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The world demands

NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!

By Sam Ordóñez

Feb. 17 — Nearly a month since the start of the U.S.-orchestrated coup attempt in Venezuela, the conflict remains primarily international because the coup plotters from the Venezuelan oligarchy and their U.S. masters have failed to gather forces within Venezuela capable of toppling the legitimate Bolivarian government.

Massive demonstrations have shown that the majority of the population continue to support Maduro. And despite repeated calls by the counterrevolutionary self-proclaimed government, the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) have not split or joined the traitors, beyond a handful of individuals.

The plotters are now openly inviting the U.S. military to intervene. The coup leaders have relied on the false claims of a humanitarian crisis, with the full cooperation of the U.S. and European news agencies, to justify the delivery of “humanitarian aid” as a way to open the gate to counterrevolution.

But international organizations have objected to this ploy. “Humanitarian action needs to be independent of political, military or other objectives,” U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York. (Reuters, Feb. 6)

The Red Cross, which recently expanded its programs with several Venezuelan hospitals, rejected the mission of the U.S. Agency for International Development. “We will not be participating in what is, for us, not humanitarian aid,” stated Colombia’s International Red Cross (ICRC) spokesperson Christoph Harnisch. (tinyurl.com/yxm6phtu)

The counterrevolutionaries around Juan Guaidó, the U.S. puppet who got no votes for president in last May’s elections, have focused their media campaigns on convincing FANB troops to defect and allow the aid through. Guaidó has announced that Feb. 23 is the deadline for the delivery of humanitarian aid; and he has gone as far as to openly call for the U.S. to use military force to deliver it.

Venezuela needs sanctions lifted, not phony aid

The total amount of aid being delivered from the U.S. is estimated at $25 million, and it is stated to be enough food and hygienic products to last several thousand people 10 days. In comparison, the latest sanctions announced by U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton targeting Venezuelan oil assets are estimated to cost working and poor Venezuelans $30 million a day.

The Bank of England has frozen $1.4 billion worth of Venezuelan gold, which the bank says it will release to Guaidó. Washington also froze $8 billion assets of Citgo, a subsidiary of the Venezuelan state oil company, under the latest sanctions. This means that in the past month, Washington and its allies have stolen $8.4 billion, or more than 350 times the promised “aid.”

The meager aid currently being gathered in the Colombian border town of Cúcuta is insignificant compared to the long-term damage that U.S. sanctions have already done to the Venezuelan economy since 2015.

Venezuela sits on the largest certified reserves of oil in the world. Due to the legacy of colonialism and U.S. imperialism, the Venezuelan economy relies heavily on the oil industry and imports many essential consumer products.

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Haitians rebel against their government, raise Venezuelan flag in solidarity.

Demonstrators in Philadelphia protest Trump’s Emergency Declaration.

‘Say her name’: Sandra Bland
ICE ramps up state terrorism in the South

By Rachel Uitz
Durham, N.C.

Feb. 16 — The Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agent had ramped up its presence in the South, especially in North Carolina, over the past couple weeks. ICE has begun its known terrorism tactics of separating families and attacking Black and Brown workers.

The raids started Feb. 5 at a workplace in a gun-manufacturing center in Sanford, where 27 workers were detained. They continued with arrests of parents attempting to drop off their children at a high school in Durham.

There have been reports of ICE raiding homes and knocking on doors in neighborhoods with Black and Brown residents, specifically in the Latinx communities. These neighborhoods are also heavily terrorized by a police presence.

Even when imm/migrants are doing everything “right,” they are punished and oppressed by the state. As of Feb. 12, ICE had detained more than 200 people across North Carolina. At least 60 of these arrests were collateral arrests of people who were not targeted, but were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time.

During a Feb. 8 press conference, ICE Atlanta Field Office Director Sean Gallagher admitted these raids are in direct response to several North Carolina sheriff’s department’s refusal to collaborate with federal immigration officials, specifically in reference to the controversial Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. This section allows state and local law enforcement department’s to voluntarily enter into a formal contract with ICE. Gallagher plans these raids to be the new normal.

To avoid run-ins with ICE, undocumented immigrants have resorted to drastic measures. These include not going to work, keeping children out of school and fleeing their homes. Many of those living in Durham and other parts of the triangle area — which includes Raleigh, Chapel Hill and Carrboro — are afraid to drive and have been resorting to ride-shares.

Community fights back

Although ICE is attempting to maintain its campaign of tyranny and manipulation, people have been fighting back. Since learning of the ICE raids happening across the state, activists have been coordinating rapid-response measures and demonstrations to keep communities safe. The most recent tactics are volunteer ICE verifications, ride-shares and “know-your-rights” trainings and canvassing.

Other groups have assembled vigils and actions in response to the raids. Several im/migrant-led organizations, such as Alerta Migratoria, Mi Jente, El Siembra and Comité de Acción Popular, have been polling together groups over social media to respond and verify any known or suspected ICE activity. These organizations’ goal is to prevent rumors that may ignite more fear among undocumented communities.

Another newly established online network is Radarsafe, which was created to inform communities about ICE raids, its whereabouts and how to identify ICE. Radarsafe also provides know-your-rights resources.

Even though ICE remains present, the community in the South is determined to keep their people safe. They demand an end to the attacks on undocumented workers, families and children in undocumented Latinx families. They call for the abolition of ICE, demand that local politicians and sheriffs end any collaboration with ICE and put people’s safety first.

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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repres-
sion, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppres-
sions, refusal to collaborate with federal immigration offi-
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No walls, no wars

By Teresa Gutierrez

On Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day in the U.S., the world once again witnessed a president with no heart. One might even argue with no soul. If this was Oz, it would be entertaining. But it’s the belly of the imperialist beast, so when President Donald Trump announced “no walls, no wars,” the reaction is ominous.

The workers and oppressed here and around the world are suffering. Migrants are agonizing at the southern border of the U.S. Yet on Feb. 14 Trump—calling up his signature campaign issue—declared that the national emergency that needed the most attention and funding was—the Wall at the southern border.

Sarah Sanders, Trump’s press secretary, stated the emergency was needed “to ensure the nation’s security and humanitarian crisis at the border.”

More, more, more money and lies for the Wall

At the Valentine’s Day press conference, Trump, being his usual demagogic self, used racism and lies as arguments for more money. He accused those in the press of attacking him due to his many “great” accomplishments. He claimed that the Wall will keep families together, citing accounts from theAngel Moms. His statement shows just how desperate and dishonest he has become.

Making white-supremacist slurs end undocumented workers in the U.S. are all gang members, rapists and killers, Trump invited the “Angel Moms” to the event to prove his lies. These are mothers whose children were allegedly killed by migrants. Everyone mourns the loss of a child. But when tragedies are weaponized and used as political pawns, they should be opposed. One of the “Angel Moms,” Monica Maloney from Massachusetts, lost her son in a motorcycle accident when he collided with a car driven by an undocumented worker. This is certainly no argument for racist pandering.

Congress has already approved a spending package of $1.36 billion for the Wall. However, this amount is short of the $5.7 billion that Trump demands.

Buoyed by his right-wing base, egged on by his evangelical friends on Fox News, Trump is determined to undermine even his own capitalist government to get his way.

By declaring a national emergency on the border, he aims to use executive action to put together $8 billion to build his Wall. This is certainly no argument for patriotic solidarity with the imperialists.

No walls, no wars

In a statement Senator Schumer released on “the crisis in Venezuela,” he repeatedly lied to justify U.S. intervention and to rally other countries to the attack, while claiming that this was to support the Venezuelan people “in their efforts to restore democracy.” Yet the administration of President Nicolas Maduro is a democratically elected government that, if allowed to live in peace, would continue to create conditions that prevent migration.

Not one more cent should be spent on the Wall. Democratic party allies were scheduled to rally nationally Feb. 18 under the call “No Wall, No Power Grab.” They have finally been moved to call it a racist wall.

Who will actually stop the Wall and the wars? The movement of the workers and oppressed must fight to dismantle the currrent militarized Wall and to end the war on migrants and all wars.

Trump’s ‘national emergency’ protested

By Wyatt Miller

Hundreds of people poured into the streets Feb. 16 to demonstrate against the latest escalation of President Trump’s anti-immigrant policies.

In a joint statement, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said that “a national emergency would be a lawless act, a gross abuse of the power of the presidency, and a desperate attempt to distract the American people from the failed policy of separating children from their parents.”

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Chicago charter teachers win historic strike victory!

Education workers, parents and students won the second-longest charte-ter teacher strike in U.S. history on Feb. 18. Teachers and paraprofessionals, represented by the Chicago Teachers Union, reached a tentative agreement with Chicago International Charter Schools that will give teachers the limited class sizes they demanded. In addition, their pay and that of counselors and social workers will rise to the level of their Chicago Public School colleagues. Both sides agreed to a tentative contract after nine days of picketing, which began Feb. 5. (Chicago Sun Times, Feb. 16)

After nine months of contract negotiations, around 200 teachers withheld their labor at four CICS unionized schools. Five independent “school management organi-zations” operate these campuses with taxpayer dollars. The education workers won by securing the support of parents and students, who joined them on picket lines. Politicians also tossed support; on Feb. 15, the Rev. Jesse Jackson urged parents and students to take their picket lines to the highways.

CTU leaders accused Civitas Education Partners, CICS’s management firm, of siphoning off $36 million in public money to line executives’ pockets while keeping teachers’ pay down. As CTU President Jesse Sharkey told the Sun-Times, “[We struck] to make sure funds go to our classrooms, not the three different layers of boardrooms this company uses to run its schools.”

Thanks to the strike, educators will see a pay raise of 35 percent by the last year of the 4-year contract and a reduction in class sizes to 28 students, capped at 30. Workers also won “a human language” to protect undocumented students from federal immigration agencies. CTU spokesperson Chris Geovanis said, “This is a huge step forward in terms of reforming the charter industry, which basically banks its own personal profits on the fact that it pays workers less to do more.” (CTU.org, Feb. 18)

Southern unionization holds the line

2018 marked a disappointing year for labor nationally, due to the Supreme Court’s setback in the Janus decision. (WW, June 27, July 3) But a Feb. A Louisana Weekly article shows why unions should have hope, given that union membership held ground in the South for the second straight year. (The South has traditionally had the lowest level of unionization in the U.S. due to its history of slavery and white supremacy, and the Taft-Hartley union-busting legislation of 1947.)

Chris Kromm’s article cited Bureau of Labor statistics showing the share of Southern workers belonging to unions barely declined between 2017-18, from 5 to 4.9 percent, while the number of organized workers there held steady at 6.1 percent. The number of organized Southern workers is 2.2 million, with another 546,000 workers in unions but not official members — due to Taft-Hartley “right to work” (for less) laws. This compares to the national average for union membership of 10.5 percent, which fell from 10.7 percent. (BLS.gov, Jan. 18) The author expects the gap to grow as a result of Janus.

Kromm reminds us of the successful struggle of the West Virginia teachers’ strike in February 2018: That struggle continues today. (WW, Feb. 12) The strike sparked large-scale protests in seven more states, including Kentucky, North Carolina and Virginia. Kromm stresses: The rest of the U.S. should take its cues from the South!

NYC nurses picket for better staffing ratios

The New York State Nurses Association held informational picket lines in front of 13 New York City hospitals on Feb. 13, six weeks after their 2015-18 contract expired on Dec. 31. The contract is with the New York City Hospital Alliance, a bargaining group that includes Montefiore, Mount Sinai and New York-Presbyterian, as well as three independent NYC hospitals. On top of wanting a raise, the nurses are demanding a safe staffing ratio and caseloads, which presently are “overwhelmingly high in both volume and acuity.” Statistics were compiled from state-mandated reports of “official counts of assign-ment” signed by over 20,000 nurses from January to December 2018. (nysna.org, Feb. 13) The union says this situation “challenge[s] the dedicated registered nurses who work tirelessly to protect and advocate for the patients, families and communities they serve.

The union has not yet held a strike vote. Meanwhile, the NYSNA-supported Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act, with a pro-posed nurse-to-patient ratio of 2 to 1 in intensive-care units, failed to pass the state Legislature in 2018. (Crain’s NY Business, Feb. 13) Stay tuned.

— Report by Sue Davis

Enough is enough!

Oakland teachers set Feb. 21 strike date

By Judy Greenspan
Oakland, Calif.

At a Feb. 16 press conference Oakland Education Association President Keith Brown said, “Enough is enough. Bargaining with our school district has not worked. The only option that Oakland teachers, paraprofessionals and students have left to win the schools Oakland students truly deserve and to take control of our district back from the billionaires is for the 3,000 OEA members to go on strike.” (ktvu.com, Feb. 16)

Brown announced that teachers will strike Feb. 21, following over two years of school. Teachers are bargaining for a fair contract support and services for students. Brown said, “Oakland teachers cannot afford to live in Oakland. One out of five leaves each year. Our students do not have adequate supports. Oakland Unified School District schools are not failing; OUSD is failing our schools. This is the biggest justice issue in a school district that is overwhelmingly students of color. We have been fighting for two years for justice.”

On Feb. 15, a three-member “neutral,” fact-finding commission released a report validating all the OEA contract demands for higher salaries, smaller class sizes and more nurses and counselors in the schools.

In the midst of contract negotiations, the OUSD came out with a five-year “blueprint” plan to close or consolidate 24 neighborhood schools. The first school closure announcement was Roots International Academy, a predominantly African-American public school. Despite a strong community-led campaign by Roots teachers, students and parents, the school board voted 6-1 to close Roots. The teachers’ union quickly responded by opposing all plans to close Oakland public schools.

OEA President Brown made it clear that the union is opposed to the unregulated growth of charter schools in the district at the expense of public schools. Thirty percent of all schools are currently charters. OUSD priorities are clearly not the students. OUSD priorities are billionaire donors who have funneled over one half a million dollars through Go Public Schools and the California Charter School Association into school board races in the last three years alone.

Brown explained that the Oakland school superintendent and school board are implementing a so-called “portfolio district” plan like ones forced upon poor communities in New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J. This model mandates public school closures in Black and Brown communities despite lack of evidence that closing schools saves money.

Several Oakland parents spoke at the press conference, calling upon parents to not send their children to school in support of the strike. They urged parents, community members and students to join the teachers on the picket line.

Union leader Brown reminded everyone that on Feb. 21, “We will strike with our parents. We will strike for our students. We will strike for education and racial justice. We will strike for the future of public education in Oakland.”

Greenspan is a middle school public school teacher and a member of the Oakland Education Association. Follow the struggle at bit.ly/OaklandEd or the Stand with Oakland Teachers Facebook Page: tinyurl.com/y6kzvmn9/.
Lessons of the Amazon struggle

Mass movement stops corporate behemoth

By John Steffin
New York

To the surprise of almost everyone—from the bourgeoisie to the forces opposing Amazon—the behemoth announced Feb. 14 that it would not be building its promised HQ2 in Long Island City, in the Queens borough of New York.

And why was everyone surprised? To put it into perspective: Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is the wealthiest man in the world, and his company currently exceeded $1 trillion in wealth. In this high-tech era of capitalism, Amazon is a major part of the system. Not only do nearly half of all e-commerce transactions go through Amazon, but it has also expanded into webhosting, data storage, facial recognition technology, and, now, with the acquisition of Whole Foods, brick-and-mortar retail.

In other words, a large segment of private capital depends on Amazon for its profitability. So do many branches of the bourgeois government, like the State Department, for their continued rule over the masses of people.

On top of this, New York politicians Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio bent over backwards to attract Amazon. Not only did they put together one of the largest packages of corporate welfare in history—worth nearly $3 billion in government handouts—but Cuomo even offered to change his name from “Andrew” to “Amazon” if it would get Amazon to set up shop here.

Most people assumed that if Amazon wanted something, it would get it. But that wasn’t the case.

Now, instead of preparing for what many expected would be a long campaign against one of the most powerful corporations in the world, people are saying, “Bye Jeff. It’s off to hell and back with you.”

How did we get here?

In its official statement on the decision, Amazon claims that 70 percent of New Yorkers had said they looked forward to the company’s arrival, but some pesky state and local politicians made it feel unwelcome. (tinyurl.com/yx6bydks)

This statement—setting aside the dubious origins of the 70 percent figure—reverses what actually happened. The politicians in question, who definitely had strong words for Amazon in recent City Council meetings and in the press, were pushed into saying these things by the mass grassroots struggle that was coalescing against Amazon.

Some of the politicians who became the biggest critics of the $3 billion handout to Amazon, including New York City Councilman Van Bramer and State Sen. Michael Gianaris, originally supported Amazon coming to New York.

They, along with most New York politicians, signed a welcome letter to Amazon in 2017, when Amazon kicked off its bidding war to see which city would offer the best deal for its new headquarters.

That these politicians reversed their positions, and did so quite strongly, is a testament to the mass movement, which had been building momentum for several years, but which exploded after news broke that Amazon had chosen Long Island City in Queens for HQ2.

Even before the bidding war for Amazon began in 2017, New York real estate developers and politicians had been trying to get the company to build an office along Brooklyn’s Sunset Park waterfront. Amazon has always been seen by the ruling class as the magic bullet for the New York economy, which to them just means further gentrification and more profits.

For example, getting Amazon into Sunset Park could, many politicians and real estate developers had hoped, give Amazon an incentive to fund the construction of the BQX, the “gentrification train,” as activists call the state-of-the-art streetcar system that would connect every streetcar system that would connect every environment, and union access to communities and work.

The next day Appelbaum commented: “I think the anger is about the way the whole process was done—that Amazon did it in a way that ignored the communities... ignored stakeholders, shrouded the whole process in secrecy... They do not listen to anybody’s concerns. They refuse to even discuss what these concerns are.” (tinyurl.com/y3ujmmtz)

With Amazon HQ2 no longer coming to New York, one question is: What will become of this mass movement? From Sunset Park to Long Island City, from higher paid tech workers to lower-paid workers in Amazon stores and warehouses, as well as the unemployed living in public housing who faced displacement, what will be the afterlife of the connections built through this struggle?

As Leon Trotsky wrote in his “History of the Russian Revolution,” it was the masses who led the February Revolution in 1917, guided by their own experience from past struggles. So the other question is: What did we learn from this experience?

What Amazon’s decision tells us about current conditions

Despite Amazon’s attempt to revise the story, people are discovering the power they have. The masses—not politicians—scared the wealthiest man in the world who owns the wealthiest corporation in the world out of town only three months after his company decided to build a headquarters here. The lesson is clear: The ruling class is not invincible.

What’s also clear, however, is that the ruling class realizes this power, too. In the last several months, we have seen them reverse again how the ruling class, not just in the U.S. but around the world, has conceded just before a major struggle breaks out.

In France this December, Macron offered a string of concessions before the unions went on strike in solidarity with the Yellow Vests. In January, Trump announced an end to the government shutdown just as unions began talking about a general strike. And then, in New York, we have seen Cuomo reverse the L train shutdown and Bezos reverse Amazon’s course since the start of 2019.

The system is more decayed than ever, and the material conditions are not in the ruling class’s favor. These concessions are buying time, but until when it’s not clear. The bourgeoisie is deeply divided over how to manage the overall system of capital accumulation, and as a result, the system is more anarchic than ever.

One thing they all agree on is that a major working-class revolt would be bad for all segments of the capitalist class. And so they are doing everything they can to prevent that, including offering concessions.

It’s still too soon to see what impact Amazon’s decision will have on the struggle. Will this movement dissolve, or will it find new targets?

Undoubtedly, Amazon’s war on our class will continue, not just wherever it decides to build HQ2. But even in New York City where Amazon still has 5,000 workers—like those facing horrible conditions in the Bronx and Staten Island fulfillment centers, Amazonians will continue to expand its presence there.

Given the number of issues raised during the Amazon struggle—from crumbling transit infrastructure to criminally underfunded public housing and Immigration and Customs Enforcement deportations—the mass movement may shift its focus elsewhere.

What’s important, however, is that we maintain our unity and continue the struggle. Today, let’s celebrate our victory.
The following is based on an email from the No War on Venezuela coalition issued Feb. 18. Global solidarity actions with Venezuela on Feb. 23 have taken increased urgency as the U.S. intensifies its military presence in the Caribbean and Colombia. The people of the world are saying, “No war on Venezuela! No war for oil!”

More than 70 actions are planned for Feb. 23 across the globe against U.S. military intervention in Venezuela (nowarvenezuela.org).

Seeing the growing list of actions and find one in your area or organize one of your own activity you’re planning in your city. Tell Trump: No war! No war!

U.S. is ramping up — so is the movement for Venezuela

The Cuban government has warned that the U.S. military is taking positions in strategic locations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The U.S. military is currently flying so-called “humanitarian aid” in military aircraft into Cucuta, Colombia, on the Venezuelan border. The aid is likely a ploy to cover smuggling arms into Venezuela and a tool to provoke confrontation to justify greater U.S. intervention — a strategy that mirrors many previous U.S. military aggressions in Latin America and across the world.

While the U.S. offers false Trojan Horses “aid,” the U.S. simultaneously levies sanctions that cost Venezuela $20 billion a year, while the Bank of England steals $1.2 billion in Venezuelan gold reserves. Government leaders and U.S. puppet Juan Guaidó added to the list of aid to be brought across the border Feb. 23, one month after his failed coup attempt. His announce- ment, as well as the U.S. military buildup, are warnings of imminent military action against Venezuela.

On Feb. 22, English billionaire Richard Branson is organ- izing a propaganda spectacle on the Colombia-Venezuela border, “Venezuela Live Aid,” as a cover for war. This mega-media event will push the U.S. imperialist lie that the Venezuelan people need and want U.S. intervention.

U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton has admit- ted what U.S. intervention is really about: “It will make a big difference to the United States economically if we could have American oil companies invest in and produce the oil capabilities in Venezuela.” (tinyurl.com/y8jxqchq)

Just as with the invasion of Iraq, this is U.S. intervention for profits. Venezuela belongs to the Venezuelan people, not U.S. oil companies! Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump has announced a declaration of a “national emergency” to move billions in funds and even more U.S. troops to the U.S./Mexico border to build the racist border wall. U.S. Marines have also recently been deployed to Haiti to repress a growing uprising by the Haitian people.

Global call for actions for Venezuela on Feb. 23

Over 200 organizations and thousands of individuals from around the world have endorsed the call for actions on Feb. 23. Actions have been announced in a growing number of U.S. and Canadian cities, as well as Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, India, Iran, Italy, Mexico, Scotland and many other countries.

The actions on Feb. 23 are part of an international move- ment to shut down U.S. imperialism and the destruction it has brought to people around the world.

We say: No U.S. troops on the border with Mexico, in Haiti or Venezuela! No wall, no war! No war for oil! All out Feb. 23 for Venezuela!

Many new resources for Feb. 23 have been added to Nowarvenezuela.org, including large posters with room for you to add your local event, a leaflet on the impact of sanctions on Venezuela produced by the Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network, a fact sheet on Venezuela and more.

We will be adding placards and other materials, so check the Resource page for regular updates.

What you can do!

Every action during the weekend of Feb. 23 — no matter the size or scale — will have an impact. Consider a smaller- scale action to raise awareness:

• Read the call and add your name or organization as an endorser at NoWarOnVenezuela.org.
• Link up with a few like-minded allies to print our fact sheets on Venezuela and pass them out in public places, such as a mall or public transit stop.
• Consider a banner-drop, a picket or holding signs and distributing fact sheets near a busy intersection or overpass. Get slogans or pre-made placards from our Resource page.
• Wear red with your friends and take a photo while holding pro-Venezuela messages and tag the photo on social media as #HandsOffVenezuela or #Feb23.
• Picket your local gas station with messages that con- voy: NOT ANOTHER WAR FOR OIL!
• Screen “Venezuela: La lucha sigue:” “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” or other films that tell the truth about the Bolivarian Revolution at a public space or in your home. Invite like-minded activists to link up and agree to plan the next day of action in support of Venezuela.

Social media actions

• Make sure to post pictures of the actions you hold on Feb. 23 on social media with #HandsOffVenezuela and #Feb23, and send them to info@nowarvene- zuela.org.
• Use our Facebook page to link up with like-minded allies, post a message on Twitter, tag our account or send an email to our international organizers. We will be glad to assist you in planning an action in your area and connecting with others in your area.

Please consider making a donation to support the orga- nizing for the Feb. 23 global day of action: No War on Venezuela! Every mobilization has many hidden costs for websites, social media, signs, banners, printing, producing materials and more. Click here! tinyurl.com/yywdyt6j. Help us keep mobilizing against U.S. war: No war on Venezuela! ♦

By Deirdre Griswold

This month marks the 30th anniversary of the “Caracazo” — a spontaneous uprising of the poor in Caracas, Venezuela, which lasted for days and had a tremendous impact on all layers of society.

In February 1989, Caracas was a modern city of high-rise apartment buildings and well-stocked stores, which catered to an affluent upper class who enjoyed the fruits of Venezuela’s oil wealth. They were cosmopolitan and could cater to an affluent upper class who enjoyed the fruits of Venezuela’s oil wealth. They were cosmopolitan and could afford to see the world. To American and European tourists and oil functionaries, Caracas was a delightful place, close to the Caribbean Sea but cooled by its 3,000-foot elevation in the mountains.

But tucked in and around the capital were impoverished neighborhoods where hungry people barely eked out an existence from day to day.

Many low-paid workers, priced out of the city, lived in surrounding areas and relied on buses to get to their jobs. Others lived inside the city, but were too poor to enjoy any of the benefits of urban life.

Then the government announced it would raise bus fares. Hunger brought people to boiling point

That was the last straw. While the wealthy could zip around in their high-end imported cars, those living on the edge had to choose between food and getting to work. The fare increase lead to an outbreak of fury. Hungry people of all ages broke into stores and took whatever they needed or could drag home. At first it was food, but as the rebellion broadened, the stores were emptied of everything that could be carried away.

The Caracazo, or “Caracas smash,” revealed the deep chasm between the social classes in Venezuela and showed — as the government mobilized the police and then the military to put down the rebellion — that these bodies of armed men existed to protect the property of the rich and put down any challenges to the status quo.

Venezuela has the largest oil reserves in the world. The Rockefeller empire, at that time called Standard Oil, began exploiting them in 1921. The Venezuelan govern- ment nationalized this valuable resource in 1976, supposedly for the benefit of the people. But at that time little changed for the hungry poor in Caracas.

U.S. oil companies suck Venezuela’s wealth

By the early 1990s, changes in the nationalization law had allowed U.S. companies like ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil (originally Standard Oil) to regain effective control of Venezuela’s oil reserves. But even before the law was changed, the Caracazo had shown that this great wealth was benefiting only the few and not the many.

At the time of the Caracazo, Hugo Chávez was an officer in the Venezuelan army. Born into a working-class family, he sympathized with the plight of the workers and poor.

He and a number of fellow soldiers had formed a secret union leader Nicolás Maduro.

56 percent of the vote. He continued to be re-elected until 2018 when he was succeeded by former bus driver and union leader Nicolás Maduro. Today, after years of attempting to drown the Bolivarian Revolution through massive sanctions and direct sabo- tage, the U.S. imperialists, who have fattened for almost a century of Venezuela’s oil, are trying to carry out a right- wing coup that would turn back the clock to the days of total rule by a hated U.S.-backed oligarchy. And the hypocritical imperialists claim they are doing it to end hunger.

The Caracazo of 1989 signaled to them that the masses were ready to rebel, and they must either try to take power or surrender — but on the condition he be allowed to address his people in their homes.

What you can do!

Every action during the weekend of Feb. 23 — no matter the size or scale — will have an impact. Consider a smaller-scale action to raise awareness:

• Read the call and add your name or organization as an endorser at NoWarOnVenezuela.org.
• Link up with a few like-minded allies to print our fact sheets on Venezuela and pass them out in public places, such as a mall or public transit stop.
• Consider a banner-drop, a picket or holding signs and distributing fact sheets near a busy intersection or overpass. Get slogans or pre-made placards from our Resource page.
• Wear red with your friends and take a photo while holding pro-Venezuela messages and tag the photo on social media as #HandsOffVenezuela or #Feb23.
• Picket your local gas station with messages that convey: NOT ANOTHER WAR FOR OIL!
• Screen “Venezuela: La lucha sigue:” “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised” or other films that tell the truth about the Bolivarian Revolution at a public space or in your home. Invite like-minded activists to link up and agree to plan the next day of action in support of Venezuela.

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Please consider making a donation to support the organizing for the Feb. 23 global day of action: No War on Venezuela! Every mobilization has many hidden costs for websites, social media, signs, banners, printing, producing materials and more. Click here! tinyurl.com/yywdyt6j. Help us keep mobilizing against U.S. war: No war on Venezuela! ♦
The Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Cuba condemns the escalation of pressures and actions by the U.S. government in preparation for a military adventure under the guise of a “humanitarian intervention” in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and calls on the international community to mobilize in order to prevent its being carried out.

Between Feb. 6 and 10 of 2019, several military transport aircraft flew to the Rafael Miranda Airport in Puerto Rico, the San Isidro Air Base in the Dominican Republic, and other strategically located Caribbean islands, most certainly without the knowledge of the governments of those nations. These flights took off from U.S. military facilities where Special Operations troops are stationed, and in coordination with the U.S. government. These units have been used for covert operations, even against leaders of other countries.

Media and political circles—including within the U.S.—have revealed that extremist figures of the government with a long history of actions and slander aimed at diverting billions of dollars to build military facilities where Special Operations units have been used for covert operations, even against leaders of other countries. These units have been used for covert operations, even against leaders of other countries.

The number of empty homes in the U.S. continues to rise, with more than 6 million people reported living in poverty in the U.S. and the Caribbean, which will damage the world economy. The U.S. government has intensified its international political and media campaign, and strengthened unilateral economic coercive measures against Venezuela, among them the freezing of Venezuelan funds in third countries’ banks, worth billions of dollars, and the theft of this sister nation’s oil revenue, causing serious humanitarian damage and harsh deprivation to its people.

In addition to this cruel and unjustifiable plunder, the U.S. intends to fabricate a humanitarian pretext in order to launch a military attack on Venezuela and, by resorting to international intervention, dominates, and force, is seeking to introduce into this sovereign nation’s territory alleged “humanitarian aid”—which is one thousand times inferior compared to the economic damages provoked by the siege imposed by Washington. U.S. and self-proclaimed “president” shamelessly announced his disposition to call for a U.S. military intervention under the pretext of receiving the aforementioned humanitarian aid, which has described the sovereign and honorable rejection of that maneuver as a crime against humanity.

U.S. officials have been arrogantly and blatantly reminding us all, day after day, that when it comes to Venezuela, “all options are on the table, including military action.” In the process of fabricating pretexts, the U.S. government has resorted to deception and slanders, presenting a draft resolution at the U.N. Security Council which cynically and hypocritically expresses “deep concern” for human rights and the humanitarian situation and what it is alleged to be recent attempts to block the delivery of humanitarian aid, the millions of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, the extensive use of force against peaceful protesters, the breakdown of regional peace and security in Venezuela, and then calls for taking the “necessary steps.”

It is obvious that the U.S. is paving the way to forcibly establish a humanitarian corridor under international supervision, invoking the obligation to protect civilians and take all “necessary steps.” It is worth recalling that similar behaviors and pretexts were used by the U.S. during the prelude to the wars it launched against Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya, which resulted in tremendous human losses and caused enormous suffering.

The U.S. government attempts to remove the biggest obstacle—the Bolivarian and Chavista Revolution—to imperialist domination of Our America and deprive the Venezuelan people of the largest certified oil reserves on the planet and numerous strategic natural resources. It is impossible to forget the sad and painful history of U.S. military interventions perpetrated more than once in Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Honduras, and, most recently, Grenada and Panama. As Army General Rafael Castro Ruz warned on July 14, 2017: “The aggression and coup violence against Venezuela harm all of Our America and only benefit the interests of those set on dividing us in order to exercise their control over our peoples, unconcerned about causing conflicts of inescapable consequences in this region, like those we are seeing in different parts of the world.”

History will severely judge a new imperialist military intervention in the region and the complicity of those who might irresponsibly support it.

What is at stake today in Venezuela is the sovereignty and dignity of Latin America and the Caribbean and the peoples of the South. Equally at stake is the survival of the U.N., the Charter, and the U.N. Charter. What is being defined today is whether the legitimacy of a government emanates from the express and sovereign will of its people, or from the recognition of foreign powers.

The Revolutionary Government calls for an international mobilization in defense of peace in Venezuela and the region, based on the principles established in the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, which was adopted by heads of state and government of CELAC [Community of Latin American and Caribbean States] in 2014.

It likewise welcomes and supports the Montevideo Mechanism, an initiative promoted by Mexico, Uruguay, the Commonwealth of CARICOM, and Bolivia, which seeks to preserve peace in Venezuela based on the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states, legal equality of states, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as stated in its recent declaration.

It welcomes the positive consideration given to this initiative by President Maduro Moros and the international community, and expresses its concern given the U.S. government’s categorical rejection of the dialogue initiatives promoted by several countries, including this one.

The Revolutionary Government reiterates its firm and unwavering solidarity with Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros, the Bolivarian Chavista Revolution, and the civic and military unity of its people, and calls upon all peoples and governments of the world to defend peace and mount a joint opposition to this new imperialist military intervention in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will damage the independence, sovereignty, and interests of all peoples, from the Rio Bravo to Patagonia.

Havana, Feb. 12, 2019

The world demands NO WAR ON VENEZUELA!

Continued from page 1

While the Bolivarian Revolution has made great strides in food autonomy and development, the nation’s economy still needs to import certain products.

Venezuela, Haiti and Palestine

At the same time as Washington calls for this delivery to Venezuela, the people of Haiti have been in open revolt against a government that is collapsing when it is twice kidnapped and deceased President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The corporate media in the U.S. have barely covered the mass revolts in Haiti, and the U.S. military, including the 82nd Airborne and army shot dead at least seven protesters as of Feb. 16.

The current situation in Haiti is directly linked to the Venezuelan crisis. A major issue in Haiti has been the theft of funds from PetroCaribe, an economic pact established by Venezuela to allow Caribbean nations to purchase discounted oil products. Venezuela’s Bolivarian government has also used its wealth from natural resources to offer material aid to the people of Palestine. In contrast, U.S. puppet Guaidó has announced that he is “rebelling with Israel” and allying to open an embassy there.

In a move that blatantly shows the Trump administration’s hatred of the Venezuelan people, it is reported that Elliott Abrams as special adviser on Venezuela, adding this war criminal to the gang that includes Bolton, Marco Rubio, Mike Pence and Mike Pompeo. Abrams was convicted on two counts of lying to Congress about his role in the Iran-Contra affair, which was part of a plot to overthrow the government of Nicaragua. He was later pardoned by George H.W. Bush. Abrams brought major U.S. backing to genocidal right-wing governments in Central American republics like El Salvador and Guatemala.

While preparing to deliver supposed “humanitarian aid” to Venezuela, the Trump administration continues to dismiss and undermine the UN’s Montevideo Mechanism most recently declaring a national emergency to divert billions of dollars to build a wall along the southern border. The wall is supposed to prevent migration from Central America, where people flee the results of the genocidal and war crimes backed by Abrams during the 1980s, as well as the more recent U.S.-engineered coup in Honduras in 2009.

Inside its borders, the United States continues the murder and mass incarceration of Black and Brown people. The U.S. ruling class wants to fix deadly levels of water contamination in Flint, Mich., and towns all across the Midwest. The number of empty homes in the U.S. is greater than the number of homeless people.

In light of this grisly humanitarian record, it is clear that the U.S. government has no authority or desire to truly improve the lives of Venezuelans. What the U.S. ruling class wants is plunder the natural resources of Latin American countries that are the fruit of the anti-imperialist liberation movements there.
The urgency of the ‘Great Debate’ about the European Union

By Remy Herrera

Herrera, a Marxist economist, a researcher at the Centre national de la Recherche scientifique (CNRS), who works at the Centre d’Économie de la Sorbonne. He comments on Germany’s refusal to return to the mainland a year later. The German government imposed a package of austerity measures, including a 50% cut in unemployment benefits. The package was widely criticized as unfair and as a violation of the rights of workers and the unemployed.

The extreme harshness of the anti-social policies carried out by the EU in this era is too well-known to require extensive discussion here. People have been subjected to violence for four decades, with deregulation and decline of the govern- ment’s participation in the economy, wage austerity, reduction of budgetary expenditures, dismantling of social protections, “flexibility” in the labor market, job precariousness and unemployment, facilitation of capital transfers and more.

The people denied a voice

As if the implementation of such neo-liberal programs in the name of European integration were not enough, all the steps toward the creation of a European Union have been carried out in ways that have ensured that the consolidation of the European Union’s Constitution.

For this reason—and because of congenital Atlanticism (special relations with the United States—WW)—Britain has chosen to remain outside the eurozone and has recently reactivated, despite intense internal tensions, the jurisdic- tion of its national sovereignty. It is for this same reason that all the peoples of Europe, including Germans, are con- demned to neoliberal purgatory.

To say that Macron disappointed the French people is an understatement. Perhaps only Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Peter Altmaier, her minister of economic affairs, showed magnanimity. They need Macron if they hope to save what can still be salvaged from the European project.

Unfortunately for Macron, the police are still with him, although who knows for how long. The police are silencing protesters with batons, tear gas, high-pres- sure water jets and flash balls! The rebellion has resulted in more than 2,000 wounded, including over 100 people maimed and disfigured. Eighteen have lost an eye, four a hand. Some 6,475 have been arrested and 9,339 detained in police custody. There were more than 1,000 convictions from Nov. 17 to Jan. 7. This is the France of Kinglet Macron!

To say that Macron disappointed the French people is an understatement. Perhaps only Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and Peter Altmaier, her minister of economic affairs, showed magnanimity. They need Macron if they hope to save what can still be salvaged from the European project. Others showed less pity and attacked someone who took himself for a monarch. Jens Weismann, Bundesbank president, criticized the French government for its budgetary slippages and the concessions he has allegedly granted to the Yellow Vests. But were these concessions real? A recent poll showed that 70% of the French gave almost nothing to the protesters.

The German media have spoken on the basis of their fear that the supposedly overly generous French social state should come to its senses and reduce the minimum wage, pensions and unemployment benefits. Bild and other newspapers stress that it is not possible to “work less and earn more.” Die Welt’s columns say that France has become a “risk factor.”

It is in this unique context that the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen has just been signed in January 2019. This was done to make us believe that European integration—traumatized by the shock of Brexit and abused by worrisome centrifugal forces in Italy, Poland and Hungary—was continuing to move for- ward. The grandeur of Macron’s vision contemplates the possible salvation of the European ideal, which, for the more com- plete submission of France to Germany.

New Deutschmark: The euro

Disgusting! To tell the truth that all capitalists know will not be offensive to either Germany or the Germans: The neoliberal EU is, above all, a space for the exercise of German oligopolies’ hegemony, which, in order to assert the inter- ests of the national ruling classes, defends that Germany’s best interests.

For this reason—and because of con- genital Atlanticism (special relations with the United States—WW)—Britain has chosen to remain outside the eurozone and has recently reactivated, despite intense internal tensions, the jurisdic- tion of its national sovereignty. It is for this same reason that all the peoples of Europe, including Germans, are con- demned to neoliberal purgatory.

Yet in a peaceful and particularly outrage- ous denial of democracy, the ruling elites—then President Nicolas Sarkozy, supported by the high European authorities—put an end to all this. This affirmed France’s participation within the European Union’s Constitution.

This act of betrayal of the French people’s will was symbolically carried out on Feb. 4, 2008, at the Palace of Versailles. This is the France of Kinglet Macron!

The wall will be defended by Macron, by the “United, change is possible,” say Yellow Vests.

The termology usually adopted by the Brussels bureaucracy when speaking of governments that won’t listen to popular demands and don’t respect the verdict of the ballot box is to call them “authori- tarian” (if their regime is on the right) or “dictatorial” (if they judge it to be on the left). Following this pattern, it can be said that the EU mode of governance has been “authoritarian” since its origins.

The French government package was pre- sented to the public in a beautiful blue wrapping decorated with gold stars and tied up in fine-netted and fascist slogans. Its primary objective was nonetheless clear: To offer transnational corporations from partner countries exorbitant power and the heads of states—(or their parliaments), the heads of states and governments in the EU adopted the “Unique Law” in 1986.

The strikes were, as much on the people when they were led to believe the great fiction that a single currency could be cre- ated without a state power—or even that the state power would be “decentralized.” This is a basic mistake: that this Europe could bring together different econo- mies, cultures, could strengthen regional political institutions or promot- ing social harmonization, however desir- able that might be.

This “bad Europe,” inherently anti-democratic and anti-social, turned against its own peoples, and forced the peoples and the Eurozone’s member countries and the entire hierarchy of national laws and rights to submit to its merciless order. It is therefore quite logical that increasing this order has been openly and massively rejected.

But the Yellow Vests protest!

Some people on both sides of the Rhine River, especially on its western bank, dreamed for a while that President Macron would be the long-awaited leader who would finally succeed in reinvigorat- ing a now dusty and contested European project. Who could be better than a for- mer investment banker to breathe new life into ruling-class confidence and carry out their wishes?

But this was not to be! The French pres- ident’s pretty “federal rocket” took off from Toulouse/Sophonie in September 2017, but had to return to the mainland a year later to face boooing by the Yellow Vests. The “little Napoleon” of the “French startup na- tion” wanted to conquer “an Empire,” as his Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire said in an interview with the German daily Handelsblatt. Le Maire stated, “Europe must be an empire.”

Over 50 percent of Belgian workers are unionized, so when the unions went out on a 24-hour strike on the evening of Feb. 12, they shut the country down.

Over 50 percent of Belgian workers are unionized, so when the unions went out on a 24-hour strike on the evening of Feb. 12, they shut the country down.

Air traffic controllers struck, so air- planes had to fly around Belgian airspace. Some 30 ships in the port of Antwerp, among the busiest in Europe, had to wait to be unloaded. Buses and trains didn’t run; schools and day care centers didn’t open. Police replaced prison guards who walked out. Most supermarkets closed.

Factories closed. The country lost mil- lions of euros in canceled production. The strike coincided with a NATO
defense ministers’ meeting. Even the NATO officials were not exempt. They had to land in nearby countries and drive at a slow pace.

Robert Ventruneill, president of the General Federation of Belgian Labor, a trade union with about 1.5 million members, and a 15-minute interview on public radio: “What we want is to tell employers, whoever they are, that we’re going to throw up our hands until they create in their pockets. It’s time to give some of it back to the workers.”

If Belgian workers don’t get a raise, there could be more strikes, according to Ventruneill.
Haitian masses shake U.S.-backed regime

By G. Dunkel

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets for days beginning Feb. 7 in every major city of Haiti—Cap Haitien, Jeremie, Gonavès, Jacmel and the capital, Port-au-Prince. In a series of angry, mass demonstrations demanding President Jovenel Moïse resign.

Haitians want enough income to pay their rent, feed their families and send their kids to school. French TV reported people lining up to buy propane for their stoves, water to drink, gasoline for their generators and cars, and whatever they could scavenge from depleted supermarket shelves.

Protesters set up flaming barricades of tires and trash and burned fancy cars and government vehicles. Even after police fired at them, they kept returning to the streets; people would disperse and then regroup. The cops reported they killed seven people and injured dozens.

The protests did not let up until Feb. 16. Besides demanding Moïse resign, protesters want to know: “Where is the PetroCaribe money?” Beginning in 2005 under President Hugo Chávez, Venezuela financed an alliance that gave Caribbean and Latin America nations low-cost oil and loans for economic development. The PetroCaribe Alliance eventually spread to 17 countries.

Haiti joined in 2006—much to the displeasure of Washington—and after two years of back-and-forth struggle, the Haitians began to get some benefits. After the 2010 earthquake, ex-President Bill Clinton used his near-total control of the country’s financial resources to funnel billions into the rebuilding effort. This in turn gave the government a good excuse to stop paying entirely and end the PetroCaribe deal.

Washington’s financial enforcing, the International Monetary Fund, has solutions for Haiti regarding this loss of funding: austerity. When Moïse tried to double the price of fuel in July 2018, the reaction was so sharp and militant that he backed down almost completely after three days. The political and economic changes that losing PetroCaribe funding created led to the latest challenge to the U.S.-sanctioned Haitian regime.

The connection between Haiti and Venezuela is older and deeper than the PetroCaribe Fund. In 1999, the liberator of Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador, got money from a printing press when he took refuge in Haiti after being forced out of Venezuela in 1816. The electoral victory of then-President Hugo Chávez in 1990 was an inspiration to Hugo Chávez in his electoral campaign of 1990.

Some progressive forces in the streets of Haiti are not only raising the issue of “Kote kob PetroCaribe” but are also calling for solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution and saying Jovenel Moïse is Haiti’s Juan Guaidó. (For a video recorded in Creole, see tinyurl.com/yz349yhc.)

Haiti doesn’t have Venezuela’s oil reserves, but it does have a long history of resistance to Washington’s intrigues and attempts to control its destiny. Its dire situation shows what the U.S. has planned for Venezuela.

FRANCE

Yellow Vests movement battles repression

By G. Dunkel

For the 14th consecutive Saturday, tens of thousands of Yellow Vests marched throughout France on Feb. 16. The cops gave the number of marchers as 43,500, while the Yellow Vest movement claimed the figure was 104,070.

While the major focus of media attention was on Paris, there were also significant marches in Rouen, Lyons and Bordeaux, where the main slogan was “Death to the rich.” The cops broke up the march in Bordeaux with water cannons and tear gas grenades. (Le Monde, Feb. 16)

The French government, under highly unpopular President Emmanuel Macron—whose approval index has dipped as low as 24 percent—has been severely injured, they keep on protesting.

Legal and political reprisals

In legal reprisals, Éric Drouet, a truck driver and prominent member of the Yellow Vests, was recently convicted of organizing two demonstrations in January without “prior notification.” Under the state of emergency in force in France because of the threat of “terrorist attacks,” this charge carries major penalties. Drouet has thus far received only a month in prison, perhaps because of the ferocity of the protests. He has another trial set for June. (Le Huffington Post, Feb. 17)

Christophe Dettinger, an ex-champion boxer, was arrested when he kicked a cop during a demonstration in January and then punched another one, over his shield and through his face, mask down and out. Dettinger was sentenced to a year of prison, or by GLI-F4 grenades, which combine a loud bang (165 decibels), tear gas and a hard blast. From pictures on Google and Flickr, most of the injuries have been to eyes and limbs.

The intensity of feeling by Yellow Vest protesters is such that even after they have been severely injured, they keep on protesting.

In political reprisals, Christophe Castaner, a Yellow Vest member, on the far-fetched charge that he was planning a coup and organizing a paramilitary band. On Feb. 16, a well-known right-wing member of the French Academy, Alain Finkielkraut, got out of a Paris cab when it was stopped by the Yellow Vest march. Protesters recognized him and began calling him “a dirty Zionist.” Some cops who escort him out of the crowd said they heard an anti-Semitic epitaph, which, if uttered in a public place in France “with the intent to injure or defame someone,” carries a penalty of 12 years in prison and a €45,000 fine. However, Finkielkraut did not file a complaint.

Nevertheless, the whole bourgeois political establishment piled on, treating the incident as being essentially anti-Semitic. Those railing outrage included Emmanuel Macron, his Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Marine Le Pen, head of the Front National—whose roots are anti-Semitic and neo-Fascist—and every other right-wing party. It was a clear case of the French establishment working as hard as they could to take down the Yellow Vests.

Tens of thousands of people took to the streets for days beginning Feb. 7 in every major city of Haiti—Cap Haitien, Jeremie, Gonavès, Jacmel and the capital, Port-au-Prince. In a series of angry, mass demonstrations demanding President Jovenel Moïse resign.

Workers World makes a big deal of fighting racism in February 2019, Black History Month, means starting at the top of the political ladder and denouncing the openly racist, white supremacist in the White House. It means opposing and exposing his administration’s racist policies, like shutting down the government for 35 days, which put 800,000 government workers, many of whom are African Americans, under tremendous stress. In one case he demanded $8.5 billion to build a racist wall on the Mexican border.

Workers World makes a big deal of Black History Month because racism pervades every aspect of life in this country. Everything from fighting for living-wage jobs for all and macro-corporation to having affordable housing and fully-funded public schools is rooted in the centu-

ries-long struggle to end this vicious history of racism, rooted in slavery.

That’s why every month, not just Black History Month, the newspaper chronicles the struggles of African Americans to eradicate institutionalized, systemic racism. Case in point is our continuing coverage of the struggle to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The case has been in Philadelphia courts for hiding evidence about Abu-Jamal’s case that could lead to a new trial and eventually his freedom.

WW bases our weekly coverage of the Black struggle in the U.S., and in the African diaspora to throw off imperialist chains, on the principle of self-determi-
nation—that oppressed people have the right to fight to end all forms of inequality and injustice by any means necessary. If you appreciate our coverage, it’s time to join the Workers World Supporter Program established 42 years ago so readers could help us publish anti-racist, working-class truth and build campaigns needed to make revolutionary change leading to socialism.

For a donation of at least $75 a year—and more if you’re able—members receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five readers receive a year’s subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five

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Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

By Fred Goldstein

Goldstein uses Marx's laws of capitalist accumulation and the declining rate of profit to show why global capitalism has finally reached a tipping point. Employers have increased the productivity of labor to such an extent that as soon as the system starts up in a growth curve, production rapidly outstrips demand in the market and overproduction kicks in to block further growth. Then come stagnation, economic contraction, and mass unemployment.

Read about it at LowWageCapitalism.com Available at major online bookstores.
Elliott Abrams, the architect of Ronald Reagan’s “dirty war” in Central America, is an undisputed war criminal and blatant liar. In 1991 he pleaded guilty to two counts of withholding evidence to Congress about the notorious “Iran-contra affair.” Earlier, Abrams had dismissed as “communist propaganda” a factual report on the infamous El Mozote massacre in El Salvador, in which U.S.-backed paramilitaries had slaughtered over 800 people, including children as young as 2 years old. In 2002, as Bush Jr.’s special assistant, he orchestrated a failed coup attempt aimed at toppling the elected government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. These are just a few “achievements” of the man the ultra-right Heritage Foundation calls “a patriot and dedicated voice for repressed communities.” Thus it was hard not to jump up and cheer when newly elected Minnesota House Speaker and ultra-conservative Omar reminded Abrams, Trump’s recent appointee to again cheer when newly elected Minnesota voice for repressed communities.”

To continue with respect for the dignity of America Latina and the Caribbean and the peoples of the Sur. To decide also the supervision of the norms of the Derecho Internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Se define la legítima defensa, que daría cumplimiento a la voluntad expresa y soberana de su pueblo o del reconocimiento de potencias extranjeras. El plan de la movilización internacional en defensa de la paz en Venezuela y en la región, basado en los principios de la Proclama de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y el llamado de la Zona de Paz adoptada con la firma de los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno de la CELAC en 2014. Expressa su buena voluntad y apoya el Movimiento de Montevideo, iniciativa de México, Uruguay, la Mancomunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) y Bolivia, que busca preservar la paz en Venezuela, como dice su reciente Declaración, en los principios de no intervención en los asuntos internos, la igualdad jurídica de los Estados y la solución pacífica de controversias.

Saluda la favorável acogida a dicha iniciativa por parte del Presidente Maduro Moros y la comunidad internacional y expresa preocupación ante el rechazo categórico del Gobierno estadounidense a las iniciativas de diálogo promovidas por varios países, incluida esta. El Gobierno Revolucionario reitera su firme e invariable solidaridad con el Presidente Constitucional Nicolás Maduro Moros, la Revolución bolivariana y chavista y la unión cívico-militar de sus partidarios. Los pueblos de la región, de la que somos, presenciamos en diferentes lugares del mundo un avance.”

The history will judge severally a new intervention military imperialista in the region and the complicity of quienes irresponsablemente lo acompañan. Se decide hoy en Venezuela la soberanía y la dignidad de América Latina y el Caribe y de los pueblos del Sur. Se decide también la supervivencia de las normas del Derecho Internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas. Se define la legítima defensa, que daría cumplimiento a la voluntad expresa y soberana de su pueblo o del reconocimiento de potencias extranjeras. El plan de la movilización internacional en defensa de la paz en Venezuela y en la región, basado en los principios de la Proclama de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y el llamado de la Zona de Paz adoptada con la firma de los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno de la CELAC en 2014. Expressa su buena voluntad y apoya el Movimiento de Montevideo, iniciativa de México, Uruguay, la Mancomunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) y Bolivia, que busca preservar la paz en Venezuela, como dice su reciente Declaración, en los principios de no intervención en los asuntos internos, la igualdad jurídica de los Estados y la solución pacífica de controversias.

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A young Black activist’s appreciation of Malcolm X

By Makasi Motema

Feb. 21, 2019, is the 54th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X.

"Who told you to hate the color of your skin?" Malcolm’s words always cut like a knife. That’s because Malcolm X understood that the only way to defend the citadel of white supremacy which rules this country, Black Americans must first destroy the fortresses of anti-Blackness which occupy our own minds. "raised me right," I never could have conceived of such a line of argument. "Who told you to hate the color of your skin?" It was not Malcolm X’s perspective on self-worth. It was against passively submitting to beatings and attack dogs, not because he believed in violence, but because he believed in himself. He believed that he, along with every other Black person in the U.S., was a human being with dignity who did not deserve to be degraded by gangs of angry racists. Self-defense, then, is not an act of resistance against the other, but an affirmation of the self. The preservation of life is the preservation of the dignity and worth of that life. Suffering is only redemptive to those who are in need of redemption, and we need not be ashamed of the lash of inequality have no such need. Che Guevara said that the true revolutionary is guided by love. If that is so, Milton X’s message cannot be whitewashed. The white supremacist capital state cannot rehabilitate the image of Malcolm X because that image stands in inflexible opposition to racial and class oppression.

Malcolm X never compromised with the oppressor, and so he left nothing behind that could be appropriated and defanged. To me, Malcolm X is a reminder to never compromise in the face of that oppression. To always see the world as it is, and yet have the courage and the determination to make it how we believe it should be. As he said, "to make it plain."
Cuba: Urge detener la aventura militar imperialista contra Venezuela

El Gobierno Revolucionario de la República de Cuba denuncia la escalada de presiones y acciones del Gobierno de los Estados Unidos para preparar una aventura militar disfrazada de “intervención humanitaria” en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y llama a la comunidad internacional a movilizarse para impedir que se consuma. Entre el 8 y 10 de febrero de 2019, se han realizado vuelos de aviones de transporte militar hacia el Aeropuerto Rafael Miranda de Puerto Rico, la Base Aérea de San Isidro, en República Dominicana y hacia otras islas del Caribe estratégicamente ubicadas, seguramente sin conocimiento de los gobiernos de esas islas, incluso que se originaron en instalaciones militares estadounidenses desde las cuales operan unidades de Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales y de la Infantería de Marina que se utilizan para acciones encubiertas, incluso contra líderes de otros países. Muchos de esos blancos son norteamericanos, han revelado que figuran extremistas de ese gobierno, con una larga trayectoria de acciones y campañas dirigidas a provocar o alentar guerras, como el Asesor de Seguridad Nacional John Bolton, el Director del Hemisferio Occidental del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional, Mauricio Claver-Carone, con el que se realizó el intento de golpe de Estado en Venezuela mediante la ilegal autoproclamación de un presidente. Son ellos mismos los que, personalmente o a través del Departamento de Estado, vienen realizando presiones brutales contra numerosos gobiernos para forzar su apoyo al llamado arbitrario a nuevas elecciones presidenciales venezolanas, mientras promueven el reconocimiento al usurpador que apenas cuenta con 57 mil votos como parlamentario, frente a los más de 6 millones de venezolanos que el pasado mes de mayo eligieron al Presidente Constitucional. Tras la resistencia al golpe ofrecida por el pueblo bolivariano y chavista, demostrada en las masivas manifestaciones de apoyo al Presidente Maduro y en la realidad de las Fuerzas Armadas Nacional Bolivariana, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha intensificado su campaña política y mediática internacional y recrudece las medidas económicas coercitivas unilaterales contra Venezuela, entre las que puede citarse el bloqueo en bancos de terceros países de miles de millones de dólares pertenecientes a Venezuela y el robo de los ingresos de las ventas de petróleo de esa hermana nación, lo que está provocando graves daños humanitarios y duras privaciones a su pueblo. Junto a este cruel e injustificable desgaste del país, EE.UU. pretende fabricar un pretexto humanitario para iniciar una agresión militar contra Venezuela y se ha propuesto introducir en el territorio de esa nación soberana, mediante la intimidación, la presión y la fuerza, una supuesta ayuda humanitaria, que es en realidad priorizar a los daños económicos que provoca la política de cerco, impuesta desde Washington.

El usurpador y autopropagado “presidente” declaró desvergonzadamente su disposición a reclamar una intervención militar de Estados Unidos con el pretexto de recibir dicha “ayuda humanitaria”, y ha calificado el rechazo soberano y digno a esa maniobra como “un crimen de lesa humanidad”. Altos funcionarios estadounidenses recuerdan cada día, con arrogancia y desfachatez, que en relación con Venezuela, “todas las opciones están sobre la mesa, incluso una intervención militar.”

En el proceso de fabricación de pre-textos, el gobierno de Estados Unidos ha acuñado al engaño y la calumnia al presentar un proyecto de resolución en el Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas que, cinéfico e hipócritamente, expresa una grave preocupación por “la situación humanitaria y de derechos humanos, los intentos recientes de bloquear la prestación de ayuda humanitaria, la existencia de millones de migrantes y refugiados… el uso excesivo de la fuerza”.

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Pandilla de siete estadounidenses ataca Venezuela

Por John Catalinotto

A principios de la década de 1960, un grupo de altos funcionarios de la administración John Kennedy, conocidos como los “genios” por su presunto desempeño en la universidad, como oficiales militares durante la Guerra de Corea y el más brillante, un título que pretendía ser íntimamente conocido, como los genios sobreestiman la capacidad de los EUA, y que son incapaces de establecer en Cuba y Nicaragua. Nadie los llamaría los mejores o incluso contra líderes de otros países. Muchos de esos blancos son norteamericanos, han revelado que figuran extremistas de ese gobierno, con una larga trayectoria de acciones y campañas dirigidas a provocar o alentar guerras, como el Asesor de Seguridad Nacional John Bolton, el Director del Hemisferio Occidental del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional, Mauricio Claver-Carone, con el que se realizó el intento de golpe de Estado en Venezuela mediante la ilegal autoproclamación de un presidente. Son ellos mismos los que, personalmente o a través del Departamento de Estado, vienen realizando presiones brutales contra numerosos gobiernos para forzar su apoyo al llamado arbitrario a nuevas elecciones presidenciales venezolanas, mientras promueven el reconocimiento al usurpador que apenas cuenta con 57 mil votos como parlamentario, frente a los más de 6 millones de venezolanos que el pasado mes de mayo eligieron al Presidente Constitucional. Tras la resistencia al golpe ofrecida por el pueblo bolivariano y chavista, demostrada en las masivas manifestaciones de apoyo al Presidente Maduro y en la realidad de las Fuerzas Armadas Nacional Bolivariana, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha intensificado su campaña política y mediática internacional y recrudece las medidas económicas coercitivas unilaterales contra Venezuela, entre las que puede citarse el bloqueo en bancos de terceros países de miles de millones de dólares pertenecientes a Venezuela y el robo de los ingresos de las ventas de petróleo de esa hermana nación, lo que está provocando graves daños humanitarios y duras privaciones a su pueblo. Juan Guaidó para que anunciara la autoproclamación de un presidente. Los líderes del Partido Demócrata de Mariana. El record de Abrams data de San Isidro, en República Dominicana y hacia otras islas del Caribe estratégicamente ubicadas, seguramente sin conocimiento de los gobiernos de esas islas, incluso que se originaron en instalaciones militares estadounidenses desde las cuales operan unidades de Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales y de la Infantería de Marina que se utilizan para acciones encubiertas, incluso contra líderes de otros países. Muchos de esos blancos son norteamericanos, han revelado que figuran extremistas de ese gobierno, con una larga trayectoria de acciones y campañas dirigidas a provocar o alentar guerras, como el Asesor de Seguridad Nacional John Bolton, el Director del Hemisferio Occidental del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional, Mauricio Claver-Carone, con el que se realizó el intento de golpe de Estado en Venezuela mediante la ilegal autoproclamación de un presidente. Son ellos mismos los que, personalmente o a través del Departamento de Estado, vienen realizando presiones brutales contra numerosos gobiernos para forzar su apoyo al llamado arbitrario a nuevas elecciones presidenciales venezolanas, mientras promueven el reconocimiento al usurpador que apenas cuenta con 57 mil votos como parlamentario, frente a los más de 6 millones de venezolanos que el pasado mes de mayo eligieron al Presidente Constitucional. Tras la resistencia al golpe ofrecida por el pueblo bolivariano y chavista, demostrada en las masivas manifestaciones de apoyo al Presidente Maduro y en la realidad de las Fuerzas Armadas Nacional Bolivariana, el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos ha intensificado su campaña política y mediática internacional y recrudece las medidas económicas coercitivas unilaterales contra Venezuela, entre las que puede citarse el bloqueo en bancos de terceros países de miles de millones de dólares pertenecientes a Venezuela y el robo de los ingresos de las ventas de petróleo de esa hermana nación, lo que está provocando graves daños humanitarios y duras privaciones a su pueblo. Juan Guaidó para que anunciara la autoproclamación de un presidente. Los líderes del Partido Demócrata

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

¿Quién escucharía? ¿No es el supuesto Colegio Electoral fundamentalmente ilegítimo? ¡El Colegio Electoral debería ser abolido de inmediato! En una edición del 9 de septiembre de 2018 del New York Times, se reportó que funcionarios de Trump se comunicaron con oficiales militares venezolanos para apoyar un golpe de estado contra el presidente Maduro. Durante gran parte de los siglos XIX y XX, los EUA decidieron quién debería gobernar en América Latina, basándose en conflictos como la Doctrina Monroe, un pretexto para el imperialismo estadounidense. No nos equivocamos, Monroe está de vuelta… ¡Qué lástima!}

Comentario de Mumia Abu-Jamal

Venezuela y la legitimidad presidencial

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

El siguiente comentario, ligeramente editado, fue escrito por el prestigioso Mumia Abu-Jamal y publicado en Prison Radio.

Ahora el presidente de los Estados Unidos (Donald Trump) ha decidido que determinará quién es quién no es el líder legítimo de un país extranjero. Dijo que Nicolás Maduro, de Venezuela, era ilegítimo y apoyó al opositor de Maduro para el liderazgo nacional del país.

¿Qué pasaría si Maduro declarara que Trump, quien recibió unos 3 millones de votos en las elecciones, que no es suficiente, Hillary Clinton, era ilegítimo?

¿Quién escucharía? En realidad, Trump se sienta en la Casa Blanca solo por el artefacto de la era de la esclavitud conocido como el Colegio Electoral, una institución disecada para negar la democracia de millones de africanos y asegurar la hegemonía del sur. ¿No es el supuesto Colegio Electoral fundamentalemente ilegítimo? ¡El Colegio Electoral debería ser abolido de inmediato! En una edición del 9 de septiembre de 2018 del New York Times, se reportó que funcionarios de Trump se comunicaron con oficiales militares venezolanos para apoyar un golpe de estado contra el presidente Maduro. Durante gran parte de los siglos XIX y XX, los EUA decidieron quién debería gobernar en América Latina, basándose en conflictos como la Doctrina Monroe, un pretexto para el imperialismo estadounidense. No nos equivocamos, Monroe está de vuelta… ¡Qué lástima!