



# Protests to expose NATO's inhumanity

By John Catalinotto

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will celebrate the 70th anniversary of NATO's founding on April 4 in Washington, D.C.

Anti-war groups are organizing at least three actions as that date approaches to protest U.S. aggression and the NATO military alliance's criminal role in wars worldwide. NATO now kills people in Asia and Africa, besides in its historical European region, and threatens to intervene in South America through its Colombian "global partner" and possible future member.

On Saturday, March 16, there will be a demonstration in Washington that the Answer Coalition has called in solidarity with Venezuela and in opposition to intervention by the U.S. and its lackeys against the Bolivarian Revolution. ([tinyurl.com/yycnac3k](http://tinyurl.com/yycnac3k))

On Sunday, March 24, the International Action Center is holding a rally at the U.N. headquarters in New York. The action will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the start of the U.S./NATO criminal 78-day bombing campaign that killed 3,000 people and tore apart Yugoslavia. ([iacenter.org](http://iacenter.org))

And on Saturday, March 30, the United National Antiwar Coalition is holding a protest demonstration in Washington, timed for the beginning of the NATO celebrations. Given the current crisis in South America, this protest will also focus on solidarity with Bolivarian Venezuela. ([unacpeace.org](http://unacpeace.org))

## NATO: an alliance of oppressors

U.S. ruling-class politicians of both big capitalist parties and all the corporate media have always claimed NATO is an alliance of "democratic" powers with the goal of keeping peace. This is a lie worthy of the worst of the Trump administration.

NATO's major members in 1949 were the United States, France, Britain, Italy and Canada; Germany has been a member since 1955. These six historic colonial powers and settler states, plus Japan, make up the G-7 (Group of Seven) countries that currently set economic rules and dominate most of the world.

The corporate and financial ruling classes of the major NATO powers, despite the current challenge from People's China, control the bulk of the world's wealth, mainly through their banks. The capital they control exploits labor and extracts resources throughout the world. Add to this their control of finance, technology, weapons and mass media.

After World War II ended, the class of plunderers and robbers ruling those countries saw that while they had been fighting each other — killing 100 million people — a third of humanity had liberated itself from their grip. In the early post-war years, armed partisans who had resisted



## NATIONAL MOBILIZATION to Oppose NATO, War and Racism

**March and Rally • Saturday, March 30, 2019  
 1 pm • Lafayette Park, Washington, DC**

Nazi Germany inspired hope of possible worker-led socialist revolutions in Greece, Italy and France.

In 1949 Washington, then by far the dominant imperialist power, founded NATO. This military alliance was poised to crush any incipient workers' revolution in war-ravaged Western Europe — as the British and U.S. military did in Greece — and to confront the Soviet Union and its allies in Eastern Europe. Only in 1955 did the Soviet Union establish the Warsaw Pact with its allies in Eastern Europe to defend its area of Europe.

NATO's reactionary history includes planning a military coup in Greece in 1967. NATO supported clandestine terrorist actions in Italy between 1968 and 1982 known as the "strategy of tension."

In 1974-75 in Portugal, after a revolution ousted the

fascist regime there, NATO sent warships to intervene to prevent the working class from opening a struggle for socialism.

## World capitalist cop

Washington has always dominated NATO and set its policies. The U.S. president always chooses the NATO commander, and the general in charge is always from the Pentagon.

In 1990, during negotiations between the U.S. and Soviet leaders to end the Cold War, Washington promised not to move NATO eastward. NATO's declared purpose up to that time was to "defend member nations from threats by communist countries." Thus NATO

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Director Spike Lee.

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# Executions temporarily halted in Ohio

By Martha Grevatt

Anti-death penalty activists have been fighting for decades in an uphill battle to end the barbaric and racist practice of executions, but the movement has been making slow but steady progress. Last year Washington became the 20th state to ban executions. Polls show public support for the death penalty continues to decline, with more people than ever convinced it is applied unfairly. (Death Penalty Information Center)

In the latest breakthrough, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine suspended all executions in the state Feb. 21. Previously on Jan. 25, the governor had postponed the Feb. 15 execution date of Warren Keith Henness to Sept. 16.

Ohio had one of the highest rates of executions before 2014. However, there were problems with lethal injection—the preferred killing method that replaced the electric chair in most death penalty states. Witnesses observed the condemned experiencing severe pain. In 2009 the attempted execution of Romell Broom was botched; Broom survived and remains on death row. Ohio then introduced an untried killing formula combining midazolam and hydro-morphone. The first victim, Dennis McGuire, was observed writhing in agony and gasping for air.

For 3½ years there were no executions in Ohio. Then in 2017 a new drug combination was introduced, which still used midazolam. Two people were executed that year, and one — Robert Van Hook — in July 2018.

An autopsy performed on Van Hook revealed that in his last hour of life his lungs filled up with fluid. Attorneys for Henness raised the “cruel and unusual punishment” argument. Federal Magistrate Judge Michael Merz agreed; he called the current protocol a combination of “water-boarding and a chemical fire.” (Youngstown Vindicator, March 3) His ruling prompted DeWine’s decision to halt executions, but only until some more “humane” method of killing is presented. Five other men set to be executed this year have not had their executions cancelled or postponed.

Merz, a seasoned judge who came out of retirement, is not known for progressive rulings. Merz handed down rulings against both Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan and Keith Lamar, who were convicted of capital murder in connection with the 1993 Lucasville prison uprising. His decision reflects the fact that it has become politically harder for states to continue taking lives using the death penalty.

## Why now?

Although some polls show a majority of people still support capital punishment in certain cases, that majority is shrinking. One factor is the irrefutable evidence of racist disparity in sentencing. As recently as last year, nearly half of all new death sentences were imposed on people of color. Other factors include the number of people on death row with developmental disabilities and the risk of innocent people being executed, which was affirmed by the exoneration of 164 death row prisoners since 1976.

In Ohio, those wrongfully convicted of capital murder include Hasan, Lamar (aka Bomani Shakur), George Skatzes, Nameer Mateen (aka James Were) and Jason Robb. All were falsely accused in the death of a guard, and some in the killing of prisoners, during the Lucasville rebellion. Lamar exhausted his appeals in December and was given an execution date of Nov. 16, 2023. Public meetings, held last year around the 25th anniversary of the rebellion, increased awareness that innocent people still face execution.

In addition, recent scandals have exposed illegal conduct by several states in procuring the fatal drug cocktails. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, “States have used secrecy laws to conceal evidence of illegal or improper activity in obtaining lethal-injection drugs, including lying to pharmaceutical companies, contracting with suppliers that have histories of safety violations and swapping drugs with other states.” This has put states in conflict with Big Pharma and has resulted in several lawsuits.

Because of these and other factors, executions dropped last year to a countrywide low of 54, continuing a recent trend.

However, death penalty opponents will not rest. As Ben Turk, administrator for the Lucasville Amnesty website and Facebook page, told Workers World: “I support not only the suspension but also the immediate abolition of the death penalty, but I also caution against replacing it with life without the possibility of parole.

“Greg Curry, one of the Lucasville survivors who narrowly escaped the death penalty (both in court and in extrajudicial efforts of retaliatory staff) is instead serving life without the possibility of parole. If that reform becomes the widespread replacement for the death penalty, this reform will actually lead to more innocent people dying in prison because they’ll have less access to legal redress. We must oppose death by incarceration as strongly as we oppose death by lethal injection.” □

# WORKERS WORLD

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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## Ole Miss basketball players take a knee against racism

By Monica Moorehead

As the national anthem was being played on Feb. 23 in Oxford, Miss., before an Ole Miss at-home men's college basketball game with Georgia, one-by-one seven African American players, and one Latinx player, got down on one knee, with their heads bowed until the last note was played.

Carrying forth the protest of taking a knee begun by former National Football League quarterback Colin Kaepernick in 2016, these heroic players were protesting the presence of a white supremacist march taking place on campus on the same day as the game. Taking a knee is meant to call national attention against police brutality and all forms of racist oppression.

Ole Miss has a sordid tradition of promoting pro-slavery, pro-Confederacy symbols and history since the university was founded in 1844. It wasn't until 1997 that Confederate flags were banned at Ole Miss football games, 25 years after the first Black players were recruited. The mascot, "Colonel Reb," was scrapped in 2003. Confederate symbols, like the emblem on the Mississippi state flag and the Confederate/Civil War battle anthem "Dixie," wouldn't be phased out until some 10 years later. An on-campus Confederate monument and buildings named for pro-Confederate people remain, but it's just a matter of time until these symbols see their final days.

One of the protesting players, Breein Tyree, stated, "We're just tired of these hate groups coming to our school and portraying our campus like we have these hate groups in our actual school." (ESPN, March 1)

Ole Miss Coach Kermit Davis, in defense of his players, told ESPN, "Our players made an emotional decision to show these people they're not welcome on our campus, and we respect our players' freedom and ability to choose that." □



## Charter school teachers strike and win

By Martha Grevatt

After nine days on the picket line, teachers and specialists at Ohio's first unionized charter school have their first contract. Management at Summit Academy in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland, agreed to the Ohio Federation of Teachers' key demand: language limiting class size and requiring two adults to be present in every classroom. (tinyurl.com/y4w630dv)

These amendments will make it possible to give the school's 200 special needs children a quality education. Ranging from first graders up to high school seniors, their challenges include autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and severe learning disabilities. When the school opened, class sizes were held to 18 students and there were two teachers or other education professionals in every room. But as workers who quit were not replaced, the for-profit school failed to maintain those standards.

While strikers were not demanding a pay increase, the contract includes language to reopen discussions on pay later in the year. Salaries range from \$31,000 to \$40,000 a year, which makes it difficult to retain staff and prevent turnover. Strikers recognize that this affects the quality of education they can provide.

Poor sanitation and building maintenance were also strike issues, and the union won a commitment to address them.

In the days leading up to the contract vote March 1, teachers maintained high spirits on all-day picket lines. There was plenty of chanting and regular "airing of grievances." Honks of support were constant. Parma is home to many autoworkers and other union members. Parents supported the strikers.

Now workers at a second Summit Academy location, this time in Painesville, have voted to unionize. □

## 25 shots: Police execute Willie McCoy

By Dave Welsh

It was late evening Feb. 9 when local African-American rapper Willie McCoy, 20, drove into a Taco Bell drive-through in Vallejo, Calif., a small river city about 30 miles from San Francisco. A few minutes later he was found "slumped over the steering wheel of his car, unconscious," according to a claim filed against the city by McCoy's family. McCoy performed rap music under the name "Willie Bo."

The wrongful death claim, filed as a precursor to a lawsuit, said police arrived and "unleashed a barrage of gunfire on the young man. The six-person firing squad shot Mr. McCoy approximately 25 times," striking him in the head, ear, neck, chest, arms, shoulders, hands and back. Police later claimed they saw a handgun next to the sleeping McCoy.

"They shot him to pieces," civil rights attorney John Burris told a press conference and rally of 50 who showed up to support the family on the steps of City Hall Feb. 27. "Something is rotten in the Vallejo police department," including a "lack of concern and lack of caring for human life." The community has also mourned Vallejo police killings of Angel Rico Ramos, Ronell Foster and Mario Romero in recent years.

McCoy's sister, Simone Richard, was unsparing in denouncing the Vallejo Police Department. "You all executed my brother Willie. It is kids today they are killing. They say the kids are the future, but you aren't letting us grow. You are targeting us. This isn't the first incident."



Willie McCoy on the left, with a friend.

This isn't the first time, and it won't be the last time."

A cousin of McCoy's read a poem she had written, recalling the history of lynching in the U.S.: "Now they shoot at us. If we get pulled over we might not make it 'til tomorrow. Is this their way of population control?"

A friend said, "My friend was shot over 25 times — for no reason. They came out like they was prepared to kill him. They came out to create a situation that will leave our hearts broken for eternity." Several teenage girls chanted, "Indict! Convict! Send these killer cops to jail!" □

### WW Commentary

## People of color, women make history at Hollywood awards

By Monica Moorehead

On Feb. 23, one day before the 91st Academy Awards (aka the Oscars) ceremony, Boots Riley, the African-American hip-hop artist turned film director, won the Film Independent Spirit award for Best First Feature. In his acceptance speech, Riley described his critically acclaimed "Sorry to Bother You" as class struggle on the job, with its focus on low-wage workers in the global telemarketing industry. Riley ended his speech by coming out against the U.S.-CIA attempted coup in Venezuela. Riley also stated how mass, direct action movements have influenced filmmaking.

Barry Jenkins, the African-American director of James Baldwin's "If Beale Street Could Talk," who won the Spirit award for Best Feature, indirectly acknowledged the impact of the #MeToo movement's fight against misogyny in Hollywood. He expressed regret over winning the award, out of solidarity with three of his fellow director nominees who were women, adding that Hollywood should provide more funding to encourage more women directors. Jenkins directed "Moonlight," which won the Oscar for Best Picture two years ago.

The Spirit awards pay tribute to low-budget, independent films that in general shine a bright light on the real lives of Black, Brown, Asian and Indigenous peoples, including women and LGBTQ communities. In contrast, while there has been some progress regarding Oscar winners—not nearly enough—the general trend is still to marginalize the multinational global working class, because mainly white male studio executives still control the purse strings.

### Impact of #OscarsSoWhite

Three years ago, April Reign, managing editor of BroadwayBlack.com, created #OscarsSoWhite in protest of the dreadful lack of Black nominees in all acting categories for the 2015 movie year. This Twitter campaign helped spark some progressive changes among the Academy's 5,000-plus overwhelmingly white male



Ruth Carter (top) and Hannah Beachler (bottom) with their awards.

voting delegates, including the election of the Academy's first African-American president, Cheryl Boone Isaacs, and the addition of more people of color and women members.

At this year's Academy Awards ceremony, two Black actors won Oscars in the two Supporting Actor categories—Regina King for "If Beale Street Could Talk" and Mahershala Ali for the controversial "Green Book." Also winning Best Original Screenplay and Best Picture Oscars, "Green Book" is the true story of a white, racist, working-class driver who becomes the chauffeur for a gay Black pianist, Dr. Don Shirley, in the Deep South. The family of Shirley denounced the filmmakers for its misportrayal of the late pianist without any consultation. Film critics have crucified "Green Book" for soft pedaling the harsh reality of Jim Crow from a white protagonist's perspective.

In an historic first, two Black women became the first to win Oscars in their categories for their behind-the-scenes work on the biggest blockbuster movie of 2018, "Black Panther." Ruth Carter won for Best Costume Design for her stunning Afrocentric clothing and Hannah Beachler won for Best Production Design.

Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón Orozco won three Oscars for his film, "Roma." Yalitza Aparicio is the first Indigenous actor to be nominated in the Best Actress category, also for "Roma," in which she spoke her native language Mixtec.

Rami Malek is the first Egyptian-American actor to win the Best Actor award for playing Queen's lead singer, Freddie Mercury, in "Bohemian Rhapsody."

### Spike Lee's long overdue win

Black film director Spike Lee, wearing a purple outfit in honor of the legendary late singer Prince, won his first Oscar in a competitive category, Best Adapted Screenplay, for "BlacKkKlansman"—based on the true story of a Black police officer who infiltrated the KKK in the 1970s. He had been nominated for Best Original Screenplay for "Do the Right Thing" in 1990 and Best

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# Amazon HQ2 struggle continues in Virginia

By John Steffin  
New York

When Amazon announced it would build two new headquarters, one in New York City and the other near Washington, D.C., most people assumed that it was a done deal. This was not only because of Amazon's sway as a powerful transnational corporation, but because of the company's close ties with finance capital and the military-industrial complex. Of course, Amazon's executives would choose to locate near Wall Street and the Pentagon to further develop those ties.

But then the people of New York City loudly said, "Hell no!" After the uproar went on for three months, Amazon's seemingly inevitable arrival was stopped. Now, this people's victory is inspiring others to take matters into their own hands.

Since Amazon reversed its decision about opening a New York headquarters, activists in Arlington County, Va. — where Amazon plans to set up HQ2 — have been holding meetings and demonstrations to raise awareness about the negative impact the company would have on the community and to build support for a campaign to prevent its arrival.

Protesters raised issues such as gentrification and rising rents for area residents, which have accelerated since Amazon announced the new headquarters in Crystal City in northern Virginia. They have also exposed Amazon's lie about providing 25,000 new jobs, most of which would be filled by people from outside Virginia. Additionally, they oppose Amazon's ties to Immigration, Customs and Enforcement.

## Momentum is building

On Feb. 28, activists disrupted a meeting between Amazon and local businesses — which cost an outrageously prohibitive \$200 to attend. They demanded a public hearing on the deal. Much like the one in New York, the deal in Virginia was brokered behind closed doors with no community input — despite city officials' multimillion-dollar offer of public money to one of the wealthiest corporations in the world.

In response to the agitation from below, politicians in the area are starting to speak up. It's a similar cycle as occurred in New York. While Amazon has yet to release a warning that it's reconsidering the deal, as it did in New York, the situation remains fluid. Its outcome is far from certain.

When residents of New York City went up against Amazon, activists from Seattle and Germany — who were engaged in their own battles against Amazon — came to the city to build connections and share their experiences. Learning how Amazon had undermined all its commitments to the people of Seattle, when opening its headquarters there, made the stakes very clear. But hearing how Berlin activists had successfully beaten back Amazon made the task at hand in New York City seem all the more possible.

As the struggle against Amazon spreads, it's important to note that this is just one example of struggle that is inspiring others. The victory of the West Virginia education workers in the spring of 2018 inspired a cycle of education workers' strikes that is still playing out today, from Los Angeles and Oakland, Calif., to Ohio and Kentucky.

After decades of a capitalist offensive against the working class, with its dismantling of critical social service programs, union busting, prison expansion, low wages, mass deportations of im/migrants, among many other attacks, the conditions for mass outrage exist. Under these conditions, struggles can spread like wildfire. □

# Fight for reproductive health: Oppose Trump's Title X changes

By Sue Davis

March 5 — President Donald Trump added another notch on his campaign promises belt on Feb. 22. But Planned Parenthood countered that today by filing suit against his proposed changes, which aim to defund the health provider.

February 22 was when Trump's so-called "Health and Human Services Department" issued revised — read "reversed" — rules for Title X. A 1970 addendum to the 1944 Public Health Service Act under President Richard Nixon, Title X is charged with providing "comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services" to 4 million low-income women or anyone not covered by Medicaid.

Reflecting Trump/Pence right-wing, anti-woman, anti-working class ideology, the new regulations won't be "comprehensive and preventive." If instituted in 2020, the revised regulations would deny pregnant people the right to learn anything about abortion — let alone where to get one — from the 4,000 reproductive health care providers enrolled in the program. That's why pro-choice organizations have nicknamed it "the domestic gag rule," distinguishing it from the international one Trump instituted in 2017.

The new rules mandate that all clinics providing abortions in addition to basic reproductive health care — birth control, wellness checkups, screenings for cancer and sexually transferred infections — must now set up new locations for abortions that are physically and financially separate from other services.

Although the rules don't mention Planned Parenthood, it's the target of the rule changes — though abortions only account for 3 percent of its health care services. But that hasn't stopped right-wing attacks on the organization, which is the largest U.S. provider of reproductive health care for poor and working women and gender-nonconforming people — especially women of color, youth, rural residents, women with disabilities and domestic abuse survivors. Planned Parenthood annually provides 41 percent of Title X care in the country.

Though anti-choice activists contend that local health centers could serve Planned Parenthood's current patients if the organization is forced out of the Title X program, Rewire.News reported Feb. 27 that they "would need to increase their caseloads by an average of 70 percent."

The Guttmacher Institute reported Feb. 27: "The Title X gag rule is a blatantly coercive and unethical violation of individuals' right to high-quality sexual and reproductive health care." No longer would pregnant patients "receive neutral, factual and nondirective information on all their pregnancy options, including parenting, adoption and abortion," but the rule requires all patients to be referred for prenatal care, "regardless of their wishes."

In summary: "These restrictions flout medical ethics, dismiss clinical guidelines of leading medical organizations and undermine patients' right to provide informed consent to their reproductive health care."

Yet the irony is that denying low-wage women and gender nonconforming people access to free or low-cost contraception will only drive up the rate of unintended pregnancies and abortion. Guttmacher statistics show that in 2015 Title X clinics prevented 822,300 unintended pregnancies and 277,800 abortions. Statistics from 2017 show that contraceptives from Title X clinics led to a steep decline in unintended pregnancies and abortions: 44 percent for teenagers and nearly one-third for the entire program.

## Fightback is underway

The revised Title X rules were not official until they were posted March 4 on the Federal Register, under a deliberately obscure title, "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements." They are due to go into effect after 60 days, on May 3.

But the fightback began right after the changes were first announced on June 1. All the organizations that defend abortion rights and fight for reproductive justice weighed in immediately. On June 8, Rewire.News reported that mayors representing more than 32 million people in 80 cities wrote a letter to HHS denouncing the gag rule. They joined more than 200 U.S. senators and representatives, 14 governors and 274 state legislators demanding quality health care and information.

The Pro-Choice Caucus in Congress, led by Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) and Barbara Lee (D-Calif.), issued a statement Aug. 1: "[W]e will not stand for this anti-woman, anti-health agenda." Colorlines reported Jan. 16 that the caucus will reintroduce the EACH Woman Act, which guarantees access and insurance coverage

to any woman seeking an abortion. First introduced in 2015, Lee called it "the boldest pro-choice legislation in history." If passed, the law would end the 1974 Hyde Amendment, which blocks federal Medicaid funding for abortion services.

A Hart Research Associates' national poll shows that 73 percent of the population opposes Trump's gag rule. As do more than 110 public health organizations.

A long list of leading U.S. medical organizations, including nurses and midwives, registered disapproval. The American Medical Association itemized its objections in a letter to HHS in August, stating the amendments would "undermine patients' access to high-quality medical care and information, dangerously interfere with the patient-physician relationship, conflict with physicians' ethical obligations, exclude qualified providers and jeopardize public health."

Washington state's attorney general was the first to file a preliminary motion to block the rule on Feb. 25, arguing that

it violates the Affordable Care Act and a federal provision that requires pregnancy counseling to be nondirective. Attorneys general in Connecticut, Oregon, New York and California are soon to follow. Ten newly elected Democratic governors signed a letter condemning the "politically motivated restrictions" and vowed to find "legal options to block it being implemented." (Rewire.News, Feb. 27)

But the real fightback will be when women, gender-nonconforming people and all their allies take to the streets, as they have for decades. The outpouring of women all over the country demanding free, legal abortion propelled the Supreme Court to legalize abortion in 1973. That's what is needed now. As shown in every civil rights battle, whether against racism or "sodomy" laws, in every labor battle, only solidarity in struggle wins advances for working and oppressed people.

Reproductive justice must become a reality for all gender-oppressed people. Women's liberation now! □

## Fight for women's liberation! Build Workers World!

As Marxists, we strive not just to honor history but to make it—to bring about changes that put the workers and oppressed first instead of last. Workers World commemorates the socialist holiday of International Working Women's Day, March 8, with a roundup of women's protests for freedom, justice and equality the world over.

Struggle is the only way to bring about change. The Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and gender-nonconforming activists, boldly fights racism and demands redress for centuries of oppression. Women are powering the fight for \$15 an hour and a union because two-thirds of low-wage workers are women, often women of color and heads of households. Inspired by the #MeToo Movement and Time's Up, women are speaking up at work—particularly in restaurants, offices and hotels—against sexual harassment and for respect.

This year in the U.S., WW will focus on women who bear the brunt of Trump's racist, sexist, bigoted, xenophobic agenda: im/migrant women and

refugees detained and often deported for the "crime" of crossing borders to find work and provide for their families or to escape life-threatening repression and violence; children separated at the border from parents whom the Trump government "forgot" to track, making it nearly impossible to reunite them; and "Dreamers" whose legal status under DACA is still in limbo.

**If you appreciate WW's year-round coverage of struggles that advance women's liberation, join the WW Supporter Program.** For a donation of at least \$75 a year—and much more if you can—members receive a year's subscription to WW, a monthly letter about timely issues and five free subscriptions to give to friends. Write checks (either monthly or once a year) to Workers World and mail them, with your name and address, to 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10011. Or sign up at [workers.org/donate/](http://workers.org/donate/) for monthly deductions. Know that we appreciate your help in building Workers World—for today and for the future. □

# On the picket line

By Alex Bolchi and Sue Davis

## Historic locomotive factory strike in Erie, Pa.

In the largest U.S. manufacturing sector strike since 2016, nearly 2,000 locomotive manufacturing engineers walked off the job Feb 26 at the Wabtec (Westinghouse Air Brake Technologies) Plant in Erie, Pa. The workers, represented by United Electrical Workers (UE) Locals 506 and 618, went out over the company's refusal to agree to a 30-day contract extension. ([tinyurl.com/y6yw5hd7](http://tinyurl.com/y6yw5hd7))

UE members have had a contract with GE since 1938 — 81 years! The strike is the first since 1969, though the workers have been angry since 2017 when General Electric transferred work to a nonunion factory in Texas. The strike comes one day after the plant started operating under Wabtec; the plant was previously owned by GE, and the two companies merged in 2018. (Common Dreams, March 2)

Wabtec wants to force new working conditions, including a 38 percent wage cut for new hires and rehired workers, so it can lay off workers and then force them to work in the new permanent low-wage tier. Wabtec's demands include mandatory overtime, arbitrary schedules, reduced shift differential, no grievance procedure, reductions in paid time off, mandatory shutdowns invoking forced use of paid vacation time, changes in job classifications, the right to use temporary workers for up to 20 percent of the work and cutting 82 jobs.

"This is corporate greed and union busting 101," said 14-year worker Brad McCurdy. (In These Times, Feb. 27) Wabtec reported 2018 fourth-quarter sales of \$1.12 billion, up 4 percent from 2017. Factoring in GE Transportation's full-year results, it expects 2019 sales to be \$9.2 billion.

An analysis of the 466 cuts Wabtec wants shows that proposed wage reductions would result in total wage losses of \$17.1 million. Do the math: What Erie workers might lose covers Wabtac CEO Raymond Betlier's \$16 million merger bonus!

The union continues to try to return to the bargaining table, but Wabtec has refused to respond to UE proposals or bargain on all subjects unless the union submits to two-tier. That would undo what organizers have called "generations of families with good rust belt jobs." (Erie News Now, Feb. 28) Given the ripple effect, Erie's economy stands to lose \$11 million. No wonder the community is enthusiastically supporting the strike.

At a rally March 2, members of teachers unions, Teamsters, the Central Labor Council, Steamfitters and children of strikers lined the Water Street entrance in Lawrence Park. They held flyers that read, "UE is my union, my neighbors, my kid, my aunt, my town, me." One striking worker noted that the action comes at a time of renewed public support for labor rights: "[T]here is a greater willingness to fight among workers more broadly, thanks to the success of the recent teachers' strikes." The community has donated food, hand warmers and time, while local restaurants have contributed hundreds of sandwiches to all three picket lines on each shift.

Strike support is also coming from AFL-CIO state and federal organizations, national union presidents including Flight Attendants-CWA President Sara Nelson and from politicians like Bernie Sanders. The international labor movement — the industriALL global labor federation, representing 50 million workers worldwide; and unions in Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey — is also in solidarity with the strike.

Sign the solidarity petition at [tinyurl.com/wabtec1](http://tinyurl.com/wabtec1) and join several social media days posted on [ueunion.org](http://ueunion.org). Victory to the workers!

## DASH drivers start their union engine

After months of owner repression, DASH bus operators in Alexandria, Va., voted 97 to 13 to join Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689. The DASH corporation provides bus service to the Washington, D.C., suburb.

While wholly owned by the city, which elects its board and allocates funds, DASH is a separate entity run by contractor Transit Management of Alexandria, owned by First Transit, to keep wages down. One DASH driver told the Gazette-Packet newspaper that pay is "lower and slower" than at other regional systems. It takes 20 years to reach DASH's top pay grade of \$29/hour, while it takes only 5 years for the \$32/hour cap at Fairfax Connector. DASH drivers have an unpopular, employee-match 401(k) plan and do not earn a city pension. One driver noted that his yearly raise barely lets him keep up with rising bills.

DASH general managers have pushed anti-union propaganda since August under the \$45,000 direction of union-busting law firm American Labor Group. In January, DASH fired Latonya Robinson, a Black driver, on trumped-up infractions in retaliation for her pro-union activism. ATU organizers say she's "probably [the] best leader during the organizing drive." But pressure from the drivers, the regional union movement and political allies forced management to back off. Thanks to the workers' struggle, they won. (DCLabor.org, Feb. 21) □

## Korea, Vietnam and the U.S. war machine

By Deirdre Griswold

The latest summit meeting between Kim Jong Un, the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and U.S. President Donald Trump ended abruptly in Hanoi on Feb. 28 with no agreement.

While Trump, with his outsized ego and unpredictable behavior, had wanted to get credit for some sort of peace deal, he himself laid the basis for the meeting's failure with his appointments of John Bolton and Mike Pompeo, both hard-liners against the DPRK.

On Feb. 28, 2018, Bolton had written a piece for the Wall Street Journal entitled, "The Legal Case for Striking North Korea First." In other words, he deserves the title of war maniac. Three weeks later, Trump appointed Bolton to be his national security adviser.

At the time of the appointment a year ago, many in the capitalist media here called Bolton out. Simon Kuper of the Financial Times wrote on April 4, "A warmonger is about to start work a few steps from Trump in a White House devoid of procedure." An article in The American Conservative (!) was entitled, "A Madman on the National Security Council." A piece in Salon magazine was headlined, "Bloodthirsty John Bolton eager to kill North Koreans."

Where are these bourgeois critics now? Where is the New York Times? Their editorial on the appointment was headlined, "Yes, John Bolton Really Is That Dangerous." (March 23) Yet their reporting now, with the collapse of the talks, is blaming "big egos and bad bets" on both sides. Seemingly forgotten are the U.S. threats to launch a nuclear war against the DPRK.

### Pompeo's role

Suppose you represented a small country that had been ravaged by the U.S. military in the early 1950s, when the U.S. Air Force bombed every single building above two stories in north Korea and millions died. When you, as a responsible person, read that a bloodthirsty warmonger is now advising the president of the U.S., wouldn't you do everything you could to strengthen your country's defenses?

Bolton is still national security adviser to the president, but he did not accompany Trump to the meeting with Kim Jong Un. How could the Koreans sit in the same room with him?

Instead, it was Mike Pompeo, Trump's secretary of state, whom the Times called "the adult in the room" and described as "the primary architect of Trump's continuing negotiations" with the DPRK.

But what was the U.S. position put forth by Pompeo at the talks? It was that the DPRK should give up all its nuclear weapons, materials and facilities in exchange for an end to U.S. economic sanctions.

What do the Koreans want? An end to the state of war that is still official U.S. policy toward Korea. There was only a ceasefire agreement in 1953. Under the state of war that is still in effect, the U.S. continues to station almost 30,000 troops in south Korea, and could launch an attack on the north at any time.

Who are the real war maniacs in the world? As of 2017, the U.S. possessed nearly 7,000 nuclear weapons, many of them deployed around the world, ready to be launched from planes, submarines and missile bases. Yet the ruling class here, after years of threatening the DPRK with

nuclear devastation, is acting shocked that the Koreans have now developed the technology to defend themselves with nuclear weapons.

How can the U.S. expect the Koreans to accept an offer to end the sanctions — which are in fact a violation of international law, meant to starve the people of the DPRK — when it contains not one word about letting up on the military pressure against the country?

The obvious conclusion is that the U.S. "offer" — crafted by Pompeo — was meant to blow up the talks. But none of the leading capitalist media will say this. Nor will any of the Democratic Party leaders, who criticize Trump's super-reactionary stands on other questions and his blatant racism and sexism, but line up with the administration on Korea.

In fact, the U.S. ruling class and the Democratic Party have actually criticized Trump from the right — as difficult as that might seem — when it comes to him saying anything positive about north Korea.

It is standard procedure in all U.S. corporate media to depict the DPRK in the most insulting terms, using the same stock phrases over and over again. They also endlessly repeat the same lie — that U.S. troops are in south Korea to defend the people there, who are terrified of the north.

But that lie was blown out of the water during last year's Olympic Games in south Korea, when it was obvious to the whole world that the people of the south enthusiastically welcomed the athletic teams of the north and south marching together under a common flag.

### Relations between DPRK and Vietnam

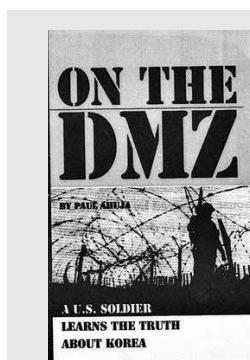
There was another side to Kim Jong Un's trip to Hanoi that has received little comment in the corporate media here. But it was important to the people of both Vietnam and Korea and to people around the world struggling for socialism.

The trip to Hanoi was the first by a leader of the DPRK since Kim Il Sung, the legendary liberator of Korea from Japanese colonial rule and organizer of its resistance to the U.S. war of 1950-53, visited Vietnam in 1964. The Korean leader met at that time with the equally legendary Ho Chi Minh, leader of the struggle to liberate Vietnam from French colonial rule and then from the U.S. invaders.

On March 1, Kim Jong Un laid wreaths at the Mausoleum to Ho Chi Minh and at the Vietnam War Memorial in Hanoi, a memorial to all those who died fighting for independence and socialism in the war with the United States. Vietnamese President Nguyen Phu Trong hosted a banquet for Kim Jong Un and the Korean delegation.

Both these Asian countries were divided by Western imperialist powers. Both have suffered horrible human and material losses at the hands of the Pentagon. Both have to figure out how to survive and strengthen their socialist development in a world still dominated by imperialism.

The people of Vietnam and Korea are doing all they can to move forward. The question is: What can people here in the U.S. do to stay the hands of war maniacs like Bolton, as well as the more deceptive but equally dangerous "adults in the room" like Pompeo, so that wars fought for profits for the super-rich ruling class never happen again? □



### ON THE DMZ

A U.S. soldier learns the truth about Korea

by Paul Ahuja

*Excerpt:* I asked to go to Korea. I wanted to patrol the DMZ, I wanted to see "Freedom's Frontier." There, I was told, I would find the hottest pan of the Cold War — a country split in half by a four-mile-wide "demilitarized zone" that separated capitalism and communism.

Published: March 1, 1994. Read it at [workers.org/books](http://workers.org/books)

## WORKERS WORLD

### editorial

# The key to climate change

Almost a century and a half ago, Karl Marx's closest collaborator, Frederick Engels, wrote about the degradation of the environment due to human activity.

In a pamphlet about the evolution of human beings from apes — a premise of Charles Darwin's revolutionary discovery which at that time was fiercely denounced by all religions — Engels wrote: "Let us not, however, flatter ourselves overmuch on account of our human victories over nature. For each such victory, nature takes its revenge on us. Each victory, it is true, in the first place brings about the results we expected, but in the second and third places it has quite different, unforeseen effects which only too often cancel the first. ...

"Thus at every step we are reminded that we by no means rule over nature like a conqueror over a foreign people, like someone standing outside nature — but that we, with flesh, blood and brain, belong to nature, and exist in its midst, and that all our mastery of it consists in the fact that we have the advantage over all other creatures of being able to learn its laws and apply them correctly."

Learning the laws of nature has progressed by leaps and bounds since Engels' time, to the point of splitting the atom and cloning species. But the ability to apply this knowledge correctly?

The current state of the planet, which more and more each day shows alarming signs of the imminent collapse of entire ecosystems due to climate change, is a confirmation of Engels' warning of 1876 — written long before any knowledge of global warming.

Human activity has now severely disrupted the balance of nature that

existed for hundreds of thousands of years. That's a given fact. So what do we do about it? And what is the main stumbling block to turning things around?

#### The science of scientific socialism

Scientific socialism — known as Marxism — has been persecuted and denied by the ruling classes because it identifies the basic problem of modern-day society: This economic system of capitalism, based on private ownership of capital and the means of production, must produce a profit for its owners, regardless of human need.

What if measures to save the planet are unprofitable for the individual capitalists? Then they are abandoned, or minimized, or not even begun in the first place. How many times have companies violated every law in the book meant to protect people and the environment from corporate pollution? The environmental disaster at Love Canal in the 1970s in Niagara Falls, N.Y., was not an exception — it was the rule.

Governments are then called upon to undo the damage inflicted by private capital on the planet. There have been many international conferences and agreements in recent years attempting to deal with climate change in this way. Yet it continues at a relentless pace.

In the United States, which has been the undisputed leader of world capitalism for decades, government policies on the environment under the administration of the greedy billionaire Donald Trump have flown in the face of everything that scientists have learned. The U.S. government has thumbed its nose at the Paris climate agreement, even though

that pact falls far short of being able to reverse global warming.

Trump would like to take credit for the fact that U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas — have fallen slightly in the past year. But the truth is that much of the manufacturing that used to be done here, which contributed to pollution, has now migrated to countries with lower wages, leaving behind a vast Rust Belt where steady jobs are hard to find.

At the same time, it is China's huge production of solar panels that has driven down their price, making it easier for people here to convert to sustainable energy. The response of the U.S. capitalist government? Put heavy tariffs on solar panels from China.

#### Human need vs. corporate greed

What must replace capitalism? A system based on production for human need, not for private profit and greed. Only such a system can marshal all the forces of society to tackle climate change.

Of course, getting rid of capitalism is not simple. It means taking on the class that has become astronomically rich from this system and uses its vast wealth to control politics, the state and the corporate media.

Nevertheless, there are many people now alienated by capitalism and alarmed by the dire news about global warming who are demanding something be done about it. They exist in all the social classes.

They are struggling to get more progressive laws passed to curb the rampant abuse of the environment that has even worsened under this administration. The Green New Deal is

part of that and is progressive as far as it goes. But that is not far enough, not by a long shot. As long as capitalism prevails, those with capital have the upper hand and will attempt to undermine anything that threatens their profits.

There's only one class that can actually bring down this system: the working class, the people whose daily activities make everything run, from the factories to the warehouses, to the corporate farms, to the means of transportation and communication. Their struggle against this system that so mercilessly exploits and then abandons them is key to social change.

Within this working class are so many millions who also suffer from additional forms of oppression — targeted because of their race, their ethnicity, their national origin, their religion, their gender, their sexual identity and often a combination of these factors. They have organized and struggled for decades against discrimination at a time when others have been quiet.

Fighting all forms of discrimination in order to unite the working class against the exploiters is the key to social change.

We have reached the point where doing what is absolutely necessary for the world and all its life forms is completely incompatible with capitalism.

The struggle for a sustainable world is inextricably bound up with the struggle of the working class to take over the means of production and use them to meet human needs.

To be a real environmentalist means being a fighter for workers' power and socialism. □

# Protests to expose NATO's inhumanity

Continued from page 1

should have dissolved after the Soviet Union's impending disintegration in 1991 and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

But since 1991, far from dissolving NATO, Washington has insisted that the military pact expand, while remaining under U.S. command. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO at its 50th anniversary meeting in April 1999. This expansion coincided with the U.S.-NATO air war in the Balkans that destroyed the sovereign and multinational country of Yugoslavia.

The former Yugoslavia — once a state

representing about 20 million Balkan peoples — was broken into six ministates, along with the U.S. military outpost called Kosovo, wrenched from Serbia. All are easy pickings for West European and U.S. imperialism.

U.S. policy turned NATO into a type of imperialist police force. No longer confined to Europe, NATO has become a worldwide intervention force at the service of the transnational monopolies that exploit global labor and resources.

Other U.S.-led NATO military interventions followed. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in Central Asia starting in 2001, using the pretext of the 9/11 attack

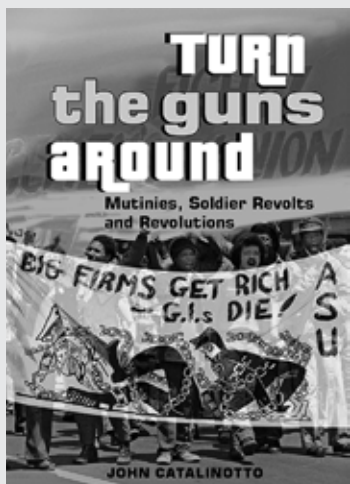
and invoking Article 5 of the NATO charter calling for collective defense. The occupation continues for nearly 18 years, with NATO troops intervening starting in 2003.

In 2011, with the flimsiest of pretexts, NATO attacked and destroyed Libya. That same year NATO countries also sabotaged and subverted the Damascus government in Syria. NATO even intervened in Iraq following the U.S.-British invasion in 2003, despite the reluctance of France and Germany to join the invasion itself. These interventions killed millions of people and displaced tens of millions.

There are now 29 NATO members,

including most of the former socialist Eastern European countries, plus nine other countries that have a special relation with NATO of "global partner," like Colombia. NATO's role now is to reconquer those areas of the world that had gained some independence from imperialism during the existence of the Soviet Union.

*Catalinotto, a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, co-edited the book, "Hidden Agenda: U.S./NATO Takeover of Yugoslavia," International Action Center, 2001.*



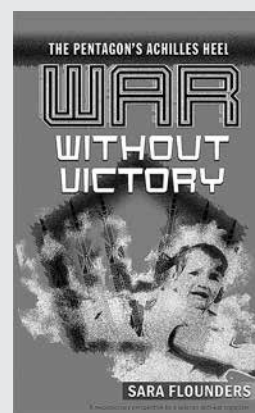
## TURN THE GUNS AROUND

by John Catalinotto

During the Vietnam War, U.S. draftees and enlistees threw a wrench into the Pentagon's war machine, emerged as anti-war leaders and organized a union in the armed forces. Letters and interviews of GI war resisters combine with memoir and historical research to highlight the relation between rank-and-file troop resistance and the struggle to smash state power from the Paris Commune to the Portuguese revolution.

\$19.95 paperback. New York: World View Forum 2017, 324 pages. 29 photos, 4 maps.

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— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009; Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

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## Coup attempt defeated in Venezuela

# Bolivarian Revolution's fight must go on

By Sam Ordóñez

March 3 — According to the Juan Guaidó, the self-appointed “interim president” of Venezuela, Feb. 23 was going to be a great victory. The National Bolivarian Armed Forces (FANB) would split in two, let U.S. Agency for International Development trucks into the country, and deliver him to the presidential palace at Miraflores.

Guaidó's proclamations, whether it be his presidency or his plans for the country, received a great deal of attention by international news media. But no matter how many times CNN, Fox and the New York Times repeat a lie, at some point reality asserts itself. Reality did on Feb. 23.

The united forces of military and civil society stopped the USAID trucks at the Venezuelan borders with Colombia and Brazil. Despite several days of violent attacks from opposition forces, the coup plotters were unable to create a provocation that would create a pretext for war. The self-proclaimed president remained in Colombia, which made him a self-exiled president.

Now Guaidó, his supporters and his masters in Washington have abandoned all constitutional legitimacy. According to the article in the Venezuelan constitution that they had originally — and illegally — invoked, an interim president has to call elections within 30 days. When Nicolás Maduro held the position of interim president after the death of President Hugo Chávez, this deadline was respected.

In front of a massive march in Caracas on Feb. 23, the legitimate president, Nicolás Maduro, declared that the coup d'état had failed. Maduro remains in Miraflores, Venezuela continues in peace (tense though it may be), and even the Lima Group of Latin American countries that supported Guaidó has refused to publicly support a military intervention.

Despite the lack of international support for a military intervention, it is still possible for imperialism to intervene in more covert ways. After meeting with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, the Lima Group and several Latin American heads of state, Guaidó was able to re-enter Venezuela on March 4, signaling that Washington still has plans for the country.

### People power against imperialism

It would be reasonable to wonder if Guaidó and his allies truly believed they had support among the Venezuelan masses and the military. They might have surprised themselves, since their whole plan seemed

to revolve around getting so-called “humanitarian aid” into the country and overthrowing the government from there. As the day's events showed, such an action was impossible without at least partial military support.

What's more likely is that the plan was always to put on a show, to stage a false-flag provocation as pretext for a direct military intervention. After all, the strongest weapon that the Bolivarian Revolution has had during its 20 years in power has been its mass movement, which has repeatedly defeated the plans of imperialism and its pawns in the Venezuelan oligarchy.

In 2002, it was the mass mobilizations in Caracas that freed Chávez from jail and reversed the coup that had imprisoned him. It was also popular power that withstood and defeated the oligarchy's oil shutdown later that year.

Just as in 2002, it was the people who defeated the attempted coup. The FANB remained united in defense of the homeland because of its unity with the communal militias that mobilized across the country. During the month between Guaidó's self-proclamation and his attempt to bring in trucks from Colombia and Brazil, the streets of Venezuela were filled with “Chavistas” marching to reject imperialism's plans for their country.

The Local Supply and Production Committees (CLAP) not only have remained operational while distributing food to millions of the poorest Venezuelans, but some are even expanding their functions. What the CLAPs represent are not just accessible food sources but the mobilized and organized people fighting on the front lines of the economic war.

The Venezuelan people have been fighting for 20 years to build a new society, independent of imperialism and based on popular power. Without a doubt, imperialism wants to plunder Venezuelan oil, gold and rare minerals. But even more than its drive to seize natural resources, imperialism seeks to destroy the unity and organization of a people that for two decades have resisted its control.

### The coup failed, the threat remains

Popular mobilization in the cities and at the borders defeated the coup attempt carried out by the most violent sections of the Venezuelan opposition. But one victory, even one as great as this, is inadequate to end the dangers from U.S. imperialism that is not just global but addicted to oil and militarism.

As long as imperialism exists, there is a threat to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela because imperialism's weapons are not limited to tanks and bombs. Beyond the

constant threat of military action, imperialism has relied on its economic and information weapons, and attacks continue in these arenas.

While Washington has failed to gather the necessary support for a military intervention, imperialism is well versed in covert wars. In the 1980s, the United States created and armed rebel groups in Nicaragua in an attempt to overthrow the socialist government there. In fact, U.S. Special Envoy Elliot Abrams was twice convicted for lying about his role in this very plot, the so-called Iran-Contra Affair. Guaidó's return to Venezuela would fit into this strategy.

There is longstanding paramilitary activity on the border between Venezuela and Colombia, and there have been rumors that a so-called “liberation army” is being assembled. The Cuban government has denounced the movement of U.S. troops throughout the Caribbean, and Russia has warned of attempts to use Ukraine as an intermediary to smuggle weapons to Venezuelan opposition forces. ([tinyurl.com/yy5hbzfe](http://tinyurl.com/yy5hbzfe))

The corporate media offensive has focused on the economic crisis in Venezuela, manipulating the suffering of the people to create an image of a brutal dictator starving his people. What is never mentioned are the unilateral sanctions, illegal according to international law, that have cost Venezuela billions of dollars since 2015.

The international corporate media speak of the government blocking U.S. “humanitarian aid,” but they do not mention that even the United Nations and the Red Cross rejected that aid as a political ploy. They also fail to mention that Venezuela is already receiving aid from its allies, and that it is even working with European countries to receive technical aid.

In truth, there is already a war on Venezuela, but it is an economic one, rather than a military one. The unilateral sanctions and the financial blockade Washington imposed are the main cause of continuing economic troubles. Therefore the U.S. is actually responsible for whatever death and suffering it is using to justify its actions.

The Venezuelan people's resistance was able to put a break on the worst plans of the imperialists. On top of that, thousands of people across the world mobilized on Feb. 23 in solidarity demonstrations, showing the potential of a global solidarity movement. But the struggle is far from over, and it will be necessary to continue mobilizing and organizing to end the economic war while preventing the military one. □

## Defending Venezuela: Next steps to take

*This article is a slightly edited version of a message sent out by No War on Venezuela ([nowaronvenezuela.org](http://nowaronvenezuela.org)).*

The threats against Bolivarian Venezuela by U.S. imperialism and their junior partners in the Lima Group and the European Union were definitively answered by a mobilization of people power in Venezuela and across the world on Feb. 23. The trojan horse “aid” never made it across the Venezuelan border. The number and wide diversity of united solidarity actions throughout the weekend had an impact on the course of events.

Actions were held on six continents, across Australia, the Philippines, India, Guinea-Bissau, Germany, Spain, England, Costa Rica, Barbados, Canada, and in upwards of 70 cities in the United States. There were 153 actions globally, united in the rallying cry: No U.S. war on Venezuela! (Reports and photos are available at [nowaronvenezuela.org](http://nowaronvenezuela.org).)

While this was an important victory, the struggle to defend Venezuela is far from over. On Feb. 25, the so-called Lima Group convened in Bogotá, Colombia, where U.S. Vice President Mike Pence stood alongside right-wing puppet Juan Guaidó and promised a new round of devastating sanctions on Venezuela and “even stronger” actions to attempt to overturn the Bolivarian Revolution.

To defend Venezuela, here are some next steps you can take:

**In the event of military intervention in Venezuela, hit the streets, no business as usual!** If the U.S. or its allies take military action against Venezuela, we must immediately step up the militancy and take our resistance to the streets. Grassroots acts of civil disobedience, student actions, strikes, shutdowns,

sit-ins and blockades are being discussed. Help become a global voice to demand NO WAR! Make preparations in your city for emergency actions the day after any military action. Make plans now on times and places to gather in case military action occurs.

**Gather signatures on President Nicolás Maduro's “Open Letter to the People of the United States.”** People in Venezuela and across the world are collecting signatures on this letter as an act of solidarity and resistance. Organize groups to sign in your community, using the formatted letter and signature sheet on the website. This is also a great opportunity to talk with people about the reality of the situation in Venezuela, using the fact sheets and other materials online at [nowaronvenezuela.org](http://nowaronvenezuela.org). You can also sign and share the letter online.

**Join the ‘No U.S. War on Venezuela’ contingent at March 16 and March 30 demonstrations in Washington, D.C.** On March 16 and March 30, major demonstrations are planned to demand U.S. and NATO: “Hands Off Venezuela.” March with our contingent and join us on both days to deliver many thousands of signatures on the “Open Letter” to the White House. For more information on time and location, check [nowaronvenezuela.org](http://nowaronvenezuela.org).

Efforts to broaden international solidarity are critical. Venezuelan President Maduro has sent a message of thanks to the solidarity demonstrations. Filmmaker and musician Boots Riley denounced U.S. plans for intervention as he accepted an award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards.

If you have ideas or other activities for Venezuela you'd like help organizing or promoting, get in touch: [info@nowaronvenezuela.org](mailto:info@nowaronvenezuela.org). □

## Hollywood awards

*Continued from page 3*

Documentary for the 1998 film “4 Little Girls” about the 1963 Birmingham church bombing by the KKK. He won an honorary Oscar in 2015 for his 30-plus years of making films.

Lee's Feb. 24 acceptance speech read in part: “Four hundred years. Our ancestors were stolen from Mother Africa and brought to Jamestown, Virginia, enslaved. Our ancestors worked the land from can't see in the morning to can't see at night. My grandmother, Zimmie Shelton Retha, who lived to be 100 years young, who was a Spelman College graduate even though her mother was a slave. My grandmother who saved 50 years of Social Security checks to put me through Morehouse College and NYU grad film school. NYU! I give praise to our ancestors who have built this country into what it is today along with the genocide of its Native people. Do the right thing!” (Washington Post, Feb. 25)

Racist Trump attacked Lee's remarks as being “racist,” stating in the following tweet: “Be nice if Spike Lee could read his notes, or better yet not have to use notes at all, when doing his racist hit on your President, who has done more for African Americans (Criminal Justice Reform, Lowest Unemployment numbers in History, Tax Cuts, etc.) than almost any other Pres!”

Lee did not refer to Trump anywhere in his speech. In his post-Oscar remarks, Lee criticized Trump for not denouncing the August 2017 white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Va. According to the Washington Post, Lee stated, “Heather Heyer, her murder was an American terrorist act. That car drove down that crowded street in [Charlottesville], and the president of the United States did not refute, did not denounce the Klan, alt-right and neo-Nazis. Whether we won best picture or not—this film will stand the test of time being on the right side of history.” □



FOTO:TELESUR

Caracas, 23 de febrero, manifestación 'en defensa de la revolución'.

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§1

## Después de derrotar al golpe

# La Revolución Bolivariana sigue luchando

Por Sam Ordóñez

4 de marzo — Según las proclamaciones de Juan Guaidó, autoproclamado presidente interino de Venezuela, el día 23 de febrero sería su triunfo. La Fuerza Armada Nacional Bolivariana (FANB) rompería en dos y ayudaría a entrar camiones del USAID en el país, y luego le entregaría el palacio de Miraflores.

Las proclamaciones de Guaidó, tanto la de su presidencia como sus planes para el país, recibieron mucha atención en los medios de comunicación internacionales. Pero por mucho que las mentiras se repitan en CNN, Fox, o el New York Times la realidad en algún momento se impone, como lo hizo el 23 de febrero.

La unión cívico-militar se movilizó en las fronteras con Colombia y Brasil, y no dejó entrar a ninguno de los camiones de los Estados Unidos. A pesar de los ataques "guarimberos" durante varios días, los golpistas no pudieron producir el falso positivo que buscaban, y el presidente autoproclamado se quedó en Colombia, transformándose en presidente autoexiliado por un tiempo.

Ahora los golpistas encabezados por Guaidó y dirigidos desde Washington han abandonado sus pretensiones constitucionales. Según el artículo de la Constitución que de primeras invocaron falsamente, a los 30 días de ser nombrado presidente interino, Guaidó tendría que haber convocado elecciones (así como lo hizo Nicolás Maduro cuando asumió ese mismo cargo después de la muerte de Hugo Chávez).

Ante una movilización masiva en Caracas pronunció el presidente legítimo, Nicolás Maduro, que el golpe de estado había fracasado. Maduro sigue en Miraflores, Venezuela sigue en paz (tensa, pero paz), y el mismo Grupo de Lima se negó a apoyar una solución militar abierta.

El día 4 de marzo, Guaidó regresó a Venezuela después de reunirse con varios jefes de estado latinoamericanos, el Grupo de Lima, y con el vicepresidente de EUA Mike Pence. La amenaza de una intervención militar disfrazada de una guerra civil sigue presente, y la lucha sigue.

### El poder popular frente al imperialismo

Hay que preguntarse si Juan Guaidó y sus aliados realmente pensaban que tenían el apoyo popular y de las fuerzas armadas. Como todo su plan de entrar "ayuda humanitaria" y derrocar al gobierno bolivariano necesitaba mínimamente el apoyo de una parte de las fuerzas armadas, es posible que hasta ellos se sorprendieron.

Pero es más probable que lo que de verdad querían era montar el teatro para justificar una acción militar de los estados unidos. En sus 20 años en el poder, la Revolución Bolivariana siempre ha contado con el movimiento masivo como su principal defensa contra el imperialismo y sus lacayos en la oligarquía venezolana.

En 2002 fue el pueblo movilizado en Caracas que liberó a Chávez y derrocó al gobierno golpista que lo había encarcelado. Fue también el poder popular que pudo aguantar y derrotar el paro petrolero de la oligarquía.

Hoy como en 2002 ha sido el pueblo que ha derrotado el golpe de estado. La FANB se mantuvo unido y en defensa de la patria por su cercanía y unidad con las milicias comunales que se movilizaron en defensa de la patria. Durante el mes que pasó desde la autoproclamación de Guaidó y el fallido intento de ingresar camiones de Colombia, millones de chavistas tomaron las calles en todas las ciudades del país en rechazo al imperialismo.

Los Comités Locales de Abastecimiento y Producción (CLAP) siguen activos a lo

largo del país, distribuyendo comida a millones de venezolanos, e incluso buscan expandir sus operaciones. Lo que representan los CLAP no es sólo comida a precios accesibles, representa el pueblo chavista movilizado, y organizado, en las primeras líneas de la guerra económica.

El pueblo venezolano lleva 20 años luchando para construir una nueva sociedad, independiente y de carácter popular. El imperialismo quiere el petróleo, el oro, y los minerales del pueblo venezolano, en eso no cabe duda, pero más importante que cualquier recurso natural el imperialismo busca destruir la unidad y organización de un pueblo que durante dos décadas ha desafiado sus dictámenes.

### El golpe fracasó, pero la amenaza sigue presente

La movilización del pueblo, en las fronteras y en las ciudades, derrotó al golpismo descarado de las más violentas secciones de la oposición venezolana. Pero una sola victoria, por grande que sea, no puede acabar de una vez con un imperialismo de carácter global, adicto al petróleo y al militarismo.

Mientras existe el imperialismo, existe la amenaza contra la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, ya que sus armas no se limitan a los tanques y las bombas. Durante todo el intento de golpe de estado las principales armas del imperialismo han sido económicas y mediáticas (sin olvidar la constante amenaza militar), y en estos planos el imperialismo sigue desarrollando su ataque.

Hay que mencionar también que a pesar de que EEUU no ha conseguido apoyo para una intervención militar, el imperialismo tiene mucha práctica con las guerras clandestinas. Ya hay actividad paramilitar en los estados fronterizos de Colombia, y hay rumores de que Guaidó busca construir un "ejército liberador." El regreso de Guaidó a Venezuela entonces

serviría para disfrazar a la intervención de guerra civil.

El gobierno de Cuba ya denunció movimientos de tropas en el Caribe, y el gobierno de Rusia denunció intentos de entregar equipo militar a las fuerzas de la oposición mediante Ucrania. (tinyurl.com/yy5hbzfe)

La ofensiva mediática se ha enfocado en la crisis económica del país, manipulando cínicamente al sufrimiento del pueblo para construir un imagen de un dictador cruel que deja morir a su pueblo. Lo que nunca se menciona son las sanciones, unilaterales e ilegales en el marco de la ley internacional, que desde 2015 le han costado miles de millones de dólares a Venezuela.

En los medios se habla de bloquear "ayuda humanitaria" estadounidense, pero no se menciona que tanto la Cruz Roja como la ONU descartó dicha ayuda como un instrumento político. Tampoco se menciona que Venezuela ya recibe ayuda de sus aliados e incluso está coordinando ayuda técnica con países europeos.

En realidad ya existe una guerra contra Venezuela, sólo que es económica en vez de militar. Las sanciones unilaterales y el bloqueo financiero de los Estados Unidos es la causa de la crisis económica, y por lo tanto EEUU es responsable de todos los muertos y hambrientos que intenta usar para justificar sus acciones.

La resistencia del pueblo venezolano pudo frenar los planes imperialistas por ahora. Sumándose a esa resistencia, miles de personas en todo el mundo se movilizaron el día 23 de febrero en solidaridad con Venezuela. Pero la lucha no ha terminado, y hay que construir un movimiento de solidaridad global. Hay que seguir movilizándolo y organizándolo para romper el bloqueo contra Venezuela y para terminar la guerra económica mientras se resisten las amenazas de guerra militar. □

## Organizaciones rechazan visita de Guaidó

Publicado el 3 de marzo en Tribuna Popular, publicación del Comité Central del Partido Comunista de Venezuela.

Tras la contundente derrota que sufrió el imperialismo en su intento por vulnerar la soberanía de Venezuela con el show de la supuesta «ayuda humanitaria» el pasado 23 de febrero, el personaje que se autoproclamó Presidente de la República, Juan Guaidó, con la complicidad de Gobiernos derechistas títeres, se encuentra en un periplo propagandista por los países cuyos presidentes se han sumado a la conjura injerencista, traicionando las mejores tradiciones latinoamericanistas y sin contar con el apoyo de sus pueblos.

Guaidó se está exhibiendo con los más desprestigiados dirigentes de la región, quienes representan el guerrerismo en Colombia, el militarismo en Brasil, la corrupción en Paraguay, el neoliberalismo en Argentina, la traición en Ecuador

o el entreguismo en Chile.

Tras estar el jueves en Brasil, recibido por el neofascista Jair Bolsonaro, donde organizaciones políticas y sociales se pronunciaron en rechazo a este «visita» y al papel que ha cumplido el Ejecutivo brasileño en los intentos por desestabilizar a Venezuela, Guaidó llegó el viernes 1 de marzo a Paraguay, donde el antipopular presidente Mario Abdó Benítez lo alabó al mejor estilo que lo hizo su Partido por 35 años al dictador paraguayo Alfredo Stroessner.

En Asunción, frente a la Cancillería, se movilizaron delegaciones del Partido Comunista Paraguayo (PCP), el Partido Paraguayo Pyahurá y el Frente Guasú, repudiando la presencia y recepción dada al golpista que pretende usurpar la Presidencia de Venezuela, al tiempo que rechazar la política de sumisión de Abdó a los intereses injerencistas de EEUU y la OTAN así como el explícito apoyo del

Gobierno al golpe de Estado en curso en la nación venezolana.

Ese mismo día arribó a Argentina, donde el presidente Mauricio Macri lo calificó de demócrata, mientras Guaidó, consultado por un periodista sobre una eventual intervención militar a Venezuela, lejos de negarlo, afirmó que «es una última opción de fuerza que nadie quiere.»

El Partido Comunista de Argentina (PCA), la Liga Argentina por los Derechos Humanos y otras organizaciones sociales ratificaron que «la democracia no funciona por autoproclamación» y que «como familiares de víctimas y sobrevivientes del terrorismo de Estado en Argentina, conocemos lo que significa la injerencia de EEUU en cuestiones de política interna de nuestros países».

Posteriormente, el 2 de marzo, el presidente de Ecuador, Lenin Moreno, al recibirlo lo denominó «adali de esta

cruzada de transformación profunda», y afirmó: «Así como lo hicimos nosotros en su debido momento, este momento, presidente Guaidó, estamos ya en el camino de salir del abismo en el que nos había colocado este mal llamado socialismo del siglo XXI».

En Quito, Guayaquil y otras ciudades, el Partido Comunista de Ecuador (PCE) y decenas de organizaciones y movimientos se pronunciaron contrarios al vergonzoso papel que está cumpliendo el Gobierno de su país y reclamaron respeto a la autodeterminación del pueblo venezolano.

Escenas similares se esperan este domingo 3 de marzo en Perú, la anunciada nueva escala del diputado Guaidó.

Los pueblos latinoamericanos y sus organizaciones de vanguardia siguen demostrando que, a pesar de los retrocesos coyunturales, la semilla de la unidad latinoamericana y el antiimperialismo germina en suelo fértil. □