserve. First, they want their community cleaned up, either by the government or the corporations which allowed

radical demands; these are just what people in Canada expect on a daily basis and what the government of Canada has already promised.

In “The Legacy of Mercury Exposure in Grassy Narrows First Nation” report there are further recommendations. These include the three demands of the community, but also: increased funding for healthcare (both physical and mental health programs); building the “Mercury Home” as a community-based long-term care facility for those who have been poisoned; remediation or cleaning up the river; as well as support and resources towards increased food security and special education. Each of these recommendations needs to be funded and built immediately by the governments of Canada and Ontario.

As both Indigenous and non-Indigenous poor and working people, we have a responsibility to listen, to what Indigenous communities are demanding. It is only when Indigenous people have control over their own lands, resources, and communities that they will be able to start recovering and rebuilding after decades and centuries of unjust laws and policies. It is up to Indigenous and non-



Parade to then Ontario Premier Wynne's house in Toronto, August 25, 2013

them to be polluted. Second, they want adequate, free, and universal healthcare delivered in their own community. Third, they want compensation for those who have been poisoned and continue to be poisoned by government cruelty and inaction. Every single person living in Canada knows that they would want and demand the same things for their families. These are not

Indigenous people to stand together to demand the government of Canada respect Indigenous people and their right to determine their own future, their right of self-determination.

*Follow Tamara on Twitter: @THans01
Follow Grassy Narrows campaign on
Twitter: @FreeGrassy*



Art by Ahmed Jahaf @A7medJa7af

By Azza Rojbi

March 26, 2019, marked 4 years of suffering for the people of Yemen under the U.S.-backed, Saudi-led coalition war on their country. With the full backing and help of the United States, Saudi and Emirati fighter jets have bombed and destroyed homes, schools, hospitals, roads, mosques and all sorts of infrastructure. This indiscriminate bombing and war has caused the death of over 68,000 people since 2016, with more than 30,600 killed in 2018 according to data from the UK-based independent research group Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED).

In addition to this inhuman bombing, Saudi Arabia and its coalition have been imposing a naval, aerial and land blockade on Yemen, which severely hinders the Yemeni people's access to desperately needed food, fuel and medicines. This blockade aggravates the already dire situation that Yemenis have to face daily. The United Nations declared Yemen to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis with nearly 80% of Yemen's population in need of aid to survive. Tens of thousands of Yemenis have died from starvation, poverty and preventable epidemics. The U.N.'s World Health Organization (WHO) has declared that the number of suspected Cholera cases has doubled

in March 2019 over previous months, and doctors are worried that there will be a repeat of the Cholera epidemic that ravaged through Yemen in 2017.

Saudi Arabia would not be able to carry out its war and aggression on Yemen without the political and military support of imperialist countries such as the U.S., U.K., Canada, France and other EU countries. In addition to being silent in the face of crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition against the people of Yemen, these imperialist countries continue to support the war by selling bombs, weapons and military equipment to Saudi Arabia and, of course, providing the necessary training to Saudi Arabian forces.

To mark the 4th year anniversary of this inhuman Saudi-led war on Yemen, people from around the world took to the streets on March 26, 2019, in an International Day of Action demanding an end to the war. The heroic Yemeni people led the way as they held a massive rally in Sana'a, Yemen despite the threat of Saudi bombardment. Events, rallies and marches took place around the world including in Houston and New York, U.S.; London, England; Brussels,

Belgium; Geneva, Switzerland; Flensburg, Germany; Stockholm, Sweden; Paris, France; and Ottawa, Canada.

Vancouver's anti-war coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) participated in the march and rally that took place in Ottawa, Canada. The protest was organized by Canadian Defenders for Human Rights (CD4HR) and the Yemeni and other



Firas Al Najim and Aliya Hasan co-managers of CD4HR at the rally in Ottawa, March 26, 2019



MAWO executive member Azza Rojbi speaking at the rally in Ottawa, March 26, 2019

Middle Eastern Communities in Canada. Members of the Muslim community and peace-loving people from different cities in Canada gathered in Ottawa to join the protest. Protesters held signs demanding an end to the Saudi-led war on Yemen and pictures portraying the atrocities committed by Saudi Arabia against the Yemeni people.

Protesters chanted “Hands off Yemen” and “Canada Cancel All Arms Deals with Saudis” as they marched in the streets of Ottawa, stopping in front of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. Embassy to condemn their role in the war on Yemen and finally gathering at the footsteps of the Canadian government on Parliament Hill to highlight Canada’s complicity in the war.

At every stop, participants heard human rights activists and Muslim community leaders call for an end to the brutal Saudi-led war on Yemen and condemn the governments of the U.S. and Canada for their support of the war. MAWO executive committee member and Tunisian social justice activist Azza Rojbi spoke in front of the U.S. Embassy on the importance of this protest in Ottawa and the International Day of Action for Yemen as a show of unity in Canada and internationally against the war on the people of Yemen. As the protest arrived at Parliament Hill, protesters heard the testimony of a member of the Yemeni community in Canada on the hardships and daily struggles that her family and the Yemeni people face daily under this Saudi-led war on their country.

Firas Al Najim and Aliya Hasan

co-managers of CD4HR, read to participants excerpts from a letter they delivered to the Canadian government and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to demand an end to Canada’s arms sale to Saudi Arabia and the cancellation of the \$15 billion arms deal to supply Saudi Arabia with “light” armored military vehicles. The letter was endorsed by a dozen of anti-war groups and human rights organizations in Canada including, Mobilization Against War and Occupation, Rideau Institute on International Affairs, Amnesty International, the New Democratic Party and the Yemeni Community in Canada.

The protest in Ottawa and the International Day of Action against the Saudi-led war on Yemen set the tone for more collaboration throughout Canada and internationally, to unite our organizing against the Saudi war on Yemen and expose the complicities of our respective governments in this war.

Let’s join the brave Yemeni people in their resistance in defense of their self-determination and independence! “This is a message to the world, that at the start of the fifth year [of the war], Yemenis will be stronger ..., a message that the Yemeni resistance will be even greater,” said Mohammed Haidarah, a protester at the March 26, 2019 massive rally in Yemen, as reported by Reuters.

From Yemen to Houston to London to Ottawa, we demand:

Hands Off Yemen!

Stop Bombing Yemen!

Canada, Cancel All Arms Deals with Saudi Arabia!

Follow Azza on Twitter: @Azza_R14

London



Actions Around the World Against the War on Yemen

Ottawa



Geneva



Brussels



Houston





Vancouver, Canada



Kathmandu, Nepal



London, England



Mexico City, Mexico



Paris, France



Vancouver, Canada



Vienna, Austria



Sydney, Australia



New York, USA



Kampala, Uganda

WORLDWIDE STUDENT STRIKE 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE!

MARCH 15, 2019



Prague, Czech Republic



Montréal, Canada

By Thomas Davies

A new Environment and Climate Change Canada report found that Canada is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world and that Northern Canada is warming nearly three times the global rate.

What was the response of politicians to this urgent news? Business as usual. The Liberal government doubled down on its outdated climate plan – the same one government audits show has no chance of meeting Canada’s modest UN climate commitments. Meanwhile, in BC, the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP) government announced that they were providing another tax cut to LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) producers to try and attract even more non-renewable energy investment to the province. This after they admitted that their climate “plan” actually has no plan to actually fully accomplish its targets.

Watching politicians perform verbal and policy acrobatics to justify their inaction would be hilarious - but the forests are catching fire, the water is being poisoned and rising, animals are going extinct and the vast majority of scientists are all saying the same thing: we are running out of time.

Undeniable

The Environment and Climate Change Canada report also found that three of the past five years have been the warmest on record and that across the country, records show the changing climate has meant extreme heat, less extreme cold, rapidly thinning glaciers, and rising sea levels in coastal regions.

Dispelling the hopeless narrative that these unprecedented changes are somehow part of earth’s natural cycle, Marjorie Shepherd, director of the climate research division at Environment Canada concluded, “While both human activities and actual variations in climate contribute to this observed warming in Canada, the human factor is dominant.”

Nancy Hamzawi, the assistant deputy minister of the science and technology branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada also added, “Global emissions of carbon dioxide from human activity will largely determine how much more warming Canada and the world will experience in the future.”

“Disturbing” Lack of Government Response
Environment Commissioner
Julie Gelfand’s final



Massive forest fires in Fort McMurray, Alberta, May 2016



PM Trudeau showing "Greenwashing 101"



Student strike in Australia, March 15, 2019

LIVING IN A CLIMATE

EMERGENCY WHO HAS THE REAL

SOLUTIONS?

conclusion

as the country's environmental watchdog was that the government's slow action to deal with the warming planet is most "disturbing". "For decades, successive federal governments have failed to reach their targets for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions, and the government is not ready to adapt to a changing climate. This must change."

This follows yet another government report, a collaboration between the auditors general of nine provinces and the federal environment commissioner, highlighting "common shortcomings" in how different levels of government are lowering greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change. It concludes that Canada is on pace to overshoot its emissions target for 2020 by nearly 20 percent and that without major changes Canada will definitely not meet its UN Paris Agreement target by 2030.

BC NDP Double Down on LNG

Literally only a couple of days after the Environment Canada report on record warming, the BC NDP government announced that it was lowering the income tax rate for fossil gas producers from 12 percent to nine percent in order to attract even more LNG industries the province, and as a sweet gift to the corporations already involved in production.

How they square this with the fact that they were already 25% short of their "Clean BC" climate targets



From left, LNG Canada CEO Andy Calitz, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and B.C. Premier John Horgan at LNG Canada Press Conference on October 2, 2018



RCMP officers storm a barricade set up to bar entry to the traditional territories of the Wet'suwet'en people against the Coastal GasLink pipeline, January 7, 2019

after approving the multi-billion dollar LNG Canada mega-project is beyond reason. The LNG Canada project had also already received more than \$5.35 billion in tax-payer funded financial incentives from the BC government.

While LNG is trying to be sold as a "clean transition fuel", it is anything but. The gas is extracted by a process which pulverizes hydrocarbon-bearing underground rock with highly pressurized streams of water, sand and chemicals - a process called "hydraulic fracturing" or "fracking" for short. Writing in the Tye online (theyee.ca) newspaper, Andrew Nikiforuk exposed the willful ignorance of the government on this destructive process. He wrote,

"Although a government-commissioned scientific review of fracking in British Columbia released earlier this month occupies some 232 pages, the word 'concerns,' as in "concerns regarding environmental impact," pops up more than 130 times.

The word insufficient, as in 'insufficient information,' peppers the report 27 times, while 'unknown' appears 17 times.

Uncertain or uncertainty, as in 'uncertain water quality,' appears nearly 50 times, while gaps, as in 'important knowledge gaps,' litters the document 27 times."

It's hard to say what is more irresponsible, approving the massive LNG project before the report on fracking was finished, or doubling down after it clearly showed major concerns and ignorance. A recent peer-reviewed study by the David Suzuki Foundation and St. Francis Xavier University also found methane emissions from B.C.'s oil and gas industry are two-and-a-half times higher than reported.

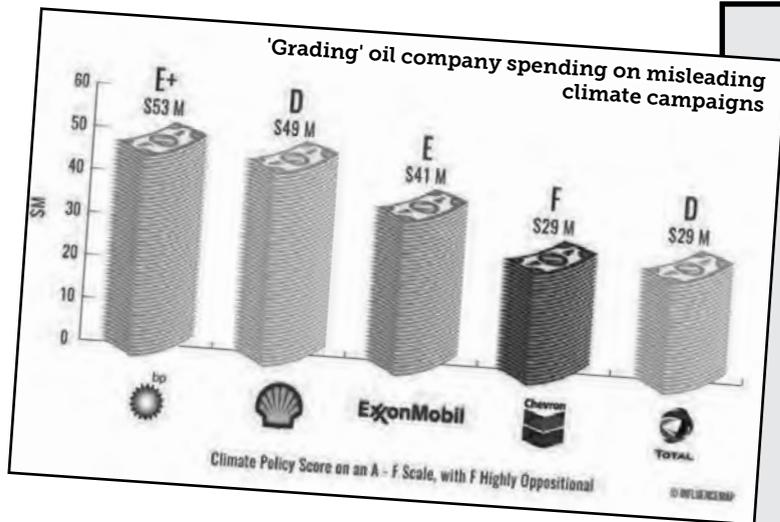
"It's not going to be easy," BC Premier Horgan told reporters, "Industrial activity and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples are difficult issues. Meeting our climate change objectives are primary and fundamental to the new government's approach."

"Rather than skirt those issues, like the previous government did — rather than ignore those issues of reconciliation and climate action — we want to marry industrial activity with those two key government objectives."

After seeing the militarized RCMP raid on peaceful Wet'suwet'en Nation people protecting their unceded territories from the Coastal GasLink pipeline which would serve the LNG Canada project, as well as the climate impacts of LNG industry expansion, it's safe to say that the marriage Premier Horgan is proposing is an abusive one.

Greenwashing

It's hard to miss oil company commercials featuring inspiring music, children running in fields and promises of a brighter future and sustainability. Likewise, print ads with green colour schemes and sponsorship of community festivals. As people come to understand the fundamental link between fossil fuel production and our current climate crisis, a new report by a British think tank InfluenceMap finds that "the five largest publicly-traded oil and gas majors (ExxonMobil, Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron, BP and Total) have invested over \$1Bn of shareholder funds in the three years following the Paris Agreement on misleading climate-



Students Lead the Struggle

WORLDWIDE STUDENT CLIMATE STRIKE SHOWS ITS (GREEN) POWER

By Thomas Davies

March 15 was another important step forward for the worldwide climate justice movement, as an estimated 1.6 million young people from 123 countries skipped school as part of the “Fridays for Future” global student climate strike. The protests began when Greta Thunberg, 16, began skipping school to strike in front of Sweden’s parliament in August. Soon students across the world began to follow her example in what became the Fridays for Future movement.

Many cities and towns across Canada participated as well. An estimated 150,000 went on strike across Quebec, with some circling their campuses and cancelling morning classes. In Vancouver, Climate Convergence participated in a rally in downtown Vancouver organized by “Sustainabiliteens”. Over 1000 students probably set the record for the fastest paced march ever in Vancouver, as they charged to the Vancouver office of Environment and Climate Change Canada office to demand the government do more than just use “Climate Justice” as a catchy slogan.

In a letter to the Guardian newspaper, Thunberg and other protesters said their basic demands are, “keep fossil fuels in the ground, phase out subsidies for dirty energy production, seriously invest in renewables and start asking difficult questions about how we structure our economies and who is set to win and who is set to lose.”

The fact that these protests have grown so rapidly is a good indication of what is yet to come in the climate justice movement. As the situation becomes more drastic, those with the least to gain and the most to lose from the status quo, are rising up. Their energy and urgency are undeniable. Signs and banners demanding, “System Change Not Climate Change” are a common sight across the globe.

These initiatives led by young people should be supported and welcomed into the overall global climate justice movement.



related branding and lobbying.”

“Oil majors are projecting themselves as key players in the energy transition while lobbying to delay, weaken, or oppose meaningful climate policy,” Edward Collins, author of the new report, said in a statement. “They advocate gradual implementation of market-based and technological climate solutions, but the latest [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] report makes clear that urgent policy action and limitations on fossil fuel use are needed to avoid dangerous climate change.”

Crisis and Opportunity

The report about rising temperatures in Canada is bad news, but it’s important for us to use the information to reach out to skeptical friends and co-workers to help convince them that the forest fires which now turn the sky grey and destroy thousands of acres every summer in BC are going to get worse if we don’t work together to address the climate crisis. We can also use this as a bridge to expand on the overall global impacts of climate change and the millions of people whose lives are already in jeopardy because of it.

We live in a strange world – where governments commission climate reports in order to delay action and then ignore the results. Where the world’s dirtiest polluters claim to be the most enthusiastic cheerleaders of creating a sustainable world. Where the Liberal Prime Minister Trudeau campaigns on the slogan of “Climate Justice” after spending \$4.5 billion on a dirty Tar Sands pipeline and expansion project. If these governments and corporations followed through on even half of their promises and “corporate statement of principles” we wouldn’t need to fight for a better world, we’d already been there! Obviously there is a disconnect between what they say and what they do, and obviously, there is still a need for independent mass organizing to stop this unsustainable madness.

There is still time, but we need to do this on our own terms and through our own growing movements for climate justice and a better world.

System Change Not Climate Change!

Follow Thomas on Twitter: @thomasdavies59

By Alison Bodine

On March 16, 2019, more than 1000 activists from across the U.S. gathered in Washington, DC for the "U.S Hands Off Venezuela!" demonstration. However, Canadian journalist Arnold August was not one of them – earlier in the day he was unjustly denied entry into the United States at U.S. Customs and Immigration in the Montreal Airport.

As August explained in a video posted on social media, after asking the U.S. border officials multiple times the reason for his denial of entry, he was told that he was denied entry due to previous arrests in Canada. This was in reference to his arrests at antiwar and labour protests in the 1970's. However, as August also stated, the U.S. border control authorities

had been aware of these arrests during his other entries into the U.S.: "Previously they have delayed my departure into the U.S., where I missed a plane but finally left, and on other occasions let me go through, but never have they stopped me."

So, the question is – why deny him entry now? What message is the

U.S. government sending to independent journalists and activists by denying Arnold August's democratic right to express his political views in support of the sovereignty of Venezuela at a peaceful demonstration?

Since the U.S./NATO invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the government of the U.S. has carried out continuous wars and occupations in parts of the Middle East and North Africa. In tandem with these wars abroad, there has also been a concerning increase in the political targeting of journalists and activists in order to quell opposition to war and suppress voices of dissent. Subsequently, the U.S. border, where people crossing are already stripped of many fundamental human and democratic rights has become an increasingly threatening and brutal place.

Today, the U.S. government is at war with Venezuela. In the last two months, they

have escalated their illegal efforts to overthrow the democratically elected government of President Nicolás Maduro. This has included an attempted coup d'état led by U.S. sponsored Venezuelan legislator, Juan Guaidó. This coup attempt has been defeated in Venezuela by a committed network of community-based organizations, the armed forces, and hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who have been demonstrating in the streets against any illegal foreign intervention. Also, the dangerous provocations and news manipulations at Venezuela's borders with Colombia and Brazil in the name of so-called humanitarian aid has not been successful. Together with the European Union, Canada, Switzerland, and Panama, the U.S. government has imposed crippling economic sanctions against the people of Venezuela.

It is no coincidence that August was refused entry into the United States while on his way to attend a protest demanding an end to U.S. war on Venezuela. The U.S. government is



border officials politically targeting activists and journalists. There is a clear pattern of government attacks on fundamental human and democratic rights of people crossing borders to exercise their freedom of speech and assembly, as well as their right to dissent. These abuses have ranged from well-known

political activists being harassed and "banned" at the border, to the denial of entry to groups of people to attend a peaceful protest or conference.

In fact, when I heard that Arnold August was stopped from entering the border, I immediately recalled my own two-year ban from Canada, which was imposed after I was

politically targeted at the border in 2007 and questioned about my antiwar and social justice work.

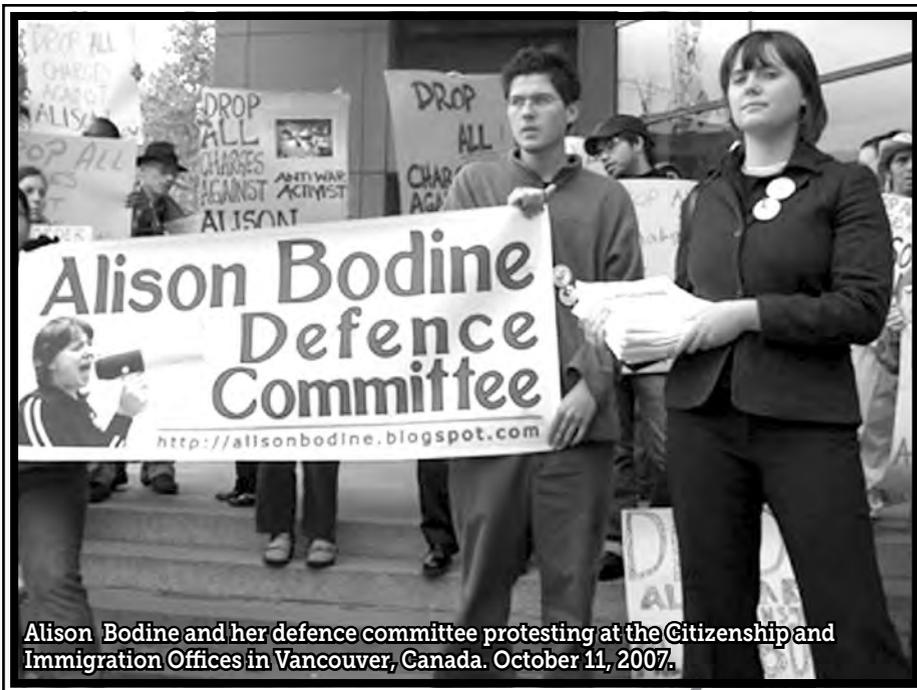
Back in 2007, within a few months of my banning, Medea Benjamin and former United States Army Colonel Ann Wright, leading U.S. peace activists and organizers with Code Pink, were also targeted and denied entry into Canada. As Ann Wright explained in *Common Dreams*, "I had been denied entry to Canada twice in 2007 and Medea had been denied once in 2007. Canadian immigration told us that we were ineligible to enter Canada because of our arrests (not convictions, just arrests) for peaceful, non-violent protest Washington, DC in front of the White House and the US Congress; in

The U.S. Refusal of Entry to Arnold August is a Dangerous Precedent for All Activists

actively attempting to limit the reach of his dissenting voice, and send a signal to other like-minded people, that they too might be targeted. As August explained in an interview for this article, "I guess they didn't like what I was doing with regards to Venezuela within the United States of America."

Along with many other independent journalists, August has been advocating for an end to the U.S. war on Venezuela and exposing the misinformation and manipulations of the U.S. government and mainstream media pundits about Venezuela and President Maduro. His opposition to both the U.S. and Canadian policy of sanctions and aggression against this South American nation has been well publicized.

The red flag really goes up when you examine similar cases of U.S. and Canadian



Alison Bodine and her defence committee protesting at the Citizenship and Immigration Offices in Vancouver, Canada. October 11, 2007.

New York at the US mission to the United Nations and the United Nations itself; in Crawford, Texas; and San Francisco, California.” Targeting them for exclusion set a dangerous precedent for the harassment of political activists, and people with dissenting views, on both sides of the U.S./Canada border.

Another notable case is that of Ilija Trojanow, a Bulgarian–German writer who was denied entry into the United States, without being given any reason. He is well-known for his writing in opposition to the National Security Administration (NSA). Trojanow was on his way to attend an academic conference. There is also recent precedent even for the targeting of people who are not well-known for their political views. For example, in 2017 there were multiple news stories about people being turned away from entering the United States from Canada while on route to the Women’s

March for “potentially violent rally,” as reported in the British newspaper, Independent .

Since then, expanding cooperation between US and Canadian authorities at the U S / Canada border has also been further exposed. As reported by the Guardian newspaper, in 2016, U.S. President Obama and Prime Minister Trudeau expanded an FBI “anti-terrorism” database called “Tuscan” that provides more than 680,000 names to every border guard. This is a database clothed in secrecy, and no doubt full of errors, akin to the “No Fly Lists” that the U.S. and

Continued on page 30



“U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!” demonstration in Washington, DC. March 16, 2019

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.

“An effective method of distorting the social relationships between white and native people is through the myth that Indians need to be protected. By persuading whites to believe this illusion, colonizing governments are able to get away with suppressive and abusive control of natives. Such protection only serves to imprison Indians and Metis more severely. In Canada, schemes of protection are enforced by the RCMP, the treaties, the reserves, and the Indian Act. The economic dependence connected with these schemes fosters distorted social relationships and life styles. A century ago it was rations; today, it is welfare, which prevents occupational independence and allows the government to control native people as wards and “children”. Rather than developing independence and confidence, the protection scheme creates a false sense of security and encourages attitudes of supplication.”

Excerpt from Prison of Grass

By Alison Bodine

ALISON BODINE: Thank you very much, Arnold, for taking the time out of your evening to do this brief interview with me. I have written the main components of an article about this injustice and undemocratic exclusion which happened to you at the U.S. / Canada border about 10 days ago. (see page 12)

Can you explain what you believe were the motivations for the U.S. border officials denying your entry into the country that day?

ARNOLD AUGUST: It's obvious that the motivation is political. I was surprised because they took me aside that day on March 16, 2019, when I was on my way from Montreal to Washington D.C. It was a surprise in the sense that it happened before, many years ago, but has not happened for quite some time. Several years ago, they took me aside and mentioned the fact that I had charges against me, what they call a criminal record, dating back to 1972, 1974. Of course, they were all related to political activism.

What happened at the airport that Saturday was that they notified me that I had this record and that I can't enter the United States. I said, 'this is ridiculous you've known this for 45 years.' I've been stopped in the past in the same way and questioned, but after the questions and all that, I was never at any time hindered or stopped from going into the United States. So, I said 'well, why now?' In the back of my mind, I knew why, but I wanted to try to get that out of them - so I asked, 'why now?' But the discussion ended right there, and she said, 'well here is a document for you to fill out in order to try to challenge the fact that you were not allowed into the United States', so there was never an answer as to my question - why now?

First, I think it is interesting to note that they mentioned the '72 and '74 charges, etc. But since then I have been to the United States, dozens of times, there has never been an incident in the U.S. I guess you could say that I was a model visitor. There was never any incident at all, but all of a sudden it came up on March 16.

one thing in common: they are either on the U.S. "blacklist" and/or their web sites and social media have been harassed. So, that's one reason as to why I was barred from the US on March 16.

The other possible cause is that on January 20, 2019, I released my new YouTube channel. Normally, as you know I write about Cuba and Venezuela, in that order, but YouTube specifically is dedicated to deconstructing the media lies with regards to Venezuela.

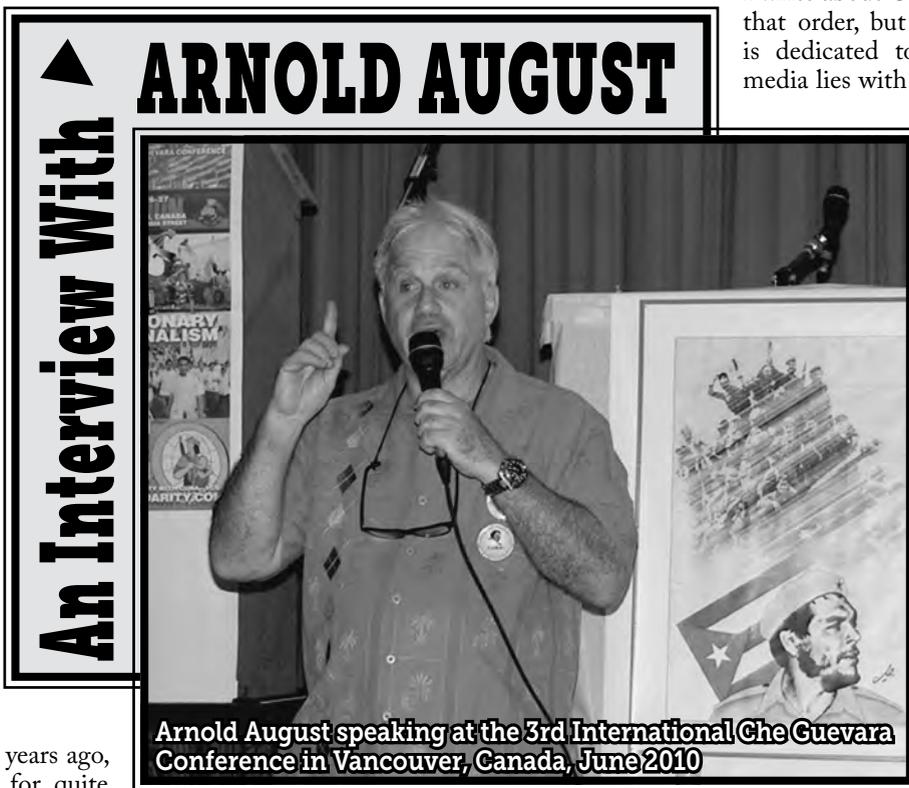
I posted a very important YouTube just before the March 16 activity in D.C. It is based on a radio interview from Montreal with Sputnik in Washington D.C. which was also recently on the list of outlets that Washington does not like; specifically Loud and Clear with Brian Becker. I made a video on that, one of the main purposes being to promote the demonstration in Washington DC.

I was quite active in promoting it, but Facebook actually blocked my Facebook post where that YouTube radio interview was published regarding the D.C. activity. However, I also have another interest that is uploaded that Youtube. It is my support for the Palestinian people.

Putting all of these things together it seems that this is what happened, the answer to the question that the person at the airport did not want to answer - why now? Well, everything is looking like it is due to my latest activity, especially in terms of journalism and increased social media activity since February 4, 2019.

ALISON: It is very clear also to us and to me that this was a case of political targeting and really a violation of your democratic rights to speak out and to defend the people of Venezuela. What do you think are the best ways that people can support you at this time?

ARNOLD: In fact, the initial support was



Arnold August speaking at the 3rd International Che Guevara Conference in Vancouver, Canada, June 2010

So that was the end of that there. I am still looking into it, but what specifically - why now? I can answer that myself.

One has to put one and one together, and that makes two, and that is the following. Firstly, since my visit to Caracas on February 4 of this year when I had the honour to participate in a very intimate meeting with Nicolas Maduro, where he gave a speech for close to two hours, I came back with some very important points. I wrote several articles in support of the Bolivarian revolution, against U.S. interference, and the entire theme of Venezuela.

These particular articles seemed to be very well appreciated in the United States. For example, since February 4, 2019, they were published in the following press which are popular in the US: Mintpress, Venezuelanalysis, Black Agenda Report, Global Research, teleSUR English and teleSUR Spanish. Now all of them have



Marching in the streets of Washington, DC at the "U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!" demonstration. March 16, 2019

spontaneous on the very first day. On that day, on March 16, I was in contact with a social media journalist in Caracas whom I met in Caracas on February 4. The goal was to send her some of my videos from Washington, D.C., especially the message I was bringing with me citing statements of support and activities on Venezuela by the over 5 million Canadian trade union workers and social/political activists. The young Venezuelan social media activist immediately, within

a couple of hours, converted my report from the Montreal airport about my denial of entry into the U.S. into a full video which almost went viral through Twitter. They were widely circulated, especially in Spanish

from Caracas and people such as Jorge Arreaza, who is the Foreign Minister of Venezuela retweeted. In addition, teleSUR English, with whom I was likewise in contact with to report on my Canadian message of solidarity to the D.C. activity, also produced a video sent live to Quito, Ecuador, from the taxi driving me back home from the Montreal airport.

So, in response to your question Alison regarding support, from the very first day, it got around the first 24 hours. Since that time, there's been an article in Prensa Latina, in Spanish, English and French which the Cuban news agency been circulating quite a bit. As you know COHA published your article on the incident as part of a wider issue.

Of course, I will continue to write on Venezuela. In fact, I would say that I

am even more determined, to tell the truth about Venezuela, to support the Bolivarian revolution, to support Cuba.

My lawyer and I are still looking into what happened, looking into the fact that it looks like I might have been barred for life from visiting the United States of America. So that it is an ongoing investigation that we're looking into at this time. Thus, I would say that the best thing it not support for me, but to

"Of course, I will continue to write on Venezuela. In fact, I would say that I am even more determined, to tell the truth about Venezuela, to support the Bolivarian revolution, to support Cuba"

help to circulate my journalism, not only mine but other people as well on the left, such as Fire This Time. There a lot of left progressive journalists who have done very great work in Venezuela. Some of them, such as Max Blumenthal and Dan Cohen and others, they just returned from Venezuela after four weeks there and are doing excellent work.

I think the best way to support or to go against

this incident is to help circulate all these journalistic views, whether it is Fire This Time, the ones from the United States, my views, on the question of Venezuela.

It's an ongoing struggle. Venezuela has won the first round but it's far from over. I think the United States will never give up. Their main goal is to overthrow the Maduro government, overthrow Chavismo, not only for the oil; but also for the fact that, I would say, it is becoming an epicenter of the international left. It's becoming more and more a model for the people all over the world who oppose U.S. interference, U.S. bullying, and the U.S. attempts to dominate the world.

It is pretty inspiring to see all over the world, for example in occupied Palestine, people are demonstrating in support of the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people. This is a theme that I think we all have to work together, that is to mutually help circulate the views that are being written or spoken with regards to Venezuela.

As you know we're up against the international corporate media that has carried out and carrying out such a massive campaign against Venezuela, against Maduro. I think this is the worst thing I've seen in years. It is even worse than some of the media campaigns that they have been carrying out against Cuba, it is a very serious situation.

ALISON: Thank you Arnold for this interview, and all of your ongoing journalism and work.

Follow Arnold August on Twitter: @Arnold_August

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette

Distribute Revolutionary Change in Your Area!

For distribution of Fire This Time in your area, across BC, and internationally, please contact:
Thomas Davies
Publicity and Distribution Coordinator
Phone: (778) 889-7664
Email: firethistimecanada@yandex.com

" My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old. I am from Sweden. I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now. Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do. But I've learned you are never too small to make a difference. And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to.

But to do that, we have to speak clearly, no matter how uncomfortable that may be. You only speak of green eternal economic growth because you are too scared of being unpopular. You only talk about moving forward with the same bad ideas that got us into this mess, even when the only sensible thing to do is pull the emergency brake. You are not mature enough to tell it like is. Even that burden you leave to us children. But I don't care about being popular. I care about climate justice and the living planet. Our civilization is being sacrificed for the opportunity of a very small number of people to continue making enormous amounts of money. Our biosphere is being sacrificed so that rich people in countries like mine can live in luxury. It is the sufferings of the many which pay for the luxuries of the few.

The year 2078, I will celebrate my 75th birthday. If I have children maybe they will spend that day with me. Maybe they will ask me about you. Maybe they will ask why you didn't do anything while there still was time to act. You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. **And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself. We have not come here to beg world leaders to care. You have ignored us in the past and you will ignore us again. We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people. Thank you."**

Speech made at COP24 UN Climate Change Summit in Katowice, Poland - December 12th 2018



(SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE)

" My name is Greta Thunberg. I am 15 years old. I am from Sweden. I speak on behalf of Climate Justice Now. Many people say that Sweden is just a small country and it doesn't matter what we do. But I've learned you are never too small to make a difference. And if a few children can get headlines all over the world just by not going to school, then imagine what we could all do together if we really wanted to.

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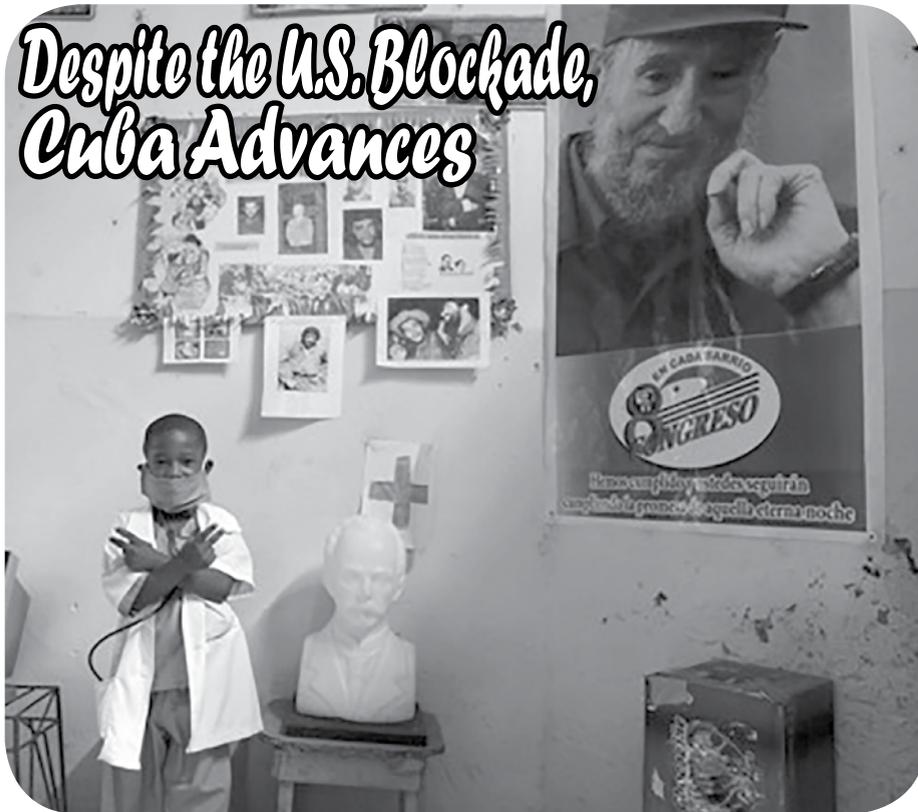
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(SCHOOL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE)

Despite the U.S. Blockade, Cuba Advances



By Ben Lefebvre

The small Caribbean nation of Cuba has suffered a crippling U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade for the better part of six decades.

This illegal and immoral action has been draining the country's resources while hurting American farmers and manufacturers that would otherwise enjoy access to the Cuban market. It is said to cost the Cuban economy \$12 million per day due to having to buy goods from afar instead of from its nearest neighbours.

This antagonistic tactic is a classic example of "biting off your nose to spite your own face".

Cuba successfully defended itself against a failed American invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and has had to deal with the numerous U.S. sanctioned terrorist and biological attacks ever since the Revolution was won on January 1st, 1959. It has averted several assassination attempts against the country's leadership.

In order to protect itself, Cuba has had to maintain costly security and military presence on the island instead of investing in its crumbling infrastructure. One of the true gems of the New World has thus fallen into disrepair but it is doing its best at preserving and improving what it can given its limited resources.

Cuba has also had to defend itself against a never-ending media war. It has recently

been accused of having a significant military presence in Venezuela. Successive U.S. administrations have stated that this peace-loving island nation is a threat to its national security. Both assertions are outright lies.

Cuba does support Venezuela's right to protect itself against foreign aggression and why shouldn't it? If the legitimate Venezuelan government falls due to yet another Latin American U.S. coup d'état, what country would be next? We already know what happened in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria.

In the words of the Trump administration "all options are on the table" when it comes to U.S. interests. Cuba has always been of interest to American imperialists.

Cuba has gained the respect of the vast majority of the members of the United Nations due to its acts of solidarity around the world. It has about 40,000 highly qualified doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers and technicians working in dozens of other countries at any given time. Where America offers foreign aid with strings attached Cuba delivers the goods because it believes it is, quite simply, the right thing to do.

One of the most important and admirable projects of the Cuban government delivers free education to its population up to the post-doctoral level. Illiteracy was virtually wiped out on the island within a couple of years of ousting the violent, the U.S. supported Fulgencio Batista dictatorship.

Cuba provides free comprehensive healthcare to its citizens even in the most remote regions of the country. A full range of social programs are delivered to every citizen from cradle to grave either free of charge or they are heavily subsidized by the state.

Contrary to what we have been told by our deliberately biased and misinformed media, democracy does exist in this country where the only political party is the Communist Party of Cuba.

Life is not easy for the average Cuban, that's for sure, but they're doing the best they can under very difficult circumstances.

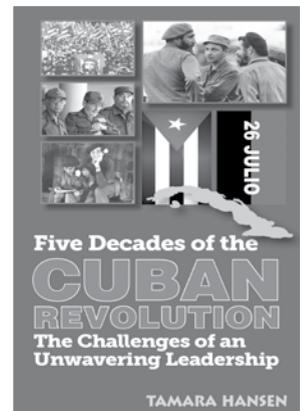
As many of the world's nations are looking for alternatives to the authoritarian and cold-hearted neoliberal economic model, Cuba will continue to be a shining example to emulate, despite the contradictions that still exist on this Caribbean island nation.

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

* Original title: "Cuban Contradictions Still Exist"

Battle of Ideas Press

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



By Tamara Hansen

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

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By Ben Lefebvre

La pequeña nación caribeña de Cuba ha sufrido un paralizante bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero de los Estados Unidos durante la mayor parte de seis décadas.

Esta acción ilegal e inhumana ha estado drenando los recursos del país, al tiempo que perjudica a los agricultores y fabricantes norteamericanos que de otro modo aprovecharían del acceso al mercado cubano. Dice que costó la economía cubana \$12 millones por día debido a tener que comprar mercancías desde lejos en lugar de sus vecinos más cercanos.

Esta táctica antagonista es un ejemplo clásico de "morderse la nariz para despecho de tu propia cara".

Cuba se defendió con éxito contra una fracasada invasión norteamericana en la Playa Girón en 1961 y ha tenido que lidiar con los numerosos ataques terroristas y biológicos sancionados desde que la revolución fue ganada el 1 de enero de 1959. Ha evitado varios intentos de asesinato contra el liderazgo del país.

Para protegerse, Cuba ha tenido que mantener una costosa presencia militar y de seguridad en la isla en lugar de invertir en su infraestructura desmenuzada.

Una de las verdaderas gemas del nuevo mundo ha caído en mal estado, pero está haciendo todo lo posible para preservar y mejorar lo que puede dar sus recursos limitados.

Cuba también ha tenido que defenderse de una guerra de medios interminable. Recientemente se le acusa de tener una presencia militar significativa en Venezuela. Sucesivas administraciones estadounidenses han afirmado que esta nación insular amante

de la paz es una amenaza para su seguridad nacional. Ambas afirmaciones son mentiras directas.

Cuba apoya el derecho de Venezuela a protegerse contra la agresión extranjera y ¿por qué no debería hacerlo? Si el legítimo gobierno venezolano cae debido a otro golpe de Estado latinoamericano estadounidense, ¿qué país sería el próximo? Ya sabemos lo que sucedió en Afganistán, Irak, Libia y Siria.

En las palabras de la administración Trump "todas las opciones están sobre la mesa" cuando se trata de los intereses de Estados

extranjera con cuerdas adjuntas Cuba entrega los bienes porque cree que es, sencillamente, lo correcto.

Uno de los proyectos más importantes y admirables del gobierno cubano ofrece educación gratuita a su población hasta el nivel postdoctoral. El analfabetismo fue virtualmente aniquilado en la isla dentro de un par de años de expulsar a los violentos, Estados Unidos apoyó la dictadura de Fulgencio Batista.

Cuba ofrece asistencia sanitaria integral gratuita a sus ciudadanos, incluso en las

regiones más remotas del país. Una gama completa de programas sociales se entrega a todos los ciudadanos de cuna a tumba, ya sea de forma gratuita o están fuertemente subvencionados por el estado.

Contrariamente a lo que nos han dicho nuestros medios deliberadamente sesgados y mal informados, la democracia existe en este país donde el único partido político es el partido comunista de Cuba.

La vida no es fácil para el cubano medio, eso es seguro, pero están haciendo lo mejor que pueden en circunstancias muy difíciles.

Como muchas de las naciones del mundo están buscando alternativas al modelo económico autoritario y de corazón frío, Cuba continuará siendo un

ejemplo brillante para emular, a pesar de las contradicciones que todavía existen en esta nación insular caribeña.

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.

A PESAR DEL BLOQUEO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, CUBA AVANZA



Unidos. Cuba siempre ha sido de interés para los imperialistas norteamericanos.

Cuba se ha ganado el respeto de la gran mayoría de los miembros de las Naciones Unidas debido a sus actos de solidaridad en todo el mundo. Tiene alrededor de 40,000 médicos altamente calificados, enfermeras, ingenieros, profesores y técnicos que trabajan en docenas de otros países en un momento dado. Donde Estados Unidos ofrece ayuda

Celebrating International Women's Day From Vancouver to Cuba to Venezuela

By Janine Solanki

On March 8, 2019, women around the world marked International Women's Day – a day to celebrate the enormous gains women have made throughout history. Here in Canada, despite having higher rates of post-secondary education than men, women still make 26% less than men, on average, for full-time work. Women in Canada also live the reality that one in three women will face sexual violence in their lifetime.

The struggle for women's rights is an international one, and Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba (VCSC) marked International Women's Day 2019 by highlighting the achievements and challenges from around the world.

On March 1, Proyecto Cultural Sur Vancouver together with VCSC organized "Mujer y Madre Tierra / Women and Mother Earth", an event to honour women through poetry, music and dance. This first annual event was held in Vancouver at Britannia Community Center. The program also featured women bravely sharing their testimonials of violence they had suffered, with the message that women will be silent no longer and are standing up for their rights.

On March 8, VCSC organized an event "Celebrating the Revolutionary Women of Cuba, Venezuela & the World." The Cuban Revolution triumphed with strong women leading and fighting, and from 1959 to today there has been what Cuba's former president and revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro, called a "revolution within the revolution". That is, women organizing within the revolution to achieve gains such as Cuba having the world's second highest participation of women in parliament. In Venezuela, during the last 20 years of the Bolivarian Revolution, Venezuelan women have also made great advances in all sectors of society, such as healthcare, education, and politics.

The event started out with Tamara Hansen, coordinator of VCSC, who welcomed everyone and shared inspiring words about women leading the fight for a better world, from Cuba and Venezuela to around the world. Greetings via video conference were then shared from Tania Lopez Larroque, the Cuban Consul

General in Toronto and two other women from the Cuban Consulate in Toronto, proof of the strong representation of women in Cuba's diplomatic world, in addition to the Cuban Ambassador to Canada, Josefina Vidal. Later on in the evening, words of solidarity were also shared from Tatiana Vizcaya, Second Consul at the Consulate of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Vancouver.

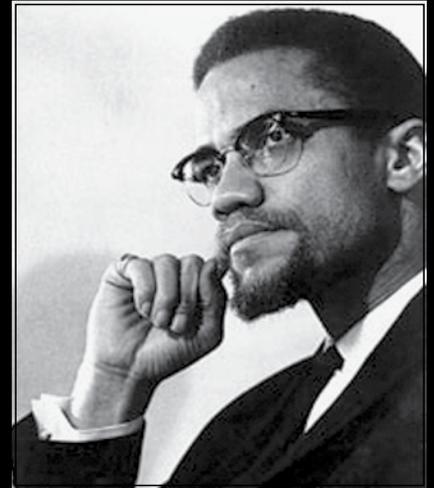
The program continued with words from Azza Rojbi, a VCSC organizer, who recently returned from Venezuela as part of a youth brigade. Azza shared the experience of meeting Venezuelan women leaders who are defending their Bolivarian Revolution and resisting imperialist intervention. The event then featured three poets from Proyecto Cultural Sur Vancouver - Lucy Ortiz, Macarena Cataldo Hernández and Alejandro Mujica-Olea. They shared their beautiful and heartfelt poetry, both in English and Spanish, on the strengths, struggles and challenges women face.

The evening then featured the phenomenal music of Bouna Vedere & the Band. The exceptional singer and performer is a former member of the two times Grammy Award winning Soweto Gospel Choir of South Africa. Before long the room was up on their feet, dancing and captivated by the joyous and soulful music!

After the musical performance came to a close, participants (out of breath and with big smiles) sat down again and grouped together in teams for the final part of the event... The Team Trivia Challenge! The teams (each named after a Cuban or Venezuelan women leader) vied for points by answering questions related to women in Cuba and Venezuela, and the revolutionary history of International Women's Day. In the end, the winning team won bragging rights, but everyone won prizes – which included candies and souvenirs from Venezuela and Cuba!

For more upcoming events with Vancouver Communities in Solidarity with Cuba, visit www.vancubasolidarity.com or follow on Facebook and Twitter @VanCuba_VCSC

"By Any Means Necessary..."



MALCOLM X SPEAKS

The greatest weapon the colonial powers have used in the past against our people has always been divide-and-conquer. America is a colonial power. She has colonized 22 million Afro-Americans by depriving us of first-class citizenship, by depriving us of civil rights, actually by depriving us of human rights. She has not only deprived us of the right to be a citizen, she has deprived us of the right to be human beings, the right to be recognized and respected as men and women. And in this country the black can be fifty years old and he is still a "boy."

I grew up with white people. I was integrated before they invented the word and I have never met white people yet—if you are around them long enough—who won't refer to you as a "boy" or a "gal," no matter how old you are no matter what school you came out of, no matter what your intellectual or professional level is. In this society we remain "boys."

So America's strategy is the same strategy as that which was used in the past by the colonial powers: divide and conquer. She plays one Negro leader against the other. She plays one Negro organization against the other. She makes us think that we have different objectives, different goals.

Excerpt from Speech: *The Black Revolution* (April 8, 1964)



MAWO DELEGATION JOINS

UNITED ANTIWAR



*By Thomas Davies
& Tamara Hansen*

MOBILIZATION IN WASHINGTON, DC

As Foreign Ministers from NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries met to mark the military alliance's 70th anniversary, a broad coalition of organizations from across the United States and the world organized a series of actions to protest the organization's ongoing use as a tool for imperialist war and occupation. Vancouver-based Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) was an active part of the "NO2NATO2019" coalition which came together to organize the main protest in front of the White House, and sent a delegation of six organizers to participate and emphasize Canada's criminal role in this warmongering organization.

In the words of NATO's first secretary-general (1952-1957), Lord Hastings Lionel Ismay NATO's original mandate was "to keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." The main vehicle of post World War II anti-Communist hysteria lost its main bogeyman when the Soviet Union disbanded in 1991. It now states that its purpose "is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means."

Practically that has meant continuing as a military alliance which has served as

a convenient "international community" cover for imperialist war and occupation. NATO forces bombed Yugoslavia for 78 days straight to break up the country in 1999, they took a leadership role in the 2001 war and ongoing occupation of Afghanistan, and also continue to train military forces in Iraq. It was a seven month NATO bombing mission which destroyed Libya in 2011 – turning Africa's most prosperous nation into rubble fought over and controlled by competing warlords.

Despite its murky mandate, NATO has grown from 12 signatory nations to 29. They are pushed to spend at least 2% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on the military. Last year Colombia became a "fully accredited global partner". This geographically extraordinary move can be explained given the current military buildup and attempted coup against its neighbour Venezuela.

Given this ongoing US-led aggression against Venezuela, "Hands Off Venezuela!" joined "No to NATO, War & Racism!" as the two main slogans of the White House rally.

MAWO organizers arrived in the week before the rally to help with final organization, and also to participate in some lead-up actions. This included a

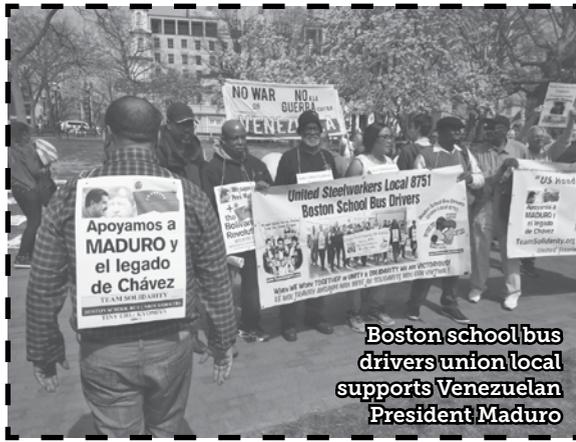
Code Pink Women for Peace action in front of a Venezuelan diplomatic building in Washington, DC which had been taken over by pro-coup Venezuelans with the support of the US government. There was also a solidarity action in front of the Embassy of Ireland. Two Veterans for Peace organizers Ken Mayers and Tarak Kauff were being held in Irish jail under charges of "trespass and criminal damage" after they had entered the Shannon airfield base to inspect a plane which they believed to be carrying up to 300 armed U.S. troops.

The March 30 demonstration was held in Lafayette Park, which borders the White House grounds. Organizers had worked hard to jump through countless bureaucratic hoops secure permits. Rally set-up requirements included all equipment being inspected by police sniffing dog before entering the park!

MAWO co-chair Alison Bodine was a co-MC for the first part of the rally with Virginia Defenders for Freedom Justice and Equality organizer Jacqueline Luqman. They welcomed anti-NATO activists from Ukraine, Mexico, Argentina, Belgium Greece and Wales, as well as groups from Boston, New York, Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey, and Connecticut among many others.



MAWO delegation with "Canada Out of Afghanistan!" shirts



Boston school bus drivers union local supports Venezuelan President Maduro

U.S. President Mike Pence addressing NATO foreign ministers with an aggressive pro-war, anti-immigrant message, said "We must adapt our alliance to confront emerging threats ... whether that's Russian aggression, uncontrolled migration, cyber attacks, threats to energy security, Chinese strategic competition, including technology and 5G, and many other issues." Meanwhile, Alison and Jacqueline welcomed a diverse group of pro-peace speakers articulating an entirely different vision for the world - based on social justice, self-determination and cooperation among oppressed peoples. This included Cassia Laham of the United National Antiwar Committee (UNAC), Reiner Braun of the No to NATO, No to War Network in Belgium, Ajamu Baraka of the Black Alliance for Peace, Andre Francois - President of Boston School Bus Driver Union, USW 8751, and Patrick McCann of Veterans for Peace.

The 1,000 strong rally group then made their way through the busy DC streets. The Cherry Blossom Festival was in full swing so there were large crowds of people everywhere to see and hear demonstrators chanting, "No to NATO, No to War!" and "U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!" That same day in Caracas, tens of thousands rallied to defend Bolivarian Revolution, despite repeated attacks on Venezuela's electrical

grid.

MAWO's delegation wore matching campaign shirts and held a large banner demanding "Canada out of NATO Now! Money for Jobs, Healthcare, Education, Housing and Environment! Not War!"

The rally returned to Lafayette Park for a continuing speakers program including William Camacaro - a Venezuelan member of the Bolivarian Circles New York, Loan Tran of the International Action Centre, Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers of Popular Resistance, and music by Luci Murphy and Ben Grosscup of the People's Music Network.

encourages war and racism is no easy task, but the NO2NATO2019 rally confirmed that there are many organizations across the U.S who are still fighting and that they are also connecting with groups around the world confronting the same issues.



MAWO co-chair Alison Bodine co-MCs the rally



Marching in the streets of Washington, DC.

This was the real significant international meeting, not NATO's anniversary.

Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) was happy to actively participate in the organizing an execution of the successful march and rally and will continue to do everything it can to encourage international cooperation and ongoing organizing against the U.S and Canada war

machines. NATO belongs in the scrap heap of history and it's up to us to put it there.

NO TO NATO, NO TO WAR!

HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

MONEY FOR HEALTHCARE, HOUSING & EDUCATION, NOT FOR WAR & OCCUPATION!



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By Max Tennant

REPEAL BILL C-51! SCRAP BILL C-59! HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK:

Fighting for Democratic and Human Rights in Canada

As the October Federal Election draws closer, the Liberal government's "National Security" Bill C-59 is still in front of the Senate waiting to be approved. If it does not pass before the election, it will not become law. Bill C-59 is the Trudeau government's response to Bill C-51, the much despised "Anti-Terrorism" law passed by the previous Harper Conservative government almost four years ago. Trudeau had promised that as Prime Minister he would "fix" the law and protect democratic and human rights, but Bill C-59 keeps many of the worst elements of Bill C-51 and adds an even more aggressive cyber-surveillance program. So four years and countless empty promises later, the Working Group to Stop Bill C-51 continues to be in the streets to demand, "Repeal Bill C-51 and Scrap Bill C-59!"

With the start of Spring, the Working Group also started a better and broader campaign and discussions at its picket and petition campaigns at Lougheed and Broadway-City Hall Stations - two very busy and important transit hubs in Vancouver and Coquitlam. This brought the campaign to 210 consecutive bi-weekly actions.

In a new development, a Tye online (theyee.ca) article on March 25 "Project Wide Awake: How the RCMP Watches You on Social Media," exposes how the RCMP is monitoring people on social media and details their use of new online surveillance software to take a "proactive" approach to online monitoring. It's important to point out that the RCMP refuses to release its policies on the



209th Action, Lougheed Station, Burnaby

monitoring and use of the personal data it secretly collects. Notably, the Trudeau Liberal government has completely ignored this issue and given the Liberal government's own online surveillance aspirations, it's clear that Bill C-59 aims to legalize privacy rights violations even further.

As people fighting for democratic and human rights, it is crucial to continue organizing and mobilizing against Bill C-51 and to prevent Bill C-59 from becoming law. As long as the government of Canada violates our democratic and human rights, the fight to defend these rights can and must continue.

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

Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal and Kiev say, Hey Trump, Lift the Blockade on Cuba!

By Janine Solanki



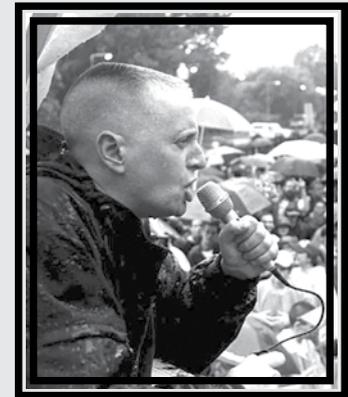
After 60 years the U.S. government is still trying - and failing - to achieve their goal of "regime change" in Cuba. The U.S. government is still causing great hardship to Cuba through their inhumane blockade, which the Trump administration is tightening. In the last few months, U.S. President Trump has made moves to invoke title III of the Helms-Burton Act, which threatens Cuba's economy by punishing foreign entities who do business with Cuba.

The Cuban people have not just survived under the cruel U.S. blockade, but have advanced tremendously. Cuba has become world renowned in fields such as healthcare, education, science and technology, agriculture, sports and arts. After all these decades Cuba is not about to bend to U.S. pressure - in response to the recent U.S. hostilities, the Cuban government and its people have been steadfast in their rejection of any intervention in their internal affairs. In a statement, Cuba's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodriguez said: "the United States will keep on failing to achieve its main purpose of submitting by force the sovereign will of Cubans and our determination to build socialism."

Supporters of Cuba worldwide are standing in defense of Cuba against the U.S. blockade. In Vancouver, Canada, Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver (FCAB) has been protesting every month in front of the U.S. Consulate. This action is in coordination with protests at U.S. Consulates and Embassies in Ottawa and Montreal, Canada and Kiev, Ukraine! On March 17, the Vancouver action gathered together protesters who held up picket signs and banners in the spring sunshine, and chanted energetically "Hey, Trump, lift the blockade!" and "Return Guantanamo to Cuba now!" In between rounds of picketing, protesters heard from various speakers, as well as heard a message of solidarity via phone message from Ottawa-Cuba Connections, who were protesting outside of the U.S. Embassy. The action wrapped up with a customary photo, complete with picket signs and protest banners, under the building sign for the U.S. Consulate. This photo, shared on social media around the world, illustrates Vancouver's steadfast opposition to the U.S. blockade on Cuba.

As long as the U.S. blockade on Cuba is in existence, and as long as the U.S. illegally occupies the Cuban territory of Guantanamo, Cuba solidarity activists in Vancouver and many around the world will join in the protest. To find out about upcoming events with Friends of Cuba Against the U.S. Blockade - Vancouver, visit www.vancouverblockade.org or follow on Facebook or Twitter @nobloqueovan

OUR HERITAGE



Leslie Feinberg
(1949-2014)

Leslie identified as an anti-racist white, working-class, secular Jewish, transgender, lesbian, female, revolutionary communist. She was a member of the National Committee of Worker's World Party and managing editor of the Worker's World newspaper. Her 1993 first novel, "Stone Butch Blues," is considered a groundbreaking work about the complexities of gender.

"[With] this novel [Stone Butch Blues] I planted a flag; Here I am—does anyone else want to discuss these important issues? I wrote it, not as an expression of individual 'high' art, but as a working-class organizer mimeographs a leaflet—a call to action . . .

I am typing these words as June 2003 surges with Pride. What year is it now, as you read them? What has been won; what has been lost? I can't see from here; I can't predict. But I know this: You are experiencing the impact of what we in the movement take a stand on and fight for today. The present and past are the trajectory of the future. But the arc of history does not bend towards justice automatically—as the great Abolitionist Frederick Douglass observed, without struggle there is no progress . . ."

"That's what the characters in Stone Butch Blues fought for. The last chapter of this saga of struggle has not yet been written."

By Janine Solanki

Chelsea Manning has already spent too many years of her life behind bars, for the crime of telling the truth. Today the U.S. judicial system is taking away her freedom once again because she has stood up against injustice.

Who is Chelsea Manning?

Chelsea Manning is best known as a former U.S. military intelligence analyst and whistleblower. At great personal risk, she leaked U.S. diplomatic cables as well as videos and

throughout her imprisonment. Chelsea Manning served seven years of a 35-year jail term, during which she also had to fight for her rights as a trans woman and for access to medical care related to her transition. Former President Barack Obama commuted her sentence, and she was released

access to books or reading materials. She was only

permitted to make phone calls and move about outside her cell between 1 and 3 am.

International bodies have defined solitary confinement as torture, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan E Mendez, has defined prolonged solitary confinement as a period over 15 days during which the harmful psychological effects of isolation can become irreversible. This is what Chelsea Manning has endured.

This inhumane and brutal treatment is an attempt to coerce her into testifying in the grand jury, and to punish her for refusing to do so.

What now? Free Chelsea Manning!

Since her arrest, Chelsea Manning's support committee "Chelsea Resists!" has sprung into action in her defense. The first battle to release Chelsea Manning from solitary confinement has been won, and supporters are now fighting for Chelsea Manning to be released from jail. Chelsea Manning's support committee is asking for donations for her legal defense, which can be made at: <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/chelsea-manning-needs-legal-funds-to-resist-a-grand-jury-subpoena>

You can also write to Chelsea Manning – this is not only her fight but a fight for all peace and justice loving people. While she is leading this struggle from behind bars, supporters can let her know that people around the world are standing with her! For guidelines on what and how to send mail to Chelsea Manning, visit Chelsea Resists! at <https://xychelsea.is>

Most importantly, it is vital that Chelsea Manning's case is known, and for more people to take on this case. Chelsea Manning is not only defending herself but defending the right of activists and anyone to not participate in secret trials. You can visit Chelsea Resists! website <https://xychelsea.is> for statements to share on your social media, and on Twitter follow @ResistsChelsea and @xychelsea for the latest developments in her case. You can also sign a petition demanding her immediate release, at <http://bit.ly/2XPIZ3x>

Free Chelsea Manning now!

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

FREE CHELSEA MANNING!



from prison on May 17, 2017.

Why is Chelsea in jail now?

"I will not participate in a secret process that I morally object to, particularly one that has been used to entrap and persecute activists for protected political speech."

- Chelsea Manning, from a statement released after she was taken into custody.

On March 8, 2019, Chelsea Manning was jailed for refusing to testify to a grand jury investigating WikiLeaks. In a hearing, she asserted that answering questions before the grand jury would violate her constitutional and statutory rights. Without addressing Chelsea Manning's arguments, District Court Judge Claude Hilton ordered her confined for the term of the grand jury, or until she agrees to give testimony.

For 28 days she was held in so-called "administrative segregation", effectively solitary confinement. She was held in her cell for 22 hours a day, not allowed out of her cell while other prisoners were out, not allowed to visit the law library and not allowed

documents which have become known as the Afghan War Diary and the Iraq War Logs. Published on the whistleblower site Wikileaks, they further exposed U.S. war crimes around the world including mass killings, torture, corruption, and the attempted cover-up of U.S. atrocities. For telling the truth and acting upon her conscience, in May 2010 Chelsea Manning was arrested, imprisoned, and held in solitary confinement for the first 10 months as well as at various points



Above: Chelsea Manning with supporters and media, before Grand Jury appearance. March 8, 2019.

Below: Chelsea Manning supporters protest outside gates of jail where she is imprisoned. March 9, 2019.



Jorge Arreaza

Foreign Minister of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Speech to the United Nations Human Rights Council

**February 26, 2019
New York City**



Good morning, thank you very much, on behalf of the Government of President Nicolas Maduro, the Government of Venezuela, thank you for participating in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Today is an important day for Venezuela. 30 years ago, on a day like today, our country was witness and victim of a violation of human rights with the most fatalities of any occurrence in Venezuelan history during the 20th century, it was during the first mass general social protest against neoliberalism. In 1989, thousands, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans went to the streets to raise their voices against the neoliberal package imposed on the people of Venezuela, and the repression came not only from police – I wish it would have only been the police – instead of the army and the former armed forces of Venezuela who acted as a colonial occupation army. It was terrible, many believe there were 3,000 or 4,000 dead, in only 48 hours, the exact number is not known. Even today, 30 years later, we are still locating the skeletons and the remains of many Venezuelans who protested in Caracas and in the main cities of the country on those days.

We also came here

primarily by the United States Government and the Trump administration which is deepening and has become much more intense. There is a blockade against Venezuela, a blockade on its transactions, a blockade on its resources. A robbery, an assault on the resources, assets, and gold of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which belongs to the people of Venezuela for healthcare, infrastructure, for production. It's cost \$30 billion from 2017 until December of 2018, plus the seizure of our oil company Citgo.

There are companies that refuse to work with Venezuela, in fear that they will also be sanctioned. Suppliers are afraid and unwilling to work with Venezuela, and we have been designing other routes with allied countries in order to satisfy the needs of the Venezuelan people, but it is very difficult.

This Human Rights Council should raise its voice, because the blockade against Venezuela – similar to the blockade against Cuba, as blockades against any country and unilateral coercive measures – violate the Charter of the United Nations, as well as violating the fundamental principles of coexistence among States and peoples of the world.

Enough

today to denounce what we have been denouncing since 2015 at this council – 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and today 2019 – the aggression against Venezuela

of such aggression. We must also say that there has been in recent days, false flag operations. Unfortunately organised once again by the United States Government with our brothers from Colombia, volunteering its territory for aggressions against Venezuela. Trying to force “humanitarian aid” – we said it here, again in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 – the excuse or pretext of humanitarian crisis is to prepare for an intervention in my country.

From the United States, Mr. Pence, Mr. Trump say that they will not rule out military intervention. They are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations, article 2, paragraph 4. This Council and the institutions of the United Nations must speak out. They did not say this a year ago, they said it two days ago.

Last Saturday there was an aggression against my country from Colombian territory. Gentlemen who run this worthy Council, Venezuela is willing to work with the United Nations to receive all humanitarian assistance and humanitarian technical assistance and has been doing so with different United Nations agencies, but not by force.

Or is it that perhaps we don't remember in Latin America what took place in Nicaragua? Or is it that we don't remember the so-called ‘humanitarian crisis’ of the year 1965 in Dominican Republic? Behind four boxes of medicines, six boxes of food, and a few nurses and doctors, entered eight thousand U.S. marines who toppled the Government of President Juan Bosch.

The history of Latin America is very rich, we cannot be confused at a historic moment like this. The Government of President Maduro has opted for dialogue and yet the Government of President Maduro is always blamed. We are waiting for the Venezuelan



Left: Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign meeting Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza. March 6, 2018, Venezuela

Right: Venezuelans marching in support of their democratically elected President Maduro. March 23, 2019, Caracas, Venezuela



political opposition to sit and talk, but they don't because they follow instructions.

I just wanted to briefly illustrate, for example, that last Saturday these criminals in Colombian territory, say that Venezuelans and Colombians in Colombian territory, attacked our security forces and wounded Venezuelan military and police personnel by hundreds.

They used the emblem of the International Red Cross without any authorization, which was denounced by the Red Cross and their Committee. Or how they burned "humanitarian aid" with Molotov cocktails. Then they claimed it was the tear-gas bombs of President Nicolas Maduro's Government, when in reality our Bolivarian national armed forces reacted with a measured response, with prudence, and using progressive methods of force to avoid tragedy that day, because the necropolitics of the United States intended for there to be deaths so that they could then accuse the regime and accuse President Maduro.

Here is Mike Pence, 'all options are on the table, we do not rule out a military intervention.'

Here is John Bolton, 'the Venezuelan military have to rebel against Maduro or there will be more sanctions and more isolation.'

Here is Marco Rubio, look at this photo, I ask you to look at this photo. After tweeting 40 times against the Government of Venezuela, Mr. Marco Rubio here puts photos of former President General Muamar al Gaddafi and after he was killed. This is a message, this is a threat of death against a President, against a head of State. Who is doing something from United Nations to stop it?

Here even Mr. Deputy Juan Guaidó, who proclaimed himself in a public square the supposed President of Venezuela, and said Saturday that, "Today's events are forcing me to make a decision, to tell the international community in a formal manner that we must have all options open to achieve the liberation of this nation which is fighting and he will continue to fight." What are you saying there? That you want the United States to militarily invade to Venezuela? This cannot be accepted by the United Nations under any circumstance.

We want finally, since we know that time is valuable, to reaffirm the invitation which last November President Nicolas Maduro made to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, to visit Venezuela. We are ready to receive her so she can come to Venezuela with absolute freedom so she can see the reality of Venezuela and the effects of the blockade, the sanctions. Just as last year we saw the report of the Special Rapporteur Specialist on Democratic and Equitable Order, in which they made very clear the effects of the sanctions, and even suggested that Venezuela could take the United States



Venezuelan protester against U.S. intervention. March 2019

before the Criminal Court International about the harmful effects of their blockade of Venezuela.

But also, the expert Lord Idris Jazairi, has said that, "Sanctions that have the effect of leading to starvation and medical shortages, are not the response to the situation in Venezuela". The expert also said that, "I am especially concerned to hear reports that these sanctions are aimed at changing the government of Venezuela. Conversion, whether military or economic should never be used to look for a change of Government in a sovereign State. The use of sanctions by outside powers to overthrow an elected Government is in violation of all norms of international law." So we return to make our denunciation and also to propose the path to dialogue. Dialogue with the United States. Yes, why not? Between President Nicolas Maduro and President Donald Trump, who could meet, acknowledge the disagreements, work on the agreements, and then the dialogue between Venezuelans.

Yesterday we demanded at a meeting of the

Security Council, which was by convened United States to discuss the case of Venezuela, we demanded that the United States delegation simply say that "they support the Charter of the United Nations in article 2.4 and that they are not in favour of the use of force or the threat against Venezuela." And they were not capable of doing it, because they do not respect the Charter of the United Nations, because they do not respect international law. They walked out of the Council, and we do not understand why they are members of the United Nations. It is here where we need to act, where we formed a group of countries, 60 delegations at the last meeting, to protect peace and international law. There are countries on five continents which came together not just to protect Venezuela, but any people in the world that is threatened, especially with military force by the great powers of this world.

We believe that the United Nations can do much for bring together the sides in Venezuela. We believe that you have to denounce the aggression against Venezuela and that we have to stop this war. I hope I do not have to come here next year to speak here of the victims of war against my country, of the blood which was spilled from Venezuelans, of the blood that was spilled by US Marines in Venezuela, because Venezuela know how to resist, but it is the last thing that we want for our country.

Making this denunciation, extremely grateful for the attention, and in homage to the victims of three thousand, four thousand, five thousand victims which died 30 years ago in my country. I extend them an embrace to them from the Bolivarian people of Venezuela. Thank you very much.



The Caracazo - When armed forces massacred thousands of protesters in Venezuela. February 27, 1989



Jorge Arreaza

El Canciller de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela

Discurso en el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de la Naciones Unidas

26 de febrero, 2019
Nueva York

* EN ESPAÑOL *

Buenos días, muchas gracias, en nombre del gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro, gobierno de Venezuela, agradezco el poder participar en el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas.

Un día importante para Venezuela. Hace 30 años, un día como hoy, nuestro país fue testigo y víctima de la violación de los Derechos Humanos más mortal que pudo haber ocurrido a lo largo de la historia venezolana del Siglo XX, se trató de la primera protesta social general masiva contra el neoliberalismo. En 1989, miles, centenares de miles de venezolanos se fueron a las calles para alzar su voz contra los paquetes neoliberales que le impusieron al pueblo de Venezuela, y la represión no solo policial, que ojalá hubiese sido solo policial, no del Ejército de entonces y de las antiguas Fuerzas Armadas de Venezuela que fungían como Ejército de ocupación colonial. Fue terrible, se habla de entre 3 mil muertos y 4 mil muertos, no se sabe la cifra exacta en 48 horas. Aun hoy, 30 años después, seguimos ubicando las osamentas y los restos mortales de muchos de los venezolanos que protestaron durante aquellos días en Caracas y en las principales ciudades del país.

Nosotros venimos hoy también a denunciar lo que hemos denunciado desde el año 2015 en esta tribuna, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, y hoy 2019, hay contra Venezuela una agresión fundamentalmente por parte del gobierno de Estados Unidos y con la Administración de Trump se ha profundizado y ha sido mucho más intensa. Hay contra Venezuela un bloqueo, un bloqueo a sus transacciones, un bloqueo a sus recursos. Un robo, un asalto de los recursos, los activos y del oro de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, que están destinados al pueblo de Venezuela para la salud, la infraestructura para la producción. Son 30 mil millones de dólares desde 2017 hasta diciembre de 2018, más la confiscación de la empresa petrolera Citgo.

Hay empresas que en su temor a que también sean sancionadas se niegan a trabajar con

Venezuela, porque los proveedores se asustan y no quieren trabajar con Venezuela y hemos ido diseñando otras rutas con países aliados para poder satisfacer las necesidades del pueblo venezolano, pero cuán difícil es.

Este Consejo de Derechos Humanos debe alzar su voz, porque el bloqueo contra Venezuela, como el bloqueo contra Cuba, como el bloqueo contra cualquier país y las medidas coercitivas unilaterales, violan la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, así como también violan los principios fundamentales de la convivencia civilizada entre los Estados y los pueblos del mundo.

Ya basta de tanta agresión. Nosotros también debemos decir que ha habido en los últimos días, operaciones de bandera falsa. Lamentablemente organizados una vez más por el gobierno de Estados Unidos con nuestros hermanos de Colombia, prestando su territorio para la agresión contra Venezuela. Tratando de forzar una "ayuda humanitaria", lo dijimos aquí, insisto en 2015, 2016, 2017 y 2018. Con la excusa, con el pretexto de crisis humanitaria se pretende una intervención en mi país.

Desde Estados Unidos, el señor Pence, señor Trump dicen que no descartan una intervención militar, están violando la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, artículo 2, numeral 4. Este Consejo y las instituciones de las Naciones Unidas tienen que alzar la voz. Lo han dicho no hace un año, lo han dicho hace dos días.

El pasado sábado hubo una agresión contra mi país desde territorio colombiano. Señores que dirigen este digno Consejo, Venezuela está dispuesta a trabajar con Naciones Unidas para recibir toda la asistencia humanitaria y asistencia técnica humanitaria y lo venimos haciendo con distintas agencias de Naciones Unidas, pero por la fuerza no.

¿O es que acaso no recordamos en América Latina lo que ocurrió en Nicaragua? ¿O es que no recordamos la supuesta "crisis humanitaria"

de 1965 en República Dominicana? Detrás de cuatro cajas de medicamentos, de seis cajas de comida y de unas enfermeras y médicos, entraron ocho mil marines estadounidenses que derrocaron el gobierno del presidente Juan Bosch.

La historia de América Latina es muy rica, como para confundirnos en este momento histórico. El Gobierno del presidente Maduro ha apostado por el diálogo y sin embargo, siempre se culpa al Gobierno del presidente Maduro. Estamos esperando que la oposición política venezolana se sienta a dialogar, pero no lo hacen porque tienen instrucciones.

Solo quería brevemente ilustrar, por ejemplo, como el pasado sábado estos facinerosos en territorio colombiano, dicen que venezolanos y colombianos en territorio colombiano, agredieron a nuestra fuerza pública, hay heridos, militares, policías venezolanos por centenares.

Utilizaron el emblema de la Cruz Roja Internacional sin autorización ninguna, esto lo denunció la Cruz Roja Internacional y su comité. O cómo quemaron la "ayuda humanitaria" con bombas molotov. Y dijeron que eran las bombas lacrimógenas del gobierno del presidente Nicolás Maduro, cuando lo que hizo nuestra Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana fue sencillamente actuar con proporcionalidad, con prudencia y con la fuerza por métodos progresivos para evitar una tragedia ese día, porque la necropolítica de Estados Unidos pretendía que hubiese muertos para que pudiesen entonces acusar al régimen y acusar a presidente Maduro.

Aquí está Mike Pence, "todas las opciones están sobre la mesa, no descartamos una intervención militar".

Aquí está John Bolton, "los militares venezolanos tienen que revelarse contra Maduro o habrá más sanciones y más aislamiento".

Aquí está Marco Rubio, miren esta foto, les pido que vean esta foto. Después de tuitear 40 veces contra el gobierno de Venezuela, el señor Marco Rubio aquí pone fotos del expresidente general Muamar Al Kadafi y como fue asesinado. Esto es un mensaje, esto es una amenaza de muerte contra un presidente, contra un Jefe de Estado ¿quién hace algo desde Naciones Unidas para impedirlo?

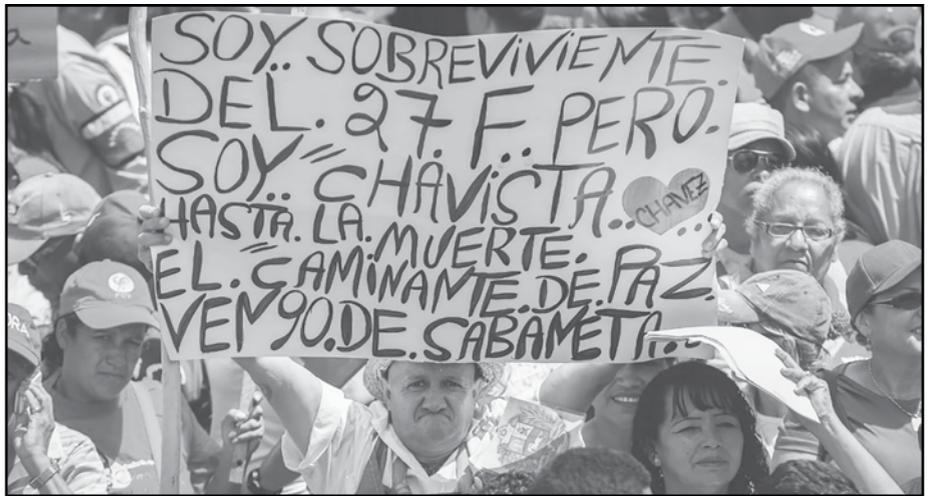
Aquí está incluso el señor diputado Juan Guaidó, quien se autoproclamó en una plaza pública supuestamente presidente de Venezuela, y dice el sábado que “los acontecimientos de hoy me obligan a tomar una decisión, plantear a la comunidad internacional de manera formal que debemos tener abiertas todas las opciones para lograr la liberación de esta Patria que lucha y seguirá luchando”. ¿Qué está diciendo allí? -queremos que Estados Unidos invadan militarmente a Venezuela- y esto no puede ser aceptado por las Naciones Unidas y ninguna de sus instancias.

Nosotros queremos finalmente, ya que sabemos que el tiempo es valioso, reafirmar la invitación que el pasado noviembre le hizo el presidente Nicolás Maduro a la Alta Comisionada para los Derechos Humanos, la señora Michelle Bachelet para que visite Venezuela. Estamos próximos a recibir su avanzada para que vengan a Venezuela y con absoluta libertad puedan ellos presenciar, ver la realidad de Venezuela y los efectos del bloqueo, de las sanciones y pueda luego la Alta Comisionada, Bachelet visitar nuestro país. Como también el año pasado fuimos testigos del informe del Experto Relator Especial para el Orden Democrático y Equitativo, donde fue muy claro sobre los efectos de las sanciones, e incluso sugirió que Venezuela podía llevar a Estados Unidos ante la corte Penal Internacional por los efectos nocivos del bloqueo en Venezuela.

Pero también, el señor experto, Idris Jazairi, ha dicho que “las sanciones que tienen el efecto de conducir a la inanición y escasez médica, no son respuesta a la situación de Venezuela”. El experto también dijo que “me preocupa especialmente escuchar informes de que estas sanciones están dirigidas a cambiar el gobierno de Venezuela. La conversión, ya sea militar o económica nunca debe usarse para buscar un cambio de gobierno en un Estado soberano. El uso de sanciones por parte de poderes

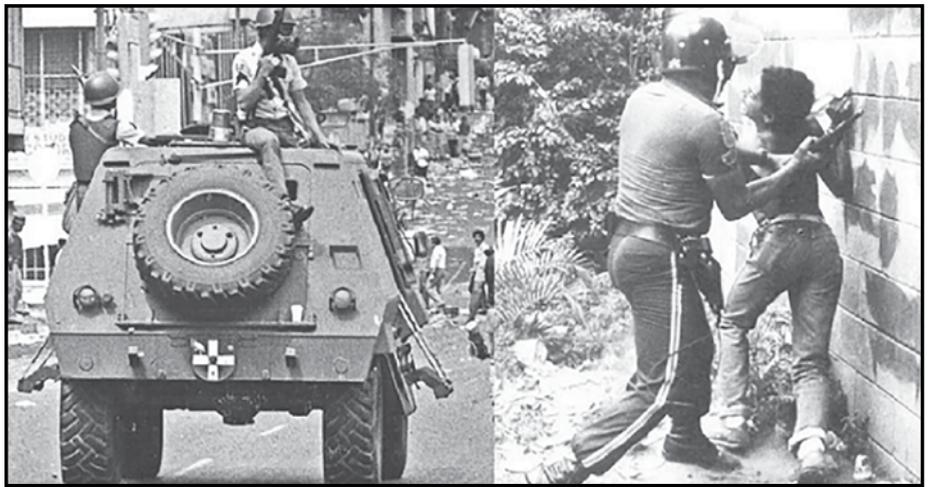


Presidente de EEUU, Donald Trump



Chavista y sobreviviente del Caracazo, en el aniversario de 30 años del Caracazo.

Fotos desde el Caracazo. 27 de febrero, 1989



externos para derrocar un gobierno electo está en violación de todas las normas del Derecho Internacional”, por eso volvemos a hacer la denuncia y volvemos a plantear el camino del diálogo. El diálogo con Estados Unidos. Sí ¿por qué no? Entre el presidente Nicolás Maduro y el presidente Donald Trump, que se reúnan, ahí están las diferencias, trabajemos en las coincidencias entonces y el diálogo entre los venezolanos y las venezolanas.

Ayer le demandamos en una reunión del Consejo de Seguridad que convocó Estados Unidos para habla el caso de Venezuela, le demandamos a la delegación de Estados Unidos, simplemente, decir que “ellos respaldaban la Carta de las Naciones Unidas en el artículo 2.4 y que ellos no están a favor del uso de la fuerza ni la amenaza contra Venezuela”. Y no fueron capaces de hacerlo, porque no respetan la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, porque no respetan el Derecho Internacional. Ellos se salieron del Consejo, pero no entendemos ni por qué son miembros de las Naciones Unidas. Es allí donde tenemos que actuar, se ha conformado un grupo de países, 60 delegaciones en la última reunión para proteger la paz y el Derecho Internacional.

Ahí hay países de los cinco continentes y se ha conformado, no nada más para proteger a Venezuela, sino a cualquier pueblo del mundo que sea amenazado, especialmente, con la fuerza militar por los grandes poderes de este mundo.

Creemos que Naciones Unidas puede hacer mucho por acercar también a las partes en Venezuela. Creemos que tiene que denunciar la agresión contra Venezuela y que tenemos que parar esta guerra. Yo espero no tener que venir el año que viene a hablar aquí de las víctimas de una guerra contra mi país, de la sangre que haya corrido de venezolanos, de la sangre que haya corrido de marines estadounidenses en Venezuela, porque Venezuela sabría resistir, pero es lo último que queremos para nuestro país.

Haciendo esta denuncia, claramente agradezco mucho la atención y en homenaje a las víctimas tres mil, cuatro mil, cinco mil víctimas de hace 30 años en mi país. Les extiendo un abrazo del pueblo Bolivariano de Venezuela. Muchas gracias.

VANCOUVER STANDS WITH VENEZUELA: U.S./CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!

By Janine Solanki

Each day, cruel and illegal sanctions against the people of Venezuela by the U.S., Canada, EU and Switzerland cost the government of Venezuela more than \$30 million. At the same time, they severely limit Venezuela's access to imported food, medicines, medical equipment and basic goods. Since March 8, the devastating impact of these sanctions on the people of Venezuela has been amplified by sabotage against Venezuela's electrical grid.

While the people of Venezuela are



faced with this brutal assault, the U.S. government continues to make the ridiculous statement that Venezuela is an "extraordinary and unusual threat to U.S. national security." Meanwhile, U.S. President Trump and his administration are repeating that "all options are on the table" when it comes to how the United States will go about overthrowing the democratically elected President of Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro.

In Vancouver, Canada, the Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign organizes a protest action and educational tabling and petitioning every month. The latest protest on March 12 brought together activists and supporters in front to the U.S. Consulate in downtown Vancouver. Protesters held up signs reading "No regime change in Venezuela!" and chanted in unison up to the top floors of the U.S. Consulate to demand that the U.S. end its policy of intervention and foreign meddling in Venezuela. In between rounds of



picketing, protesters gathered in front of a huge banner reading "U.S./Canada Hands Off Venezuela!" and heard from speakers over the megaphone.

From the U.S. Consulate, the protest moved up to the busy Vancouver Art Gallery public square, where passersby took notice of the giant Venezuelan flag and protest banners. An information table attracted many people who stopped to talk to organizers and find out about what is really happening in Venezuela. Teams of activists talked to people passing by and collected

signatures demanding that Canada end its sanctions against Venezuela. During a program of speakers, Azza Rojbi, an organizer with the FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign spoke about her first-hand experience in Venezuela, where she along with another FTT organizer recently travelled with an international youth brigade. A full report of their trip, and of the March 2 report back event, is published in the FTT volume 13 issue 3 newspaper.

Fire This Time Venezuela Solidarity Campaign organizers are protesting on the streets of Vancouver, but are also marching in Venezuela alongside the Venezuelan people. FTT organizers have participated in many delegations and conferences in Venezuela over the past few years, and currently, the FTT Venezuela Solidarity Campaign coordinator Alison Bodine is in Venezuela on a U.S./Canada delegation to assess the impacts of the U.S./Canada/EU sanctions against Venezuela. Check the next issue for Fire This Time for reports from her trip!

From Vancouver to Venezuela and around the world, supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution are continuing to mobilize in defense of Venezuela sovereignty and against imperialist intervention. To find out about upcoming Vancouver events visit www.firethistime.net or follow on Facebook or Twitter @FTT_np

Follow Janine on Twitter: @janinesolanki

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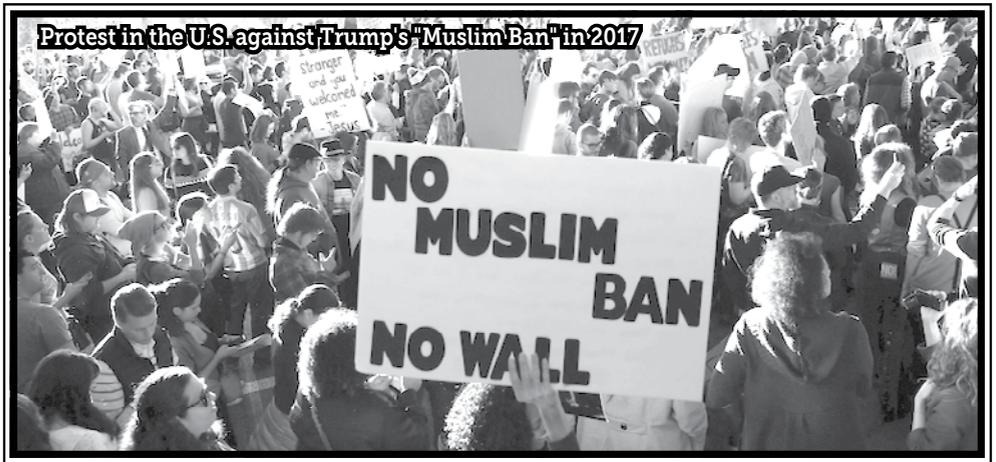
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Canada both continue to maintain. There is also the recent case of harassment experienced by Code Pink activists Medea Benjamin and Ann Wright who were questioned at the airport by the FBI upon their return from a peace delegation to Iran. They were "greeted by FBI agents who had a whole dossier on us of what we did, which mostly they got from our own website, our blogs. But they also had a packet of information for us about the sanctions on Iran, the U.S. government policies towards Iran, the issue about registering as a foreign agent, indictment of Iranian groups to scare us away from talking to them," as reported to Real News.

These exclusions constitute a slippery slope towards limiting our democratic rights to organize and express political views peacefully. In 2014, the New York Times reported that "A past arrest or conviction — even a public admission of illegal activity — can be grounds for inadmissibility. So can political activism or the impression that a traveller is visiting on business without obtaining a work visa."

From the "Muslim ban" and the brutal crackdown on refugees and asylum seekers attempting to enter the United States, to continuous targeting of people at the borders due to their skin colour, religion or country of origin, both the U.S. and Canada's borders are increasingly becoming zones free of respect for human and democratic rights or international law.



Protest in the U.S. against Trump's "Muslim Ban" in 2017

As the U.S. government ramps up its war against the people of Venezuela, our united actions across the U.S. and Canada border, such as rallies and conferences, are more important than ever before. When Arnold August was refused entry into the United States, it was an attack against the human and democratic right to express dissenting views, organize and gather in opposition to the United States sanctions and war against Venezuela, and to share reports on what is happening in Venezuela today.

When it comes to how to support Arnold August following his political targeting at the U.S. border — he had a clear response: "I would say that the most important thing is not to support me, but rather to support the Bolivarian revolution, support the cause of Venezuela's right to self-determination."

With regard to August's commitment to continue supporting Venezuela against U.S. war, he said, "Of course, I will continue to write on Venezuela. In fact, I would say that I am even more determined to tell the truth about Venezuela, to support the Bolivarian revolution, to support Cuba."

The practice by the US and Canadian governments of refusing entry of those who express dissent from official policy erodes our democratic rights both at and beyond the border. By reducing

the parameters of acceptable debate, this practice of excluding other points of view poses a serious curtailment of free speech and assembly not just for activists, but for everyone engaged in debate on the most urgent issues of our day.

Published first on Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA) website: www.coha.org

Follow Arnold August on Twitter: @Arnold_August

Follow Alison on Twitter: @Alisoncolette



Activists are arrested at a protest against Trump immigration policies near the U.S.-Mexico border fence. Dec. 10, 2018

Battle of Ideas Press

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By Alison Bodine

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

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PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE FROM VENEZUELA TO VANCOUVER DEMAND "U.S./CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!"

By Janine Solanki

"We seek a peaceful transition to power. But all options are on the table" said U.S. President Trump on February 18, 2019. These are not just words – the U.S. government is doing all they can, short of direct military intervention, to interfere in Venezuela's affairs and violate their sovereignty and self-determination. The escalation of the U.S. economic war on Venezuela, including harsh sanctions, and U.S. support for violent right-wing forces in Venezuela culminated in the U.S.-backed attempted coup in January 2019.

The history of the U.S. in Latin America is a long one. There have been plenty of U.S.-backed coups that have installed bloody dictators, funding and arming of right-wing groups and training of some of the regions most notorious dictators, torturers and assassins, especially through the infamous "School of the Americas". It is no surprise that today Trump's pick for the U.S. Special Representative for Venezuela is Elliott Abrams. Abrams has a long history of involvement in U.S. covert actions in Latin America that have cost many innocent lives.

The Venezuelan people are feeling the impacts of U.S. sanctions in their daily lives, and living under the threat of U.S. war. Here in Vancouver, Canada, the city's antiwar coalition Mobilization Against War and Occupation (MAWO) is demanding that the U.S. and their allies, including Canada, stop their sanctions, threats and meddling in Venezuela's affairs.

On March 15, MAWO organized its monthly antiwar rally and petition campaign in downtown Vancouver, with the main demand being "U.S. Hands Off Venezuela!" This action was also in coordination with the March 16 "Hands Off Venezuela" march in Washington, DC, organized by the ANSWER Coalition.

Picket signs and banners made the demands against U.S. sanctions and war on Venezuela

loud and clear, attracting the attention of many people passing by. Teams of activists collected signatures on a petition demanding that the government of Canada end its sanctions against Venezuela, raising many discussions with those who stopped to sign. An info table was also set up and was busy with people who stopped to collect literature, sign petitions and talk to organizers. Before the action came to a close, protesters gathered for a rally program. Alison Bodine, MAWO's chairperson, MC'd the rally and outlined why it is important to defend Venezuela against these imperialist threats and actions. Brian Sproule spoke on behalf of the CPC-ML condemning the U.S. actions against Venezuela. Azza Rojbi, an



executive committee member of MAWO and Mike Larson, a MAWO activist and organizer, also spoke to give their eye-witness accounts of what is really happening in Venezuela, as they had recently returned from a youth brigade and international conference in Venezuela.

MAWO organizers have also travelled across Canada and the U.S. to participate in antiwar actions, bridging solidarity and cooperation to build a stronger antiwar movement! On March 26, MAWO executive committee member Azza Rojbi travelled across to Ottawa, Canada to participate in a march and rally protesting four years of U.S./Canada-backed, Saudi-led war on Yemen. To read the report on this action please visit page 6. On March 30, six MAWO organizers marched in the Washington, DC mobilization to stop NATO and resist U.S./Canada attacks on Venezuela. To read more on this check out the report on page 21.

MAWO will continue to defend Venezuela against the U.S. and Canada's imperialist aggression, and demands that the sovereignty and self-determination of Venezuela be respected! For upcoming events and actions visit www.mawovancouver.org, follow on Facebook or on Twitter @MAWO_van

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1) PROTEST ACTION 4PM
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>> "U.S./CANADA HANDS OFF VENEZUELA!"

FRIDAY APRIL 19
2) PETITIONING & RALLY 5:30PM
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