U.S. hands off!
Venezuela fights for all Latin America

By Sam Ordóñez

March 23 – This week U.S. President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro met for the first time since Bolsonaro took office. The two far-right presidents appeared to be good friends while spouting fascist talking points like denouncing “gender ideology.”

The two presidents made the real purpose of their meeting in Washington, D.C., very clear, however, with much of their conversation focused on regime-change efforts in Venezuela. Bolsonaro had even visited the CIA before his meeting with Trump, and Trump mentioned in their joint press conference that he would support Brazil joining NATO, the imperialist military alliance.

The last major expansion of NATO was only possible through the 1999 war that fractured Yugoslavia. It seems that imperialism is prepared to start a new war in Latin America, specifically in Venezuela, to carry out another strategic expansion.

Trump alone cannot make the decision to add Brazil to NATO, but the U.S. has the biggest economy and military in the alliance. Brazil wouldn’t be the first Latin American country in NATO, since Colombia joined as a “global partner” last year.

Colombia has a long history of cooperation with imperialism and is considered one of the most loyal U.S. allies.

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“Uphold the legacy of women’s resistance! Women and gender-oppressed peoples are in the forefront of global fight back. Join the 18th of the International Working Women’s Day program held by the Boston branch of Workers World Party and the Women’s Fightback Network on March 22.

Viewing war as an urgent women’s issue, the WFN was formed in 2001 in direct rejection of President George H.W. Bush’s call for endless war. The WFN called women and their allies into the streets to protest any U.S. military aggression, and continues its anti-imperialist work today.

Opening with the theme “Resistence, Remembrance and Revolution,” Phoe Eckfeldt, a retired Harvard clerical worker and unionist, a Visiting Nurse Association nurse and a WFN team member, welcomed the audience and introduced the panel of speakers.

Doris Reina-Landaverde, a national leader with the Harvard TPS Coalition and union shop steward with Service Employees 32BJ, detailed the ongoing attacks on immigrants and undocumented workers: “Every door is closed to us. They don’t want to give us [driver’s] licenses. As a mother I have to drive for food and to get to work. Thousands of families are in the same situation. Our children are citizens and have a right to grow up with their parents. There are workers with TPS [Temporary Protected Status] from 13 nations who are facing deportation and the loss of our families and livelihood. This fight is for all of us!”

Next, Dorotea Manuela, a long-time Puerto Rican Independentista activist and leader of Boston’s May 1st Coalition said, “I am an Afro-Latina Boricua woman of the captured nation of Puerto Rico that remains a colony of the United States.” She dedicated her talk to feminist workers, saying “They are women that have well-known and unknown. She asked the crowd to remember the women who have fought for decent housing, welfare rights, to stop hospital and school closings, and to demand clean drinking water: “We are everywhere and we have to continue uniting and fighting for our liberation.”

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, gave an exciting eyewitness account about Venezuela, having just returned from a solidarity trip, that included meeting with President Nicolás Maduro. Flounders shared vivid examples of the Venezuelan people’s creativity and organized mass resistance involving unions, collectives, schools and ongoing defense by workers from the farms to the oil fields. She also reported on the heroic struggle of President Maduro and the Bolivarian people’s government’s fight against U.S. imperialism.

Belladonna Ashman, a young trans activist and organizer with Stonewall Warriors and WWP, moved the crowd with her revolutionary working-class assertion that “trans women are as much a part of the women’s struggle as cis women... Let us be who we are and let us define ourselves.” On how trans women suffer disproportionate violence, especially trans women of color, she emphasized, “Stop killing us!” Ashman pointed out that “reproductive justice needs to include the health needs of trans women.”

The Team Solidarity Singers, with Kristin Turgeson on lead vocals, opened and closed the evening with a rising musical tribute to women leaders in struggles against slavery and colonialism. Then the crowd raised their fists and sang the words of The Internationale, the anthem of the worldwide communist movement. While steadfast optimism, they sang, “We have been naught, we shall be all!” (See workers.org for an extended version of this article.)

Some speakers at the International Working Women’s Day program were (left to right) Belladonna Ashman, Doris Reina-Landaverde and Dorotea Manuela.
**AUSTIN BOMBINGS 2018: Never forget**

By Teresa Gutierrez  
Austin, Texas

One year ago, from March 2 through 21, this city was gripped by acts of terror when Mark Anthony Conditt, who is white, left cardboard packages armed to explode in homes and yards.

At the end of it all, two people were killed and five injured. Although corporate media and local officials hesitated to call acts terrorism or racist, Austin’s African-American and Latino communities bore the brunt of Conditt’s aggression. The two people killed were Black.

The explosions most affected East Austin, which has historically been home to Austin’s Mexican and African-American communities and the center of the 1960s-1970s Black and Chicano liberation movements.

Today, with the gentrifying boom that brought the “Berkeley” of Texas aside, Austin is a city that is trying to distance itself from racist, reactionary, white supremacists. Like the rest of Texas, Austin produces serial bombers who are not racist or terrorists.

**ONE YEAR LATER:**

Gaza’s Great March of Return

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

March 21 — Ahmed Abu Artema, from his home in Gaza, sent out a January 2018 Facebook post asking: What would happen if hundreds of thousands of Palestinians marched into the buffer zone between the barbed wire and chain link that fences off Gaza at the de facto border with Israel?

March 30 marks one year of Friday marches, Gaza’s Great March of Return, which Abu Artema is credited with having created. So far, there have been few casualties in the tens and hundreds of thousands, Palestinian people have streamed toward the fence that separates them from their ancestral homes.

As the anniversary approached, Abu Artema spoke in Atlanta about the inspiration for the historic action. This talk was the last stop of a multicity U.S. tour organized by the American Friends Service Committee, with local sponsors including Jewish Voice for Peace.

Some 2.2 million Palestinians are imprisoned in Gaza by Egyptian guards on all sides, Israeli military on the east and north and an Israeli naval blockade to the west.

Palestinians suffer from shortages of food, water and electricity. They live among bombed-out buildings and destroyed infrastructure. Unemployment is rampant, and poverty is intense. Most are refugees — forced from Gaza by Zionist attacks on their villages in 1948, others by the 1967 Israeli war that seized control of the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza itself.

International law affirms their right to return to their land, but Israel responded to the Great March by using live ammunition. Sniper fire killed over 300 Palestinians in 2018, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, including those clearly identified as journalists and medics. More than 26,000 have been injured, with thousands shot in the legs, often requiring amputation, or in the head, suffering life-altering wounds.

Abu Artema was asked by an audience member how Palestinians of all ages continue to march, unarmed, despite the danger. He replied that the Great March represented the collective scream of invincible and discarded people declaring defiantly, “We are here and we will be heard!”

**WALTER RODNEY: Immersed in class struggle**

By Dianne Mathiowetz  
Atlanta

The 16th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium was held March 22-23 at the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library where the renowned scholar and Marxist activist’s papers are archived.

Rodney is best known as the author of “How Europe Underdeveloped Africa,” a seminal work that exposed the convergence of capitalism, race and class in the modern political, economic and social reality of that continent.

Rodney was assassinated June 13, 1980, in Guyana, where his steadfast work in promoting class unity and struggle against oppression and exploitation had earned him the hatred of the ruling elite.

The Walter Rodney Foundation hosts the Symposium each year on the weekend closest to his birthday, March 23. It gathers together writers, activists, scholars, students and others to engage in Rodney’s main position: The role of those with knowledge and skills is not to collaborate with, but to challenge and undermine the lies and myths of capitalist-imperialism.

As illustrated by his own life, Rodney called on progressive or radical intellectuals to join social movements and organizations to help build the capacity of the masses of working and poor people for self-emancipation.

He stressed that immersion in the class struggle would bring real life to the academic’s understanding of systems of power and exploitation and would constitute a valuable tool in overthrowing capitalism and building socialism.

Among those attending this year’s Symposium were Mireille Fanon Mendès-France, daughter of famed African liberation activist Franz Fanon, author of “The Wretched of the Earth”; Jamaican Rastafari who collaborated with Rodney; scholars and professors of African studies and political science influenced by Rodney; activists engaged in support of the Bolivarian Revolution and leaders of community struggles.

The Walter Rodney Foundation was initiated by his widow, Dr. Patricia Rodney and his children, who lead and sustain the Foundation.

For additional information, visit: walterrodneyfoundation.org
Black and Brown workers reveal Philadelphia
City Council gentrification scheme

By Ted Kelly

Philadelphia

At 2 a.m. on the night of Feb. 23, over 50 people were gathered outside Philadelphia’s Ninth Police Precinct building as temperatures dropped to frigid temperatures, the dozens of primarily Black activists rallied, chanted and shut down traffic demanding the release of Abdul-Aliy Muhammad, arrested earlier that evening at City Hall.

Muhammad is one of the founders of the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative, dedicated to the liberation of the most oppressed sectors of the working class. BBWC has launched several campaigns to combat gentrification in Philadelphia, as well as confronting white supremacy in the city’s LGBTQ institutions.

In 2017, they mobilized to confront a culture of racism and sexual violence permitted by the administration of the Mazzoni Center, one of the largest LGBTQ homeless care providers in the U.S. Over 70 workers walked out, calling for the resignation of Mazzoni CEO Nuri Shein, who refused to fire other demands.

Muhammad, who is HIV positive, put their body on the front lines of the struggle by engaging in a “med strike”—forgoing the medications that keep the virus at bay. Shein and another executive resigned within three days. BBWC is working with the Mazzoni Center to assure that structural changes are made to address workers’ demands.

Activist victory over cops and crooks

Now the cooperative has turned its energies toward revealing and reversing the displacement of Black and Brown communities. At a Feb. 21 re-election campaign launch event for City Councilmember Jannie Blackwell, BBWC protested the 30-year incumbent for collaborating with real estate developers to sell off public properties to her friends and cronies.

At the protest, Blackwell’s campaign staff violently assaulted demonstrators and called the notoriously racist Philadelphia Police Department on them. Blackwell’s allies Michael Williams and Muhammed assailed BBWC members with threats of rape and further violence. Youngblood, who works as a private contractor for Blackwell’s firm, was convicted of bank fraud and extortion for taking down a homeless shelter in the Third District.

Two days later, organizers staged another protest to disrupt a Council meeting at City Hall. Again, Blackwell left and called the police on the protestors, and Muhammad was arrested in full view of the press and public.

The court outrageously claimed that this revolutionary activist was armed and attacked the officers, charging Muhammad with possession of an instrument of crime, resisting arrest, reckless endangerment and aggravated assault, among other serious and bogus charges.

After the Feb. 23 arrest, Muhammad was transported to Hahnemann Hospital to be treated for injuries inflicted by the police. The hospital refused to allow Muhammad to be treated without police in the room, so Muhammad declined treatment. They were then taken to the Ninth Precinct building where officers refused to serve halal food to Muhammad who is Muslim.

“That’s when the network of workers and oppressed people snapped into action to demand the immediate release of Abdul-Aliy Muhammad.

Finally, on March 21, as the result of organized effort by the community, all charges against Muhammad were dropped, with the exception of a disorderly conduct charge. Abdul-Aliy pleaded guilty and was fined $100.

Muslim and queer activism

Abdul-Aliy Muhammad was born to Melody Ellen Beverly, who became the first Black woman to operate a trolley in Philadelphia. When Beverly was a child, her family was one of the first to move into the 46th Street projects. Beverly converted to Islam and her family joined a Muslim community on the 42nd Street corridor. Muhammad grew up with Arabic as their first language.

Inheriting a deep spirituality from her mother, Muhammad said, in comments to WW, that it can be very difficult to be both Muslim and queer. “These rigid boxes are violent,” they said when describing the conflict imposed on these identities. This has certainly informed Muhammad’s activism, particularly in BBWC’s mobilization against racism and segregation at gay clubs in Philadelphia.

Muhammad’s mother died in 2012, followed by their father in 2013. In 2018, they were diagnosed with HIV.

A poet, Muhammad says, “Writing was crucial to my survival. If I didn’t write, I would be dead.”

When municipalities force professionals sometimes insinuate that HIV positive folks should abstain from sex and intimacy, Muhammad refuses to have their bodily autonomy revoked. The victim blaming and stigma are not unlike what they saw their mother face after she was diagnosed with lung cancer.

Confronting racist gentrification

“It wasn’t until the 2000s that you started to see white folks not just ping and passing through West Philly communities, but settling there,” Muhammad told WW. Luxury apartment projects began springing up overlooking FDR Park and Malcolm X. Park Student apartments replaced family homes. Muhammad was forced out of their own community due to skyrocketing rent and lived in South Philadelphia for some time before they were able to return to their home in Philadelphia’s Third District.

Council member Blackwell is known to exercise a prerogative that Muhammad described as “an unspoken deference City Council members receive in deciding on land deals that happen within their district’s borders.”

Blackwell wants to see a vacant city-owned property at 4601 Market Street sold for $10 million to a private developer. Michael Karp has been awarded numerous contracts to gentrify West Philly with luxury student housing around the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University. This is part of a decades-long project to “settle” that historically Black neighborhood, turning communities like Mantua, Powelton Village and Black Bottom over to landlords who rent to illegal immigrants in a country where the right to vote is also an “advocate” for charter schools, is a founder of the for-profit Belmont School. Karp is not unique in Philadelphia. In a recent op-ed written for the Philadelphia Inquirer, Abdul-Aliy also pointed to the examples of developers Shaun Bullard and Alphonso Raymán, who made a fortune after other members of City Council were able to use their “prerogative” to award contracts.

WW PHOTO: TED KELLY

Fight for women’s liberation! Build Workers World!

As Marxists, we strive to not just honor history but to make it— to promote 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— like the Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and gender-nonconforming folks at work— with restaurants, offices and hotels— against sexual harassment and for respect, and trans women are resisting horrific sexual assaults by police and prison guards.

WW continues to focus on women who bear the brunt of Trump’s racism, sexism, bigoted xenophobic agenda: im/migrant women and refugees detained and 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 from the border from parents, 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 WW— for the cost of a Netflix subscription— and five free subscriptions to WW. Write to workers.org/donate/ to make monthly deductions. Know we appreciate your help in building Workers World— for today and the future.

Abdul-Aliy Muhammad of the Black and Brown Workers Cooperative.

Muhammad wrote: “To raise awareness of these issues, the Black and Brown Workers Co-op, an organization I helped to co-found with Shani Akilah and Dominique London, launched an anti-displacement platform last summer called ‘disappearing Blackness is displacement politics,’ which tackles the gentrification of West and Southwest Philadelphia. Dominique knows this issue firsthand. She was displaced from her own apartment in Wynnewood. As a whole, our collective focuses on the communities that we have seen be hit hardest by displacement and homelessness: Black and Brown people, LGBTQIA people, and people living with disabilities, including chronic illness.

“We urge city leaders to consider these populations and develop a means by which 40 percent of city-owned land in each district would be reserved for residents and community members—not just officials—to decide its use. All, when [real estate developer Shawn Bullard] said he wanted his property to cater to college students and millennials that work downtown, ‘that doesn’t sound like it describes most Philadelphians.’

Philadelphia is a working-class city. And it is, more importantly, a Black and Brown city. ‘It shouldn’t be anyone one person’s prerogative,’ Muhammad wrote in conclusion. ‘It has to be all of ours.”

WW PHOTO: TED KELLY
The relationship between the law and politics is once again the subject of oceans of ink—and their electronic equivalents in this digital age—as the Mueller Report is being analyzed, down to the last comma, by people who have not read it and are not allowed to read it. It has been hyped as the biggest legal challenge yet to the Trump administration. The whole country is presumed to have been breathlessly awaiting its release—which has still not happened and may never happen.

All that has come out into the open so far is a brief summary of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s report, beginning with the Palmer Raids of the 1920s.

Barr had to add that while the “report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.”

An ‘impartial’ FBI?

It should be remembered that both Mueller and Barr were appointed to their jobs by Trump. The FBI, which Mueller headed for 12 years, has a long history of repressing unionists, progressives and immigrants, beginning with the Palmer Raids of the 1920s.

The FBI spied on and worked to destroy Black leaders from Marcus Garvey to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Huey Newton. It fed Sen. Joseph McCarthy the information to point a finger at socialists and communists and get them fired from their jobs in the 1950s. It tried to bring down the American Indian Movement with baseless charges.


There is much discussion that the Mueller Report will now become the focus of a huge struggle in Congress. Really? Is this report more important than all the other crimes of the Trump administration?

What about climate change?

This administration has shocked the world by axing what little had been done in the U.S. to curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect the environment. Fossil fuel conglomerates are ecstatic while climate change destroys lives all over the planet. Compare all the articles circulating on the Mueller Report with barely a mention of the floods currently devastat ing the Midwest and the extremely intense storms from Norway to Bangladesh to the eastern coast of Africa.

The battle over the Mueller Report will undoubtedly dominate the headlines of the capitalist media for a long time, but it must not distract from the real struggle—in the streets, on the picket lines, in the nitty-gritty organizing that goes on every day to end exploitation, union busting, racism, misogyny, anti-LGBTQ2S bigotry, xenophobia, attacks on Muslims and the oppression of im/migrants.

Houston

Chemical fires cause immeasurable pain, illness, fear

By Mirinda Crissman and Gloria Rubac Houston

The morning of March 17 saw dark black billowing smoke begin to cloud the skies of east Harris County, causing resi dents to wonder if a storm or hurricane was approaching. But this was no natural disaster. It was man-made, caused by ITC, Intercontinental Terminals Company’s facility in Deer Park, outside Houston.

Several petrochemical storage tanks caught fire, and it took four days to put out the fires which spread to several more tanks. Then midweek, the fires rekindled. While the fires are now out, residents fear they could break out again. While company officials report no danger, residents don’t believe them. Thousands of people have gone to hospitals, clinics and emergency rooms for a multitude of symptoms from watery and itchy eyes to problems breathing and inability to keep food down. People with asthma have suff ered greatly.

According to ITC’s web page, the Deer Park terminal “currently has 13.1 million barrels of capacity in 242 tanks. It ships liquid petroleum gases, as well as fuel oil, bunker oil and chemicals, to refineries on the east side of Houston. Those refineries on the east side of Houston. Those refineries are responsible for refining the crude oil shipped to Deer Park. The major refineries on the east side of Houston are the Texas Refining complex, home to the largest petrochemical complex in the Western Hemisphere. The lack of safety in these industrial facilities has subjected residents to unacceptable toxic pollution.”

Decades of activism against pollution

For decades activists from the Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (t.e.j.a.s.) have fought the petrochemical refining complex on the east side of Houston. These communities in Texas Congressional District 29 (CD 29) surround the Houston Ship Channel, home to the largest petrochemical refinery complex in the Western Hemisphere. The lack of safety in these industrial facilities has subjected residents to unbearable conditions.

Behind the Mueller Report

The Houston Ship Channel is a 50-mile waterway that runs from the Gulf of Mexico through Galveston Bay and up the San Jacinto River, ending 4 miles east of downtown at the Port of Houston. According to a study by the University of Texas Health Science Center, children living within 2 miles of the Ship Channel have a 36 percent higher risk for childhood leukemia than those living over 10 miles away.

The channel was shut down due to pollutants released by the fire. It won’t reopen until the U.S. Coast Guard verifies that cancer-causing benzene has dis sipated in the air, and oil runoff from the channel has been cleaned up. The channel is used not just by moving Texas’s oil and gas, but by exporting it. The channel is also part of the Port of Houston, one of the largest ports in the world.

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Next: Town meetings expose community health crisis in Houston.
International Working Women's Day was founded in 1910 at an International Women's Socialist Conference in Copenhagen to strengthen global solidarity among women, especially workers. Its socialist founders recognized the burgeoning numbers of women workers pouring into factories at a time of capitalist expansion, facing terrible working conditions and lacking any rights.

This year's IWD calls for solidarity with women living under the gun of U.S.-backed wars or occupations, as in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan and Occupied Palestine, and those defending their country against imperialist intervention, as in Venezuela. It's a day to support women and people of all genders facing brutal right-wing, dictatorial governments, as in Brazil, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and elsewhere.

In response to oppressive capitalist globaliza- tion, women workers worldwide are striking and marching for higher wages, pay equity, safer workplaces, unionization and equality. They demand an end to sexual and physical abuse on and off the job. The #MeToo movement has spread interna- tionally. Workers, as in Bangladesh, are fighting for union protection from global brands and local bosses. The movement for reproductive justice is spurred on by young women from Argentina to the north of Ireland to South Korea.

IWD is a time to support the tens of millions of migrant and refugee women workers—and their families—forced to leave their homelands, fleeing repression, violence and poverty, only to face rac- ism, abuse and detentions. And to thank Indigenous women, leading the global movement against corporate destruction of the planet, often at great risk.

Although capitalist governments give lip service to IWD with phony procla- mations about women's equality, and corporations commercialize it, the day's working-class roots and global solidarity prevail. On March 8, women workers and students, labor unionists, leftists, peo- ple of all genders, nationalities, cultures, religions, ages, disabilities and abilities demonstrated in the streets with colorful banners held high.

By Kathy Durkin

International Working Women's Day

Latin America: mass protests from Mexico to Chile

In Guatemala City, hundreds of Indigenous women, trans women, domestic workers and others protested decades of state killing, rape and torture, which targeted Indigenous peoples. They protested pending release of convicted perpetrators.

The Civil Council of People and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras held events in early March honoring co-founder Berta Cáceres, a Lenca woman, socialist and environmentalist, murdered three years ago. Her now-convicted killers are members of the Honduran military and executives of the Energy Development Company, whose dam she fought against. Cáceres' family demands "true justice."

On IWD, Venezuela faced a U.S.-coordinated electrical outage and threats against President Nicolás Maduro. Imperialist intervention would endanger gains made by women workers, including equal pay, pregnancy and maternal benefits, free health care and education, and laws that mandate women must hold half of council seats and ban anti-woman violence.

In São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, crowds of 50,000 people marched, while 15,000 came out in Recife and thousands more demonstrated throughout Brazil against reactionary President Jair Bolsonaro and his austerity cutbacks, racism and misogyny. Agricultural workers occupied mines. Indigenous women rallied. Salvador protestors stressed that Bolsonaro's election unleashed a war against women, Black people, the poor and LGBTQ+ people.

Women chanted, "We are all Marieille!" to honor Marieille Franco, Black lesbian activist against racism and police brutality, advocate for urban poor people, women and LGBTQI individuals, and Rio councilor. Two ex-police officers were recently arrested in connection with her assassination a year ago.

Thousands of pro-choice activists marched in Buenos Aires, Argentina, carrying "Legalize Abortion Now!" signs. Each year hundreds of thousands of women have "underground" abortions, resulting countless complications, even death. Legislation allowing the procedure was narrowly defeated in 2018, but the mass struggle goes on.

Europe: Women strike!

Massive marches and strikes involving millions of protestors swept the Spanish state, with 350,000 in Madrid streets, 200,000 in Barcelona, 220,000 in Valencia, and huge actions in Pamplona, Seville and in Bilbao in Basque country. The 1,400 protests showed the strength of the women's movement, backed by major labor unions. Hundreds of thousands of women workers, other gender-oppressed people and students struck for two hours or all day. They protested pay and job discrimination, misogynist violence, and rallied to protect hard-won rights, emphasizing, "There are 1,000 reasons!"

Demonstrations took place at 120 locations across France, uniting women's, student and LGBTQI organizations and labor unions. Key slogans demanded pay equity and an end to gender-based assaults inside and outside the workplace.

The next day, women wearing "pink vests" led a "yellow vests" demonstration in Paris, opposing the Macron administration's "labor reforms," especially reductions in unemployment benefits.

The slogan in Berlin, Germany, a city where IWD is a paid holiday, was "Celebrate, strike, fight on!" Thousands of women and LGBTQI people, mostly young, held signs denouncing patriarchy, the gender wage gap, sexual assaults and reactionary anti-choice, homophobic forces. German socialist Clara Zetkin initiated IWD.

Strikes by public sector unions and demonstrations swept Italy, protesting job inequities and gender-based abuse. Affected were transportation, education and public health services in many cities. Federica Stagni remarked, "The march blocked the entire city of Bologna." (Italianes Magazine, March 12)

Public sector workers in 30 unions joined women's organizations in initiating walkouts in Athens and other cities in Greece to oppose pay inequity and government austerity cuts harming women.

Women and their allies marched in Belfast in the north of Ireland for legalization of abortion, which their sisters won in the Irish Republic last May. Tens of thousands were on the streets in Norway. Other actions took place in England, Belgium and Serbia.

South Africa: Honor women workers!

The Congress of South African Trade Unions paid tribute to the struggles and contributions of women workers and acknowledged human and worker rights on IWD. COSATU called on women "to intensify their struggle for justice and equality by organizing themselves in their communities and workplaces," learning about global women workers' struggles and always supporting each other "for the advancement of the women's struggle."

The Congress called on men to support women's leadership and stand with women "in eradicating patriarchy and all its ills." (cosatu.org)

The South African Democratic Teachers Union, the country's largest educator union, celebrated IWD across four provinces and at a national event. Invited were sister unions in COSATU and the Tripartite Alliance, comprised of the African National Congress, South African Communist Party and the South African National Civic Organization.

Among other commemorations on the continent, hundreds of women, especially youth, demonstrated in Nairobi, Kenya, for an end to employment and wage discrimination, as well as gender violence. Thousands of women marched in Tunis, Tunisia, chanting, "Equality—a right, not a privilege!"
International Working Women's Day goes global!

Women in Gaza protested at Israel's border fence on March 8 in the 50th week since the Great March of Return to their historical homes began a year ago. On IWD, named the "Friday of Palestinian Women," thousands of Palestinians demonstrated, over half of them women, against U.S.-backed Israeli occupation and repression. During the Great March, Israeli soldiers killed nearly 200 Palestinians, including 41 children, two women, three paramedics, two journalists and eight disabled people, said the human rights group, Al-Mezan.

When thousands of women gathered in Istanbul, Turkey, to commemorate IWD, police fired tear gas and blocked their access to a main avenue off Taksim Square. This has occurred every IWD since 2016 under Recep Erdogan's repressive regime.

Women in Pakistan marched for equal access to education and employment and for bodily autonomy, decrying sexist violence. Throughout India, women workers and activists, labor organizations and left parties marched against job and wage discrimination and gender-based assaults. The All-India Trade Union Congress demonstrated in Coimbatore for a higher minimum wage and pensions for all workers, with equal pay for women.

Women workers at ATU Ceylon clothing manufacturer company in Sri Lanka have been on strike for 2½ months, protesting intimidation, abuse and unfair firings. On IWD, strikers, members of FTZ-GREU workers' organization, marched in Colombo.

Contingents of women garment workers—who comprise 80 percent of the 4 million workers in that industry—marched in Bangladesh, demanding better wages and working conditions in plants that provide clothing for global brands. Leftists and unions participated.

Thousands of women workers, many in the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, rallied in Seoul, South Korea. Signs called for "gender equality" and better working conditions.

In Democratic People's Republic of Korea, IWD is a national day of celebration. Women there are guaranteed the right to free, safe, legal abortions, and those in the south are fighting for that right.

Thousands of women and people of all genders from 100 organizations, including Akbayan and Gabriela, marched through Manila, the Philippines, protesting President Rodrigo Duterte's reactionary policies, increasing sexual violence against women and children, and imposition of martial law in Mindanao. The groups said, "On this International Women's Day, we say 'enough!' of the century of women's oppression ... and of the misogyny of this administration." (GMA News, March 8) Gabriela Women's Party said, "There is no other path but the path of fighting."

In Jakarta, Indonesia, thousands of women demonstrated for their rights, and those of other marginalized groups, and an end to misogynist abuse. Women workers demanded higher wages, lower prices for necessities, the right to maternity, menopause leave, and an end to exploitative work contracts.

Australia: Support migrants!

Thousands of people marched through Sydney, led by migrant organizations and labor unions, including the Electrical Trades Union. A Latinx contingent honored Marielle Franco. Chants demanded equal pay and the right to abortion. Rally speakers denounced exploitation of migrant workers and violence against Indigenous women. Sex workers marched in Brisbane, chanting, "Decriminalize sex work!"

Supporters of Puerto Rican political prisoners rallied in Harlem, N.Y., March 23.

Free Ana Belén Montes and Nina Droz Franco!

By Teresa Gutierrez

New York

The struggle to free Puerto Rican political prisoners Ana Belén Montes and Nina Alejandra Droz Franco continues. On March 23 the ProLibertad Freedom Campaign held a Freedom March in Harlem as part of their Women's History Month activities and dedicated it to these heroes. ProLibertad organizes support for Puerto Rican political prisoners and demands independence for Puerto Rico.

Ana Belén Montes

Ana Belén Montes was a Pentagon analyst hired by the Defense Intelligence Agency. One of her first assignments was to go to Cuba to study their military, according to ProLibertad.

Her work meant that she was granted access to almost everything intelligence forces had related to Cuba, including from the CIA and the State Department. "Allegedly for 16 years, she shared the information ... with Cuba," states ProLibertad. (tinyurl.com/roykpuis)

In 2001, Ana Belén Montes was arrested by the FBI and accused of "conspiracy to commit espionage" in favor of Cuba. She pleaded guilty.

She was sentenced to 25 years in prison without parole and sent to a Navy base prison in Texas. Her release date is scheduled for July 1, 2023. At her trial, Ana Belén Montes testified: "I engaged in the activity ... because I obeyed my conscience rather than the law. I believe our government's policy is cruel and unfair ... and I felt ... obligated to help the island defend itself from our efforts to impose our values and our political system."

Nina Droz Franco

Nina Alejandra Droz Franco was arrested in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after she blocked a line of riot police at a major demonstration in November, 2017. She was accused of trying to set fire to the Banco Popular building, a target of the protest.

The anger of the Puerto Rican people toward banks is righteous. The banks, in collusion with the hated Fiscal Control Board imposed in 2016, have almost brought Puerto Rico and the people toward banks is righteous. The current administration against Palestine, the Israeli settler-colonial regime. This regime has, ever since its founding, firmly in solidarity with Odeh and against all who support, visit prolfbertad.org.

Workers World Statement

Workers World Party strongly protests that Rasmea Odeh, a renowned Palestinian activist, freedom fighter and former Israeli and U.S. political prisoner, was recently banned from participating in a speaking engagement in Germany and was ordered to leave the country.

Under pressure from Israel, the German government revoked Odeh's visa after she was scheduled to speak on "Palestinian women in the liberation struggle" at an International Women's Day event in Berlin.

This action is a violation of her right to speak openly and honestly about the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and justice. Germany's actions also violate the rights of Odeh's audience to learn from her experiences and those of her compatriots.

Odeh was deported from the U.S. in 2014 after waging a long, arduous legal and political campaign against thoroughly biased charges; she was eventually convicted by equally biased federal courts. Her treatment reveals the hostility of past and present U.S. administrations, regardless of political party, which deny the Palestinians' right to fight for self-determination and nationhood against the Israeli apartheid colonial regime. This regime has, ever since its founding, been supported, politically and militarily, by U.S. imperialism.

During the many decades Odeh lived in the U.S., with permanent resident status and the position of the current administration against Palestine, Odeh chose to leave the United States voluntarily and return to the Middle East.

Workers World Party stands firmly in solidarity with Odeh and the Palestinian people wherever they live.

The anger of the Puerto Rican people toward banks is righteous. The banks, in collusion with the hated Fiscal Control Board imposed in 2016, have almost brought Puerto Rico to its knees. The protest.

Supporters of Puerto Rican political prisoners rallied in Harlem, N.Y., March 23.

In solidarity with Rasmea Odeh and the Palestinian People.
Role of U.S.-NATO aggression

By John Catalinotto

New York

March 24 — Today's opponents of the 1999 NATO war against Yugoslavia gathered in Ralph Bunche Park, across from United Nations headquarters, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the air attack directed mainly against civilian targets in Serbia. The 78 days of bombs and rockets killed 3,000 people, destroyed hundreds of schools and collapsed hospitals.

The war and subsequent imperialist intervention in the Balkans completed the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, a multinational state of 20 million people. Yugoslavia had remained sovereign and socialist since its partisans drove out German imperialism in 1945. Now what remains are six small capitalist countries, semi-colonies of Western imperialism. Already three of them are NATO members.

In addition, there's the rump region called Kosovo, a province wrenched out of Serbia as part of international law. There the U.S. military built Camp Bondsteel, its major base serving NATO in the Balkans.

Significantly the rally had been active opposing the U.S.-NATO war in 1999. Besides reviewing the war crimes of the Western powers and their Balkan lackeys, time pointed to the insidious role of NATO.

NATO expands role during war

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center who visited Yugoslavia during the bombing, underlined that it was at NATO's 50th anniversary meeting in April 1999 — during the bombing — that the U.S. pushed through its strategy of expanding NATO membership and area of intervention. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary then joined and brought NATO membership to 19 countries.

There are now 29 members, with some on or near Russian borders, plus nine “global partners,” including Colombia. President Donald Trump has announced his intention to increase NATO's military role.

NATO began its expansion with its first open aggression aimed at Yugoslavia. Since then, NATO opened the war against Libya in North Africa and participated in the occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq, all under U.S. military direction. The military alliance whose name — North Atlantic Treaty Organization — implies a limited area of responsibility, now intervenes worldwide.

In the period just following World War II, the United States was by far the dominant imperialist state, measured both by its economic and military power. Originally designed to confront the Soviet Union and to prevent workers’ revolutions in Western Europe, NATO’s structure puts Washington in control. The U.S. president always chooses the NATO commander, and the general in charge is always from the Pentagon.

While U.S. world economic dominance has constantly decreased, its power of destruction is still preeminent. NATO has been U.S. strategic choice instrument for keeping the other imperialist powers under U.S. control, something that went without question in 1999 at NATO's founding.

For contributing money and their youth to imperialist military adventures, the ruling classes of the other imperialist powers get a small piece of the loot stolen from the rest of the world. While the “new” members get is a few crumbs. NATO has been turned into a worldwide police force serving imperialism in an attempt to reconquer colonies liberated during the existence of the Soviet Union. Other speakers at the rally included former Serbian Information Minister Radmila Milentijević, historian Barry Lituchy and composer Miloš Raicković, who organized the event. Raicković called for a Yugoslav delegation at the major anti-NATO march in Washington, D.C., on March 30 to protest the April 1-4 NATO anniversary meeting there.

(Co2NATO2019.org)


My Lai massacre

By John Catalinotto

New York

Veterans For Peace highlight U.S. war crime

Veterans For Peace, New York Chapter, presented an art installation in Manhattan on March 22 that exposed the My Lai Massacre as a chapter in U.S. imperialism.

In the three-day exhibit at the Quaker House on Rutherford Place, artist Mac MacDevitt showed with annotated photographs the horror of the U.S.-ordered slaughter of 503 unarmed Vietnamese villagers on March 16, 1968 — an atrocity subsequently exposed in the United States.

The Lessons of My Lai

I'm honored to share the stage with this roster of people’s champions. My appearance here is a consequence of my good fortune to have met — and organized with — like-minded GIs during the war.

Three at the Fort Hood Three agreed that we could not in good conscience take part in an illegal, immoral and unjust war of aggression. We were able to remain true to our beliefs with the support of our loved ones, a growing and supportive anti-war movement and the courageous example of our Vietnamese people.

The exhibit, which we’ve gathered here to introduce and celebrate, calls to mind Howard Zinn’s “People’s History of the United States.” In the past, I’ve often spoken about what some call “The United States of Amnesia.” But on closer examination, it’s clear that so many in our nation aren’t victims of amnesia, but rather a highly coordinated system of obfuscation and misinformation.

Those who profit so handsomely from the status quo have no interest in merit the truth to set us free. The horror of My Lai should never leave our consciousness. Nor should we treat My Lai as an isolated incident. Rather a highly coordinated system of aggression and military adventures is still in process.

The past is prologue, and the wave of teachers’ strikes. And movements to combat militarization and its human, financial and environmental devastation, we, too, can draw important lessons from their struggles.

As a trade unionist, I’m inspired by the wave of teachers’ strikes. And movements such as Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, Standing Rock hold valuable lessons for our struggles. Last year, high school students organized the nation’s largest protest against gun violence. And last week, some 1.4 million children around the world took part in a global climate strike to demand action against the world’s greatest danger — the climate catastrophe.

Catalinotto is author of the 2017 book, “Turn the Guns Around: Mutinies, Soldier Revolts and Revolutions.”
The illegal occupation of Syrian Golan

By Michael Kramer

March 25 — With a tweet and an executive order, the Trump administration has further isolated itself globally by reversing decades of U.S. policy in calling for “the United States to fully recognize Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.” The area, which is correctly known as Syrian Golan, is located in southwestern Syria. It was seized by Israel during the June 1967 Arab-Israeli War and has been occupied ever since.

Like Palestine, the occupation of Syrian Golan has been brutal. The city of Quneitra and 344 villages and farms were destroyed. Lands were expropriated for military bases and Zionist settlements. A rich and thriving Syrian agricultural region was devastated. Lands were expropriated for military bases and Zionist settlements. Since the occupation began, the Israeli authorities have aimed to deprive the region of its economic potential and to isolate it from the rest of Syria. The illegal occupation of Syrian Golan has been a constant source of tension and conflict between Syria and Israel. The occupation has also been a symbol of the U.S. and Israel’s willingness to violate international law in pursuit of their goals.

On Dec. 14, 1981, Israel declared that it had annexed the Golan. Three days later the United Nations Security Council unanimously (including the U.S.) adopted Resolution 497 which declared the annexation “null and void and without international legal effect.” For this reason alone (and there are others), the Trump administration’s moves are in complete violation of international law. According to Al-Marasid (golan-marsad.org), the U.S. administration has repeatedly threatened to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan. It has also threatened to upgrade its embassy to a consulate in the area. These actions would be a clear violation of international law and would further embolden Israeli militarism in the region.

The U.S. hands off!
Venezuela fights for all Latin America

Continued from page 1

puppet states. Brazil, however, was until very recently a tight ally of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The 2016 parliamentary coup against Dilma Rousseff and the imprisonment of former president Luiz Inácio da Silva, who at the time was running in the 2018 election and projected to easily defeat Bolsonaro, were important steps in imperialist’s plan to isolate and threaten Venezuela.

The struggle for a continent’s future

The list of imperialist operatives running the regime change efforts in Venezuela, including Elliott Abrams, John Bolton and Sen. Marco Rubio, are fully aware of what is at stake. Seizing Venezuela is the first step in conquering this “sleeping giant of tyranny.” The next targets are Cuba and Nicaragua.

The conflict is not just between Bolivarians and imperialists, but also between sovereignty and its social base of workers and oppressed, and the specter of the 20th century Venezuela, tightly controlled by a racist oligarchy in the service of U.S. imperialism.

The battle in Venezuela is just one part of a broader fight for the entire continent of Latin America.

Recently, anti-imperialist activists and progressive journalists from the U.S. and Canada returned from a U.S. Peace Council delegation to Venezuela. They visited several community projects and met with social movements.

At one point they had a meeting with President Nicolás Maduro, who mentioned that in addition to being a struggle between socialism and capitalism, the current moment was a chapter in a “200-year struggle between Bolivar and Monroe.”

James Monroe was the U.S. president from 1817 to 1825. It is on this day that U.S.-dominated Monroe Doctrine was declared after a visit to Europe as the economic ruler of Latin America. It took the U.S. ruling class some decades to make this a reality with the help of counter-revolutionary movements in Latin America. Thus Monroe’s doctrine paved every aspect of the revolution, from basing itself in the poorest and most oppressed sectors of society to the grand vision of Latin American unity.

The Lima Group, Monroe’s lap dogs

After so many centuries of European and later U.S. occupation, the peoples of Latin America are fighters, and relentless ones at that. That’s why the U.S. has to resort to dirty wars, economic blockades, sabotage and all other forms of attack they have used against Venezuela. But they have also used their influence in the region to gather their right-wing puppets into the Lima Group to attack defiant countries in the region.

If the conflict is a regional scale it is between Monroe and Bolivar, members of the Lima Group are Monroe’s lap dogs. These right-wing governments completely dependent on imperialism when they join together to threaten Venezuela on one hand, on the other they violently repress their own peoples to ensure profits for North American corporations.

The two Central American countries in the Lima Group, Guatemala and Honduras, are experiencing massive emigration as a result of right-wing policy. In Guatemala, the right wing was put in power through a coup d’état in 1954 and a subsequent civil war. In Honduras the coup d’état was more recent, in 2009.

In both these countries transnational corporations routinely conspire with the state to assassinate Indigenous and campesino leaders like Berta Cáceres in Honduras. Mining companies and large infrastructure projects steal land from Indigenous peoples and destroy the environment. Most people work seasonally on large plantations, harvesting crops for poverty wages.

In Brazil, Bolsonaro’s racist, anti-LGBTQ and pro-military dictatorship politics have opened the door for all kinds of repression and against the land rights of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon. His economic plans are the same as those of the rest of the Latin American right wing: privatization and unchecked neoliberalism. In essence, the state exists only to advance the interests of the transnational corporations and to repress workers and Indigenous peoples.

Colombia has been controlled by imperialist puppets for so long that it is on the verge of collapse. Government corruption is rampant, most elections have been thinly disguise fixing and paramilitaries control large portions of the rural areas.

This week, the Colombian army opened fire on Indigenous protesters in the Cauca region. The city of Cúcuta, on the Venezuelan border, had been crafted into a hotbed for covert activity against Venezuela. With the border, along with currency exchange houses, closed, Cúcuta’s economy has begun to collapse.

Social movements rising

In every one of these countries, as well as other Lima Group members like Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Argentina, there are growing social movements rising up against the repression and suffering imposed by imperialism. Some of these groups also understand the continental scale of the fight and have mobilized in support of Bolivarian Venezuela.

Every day the battle lines become clearer and the social movements of the Americas take their position. When the struggle between imperialism and the popular masses is as sharp and as wide-spread as it has now become, there are only two paths left: a return to the brutal military dictatorships of the 20th century or the liberation of the entire American continent, just as Bolivar once hoped.
Climate change is driving social change

The terrible news on unfolding climate change can have opposite effects on people: despair, lustitude and denial — or angry energy.

The ranks of those in this country who buy into the lie, promoted by the fossil fuel industry and repeated by opportun- ist politicians like Trump, that denies cli- mate change are thinning out, as evidence of its reality mounts. Sometimes it hits in their own backyards, whether it’s fierce storms or wild fires or floods.

The young in particular, for whom the future is a big chunk of their own lives, are driving the movement demanding governments and corporations take meaningful steps to turn around what seems like an unstopable slide into cli- mate chaos.

And more and more, people in this movement are targeting capitalism as the problem and socialism as the answer. It’s about time — and there IS still time.

What can bring about change

Over the last century and a half — a period when the industrialization of the planet led to massive amounts of greenhouse gases accumulating in the atmosphere like a great blanket warming the Earth — we have seen people organize and do what seemed impossible when they were convinced that their collective interests outweigh their own personal needs and desires. Tragically, this ability to sacrifice and struggle has been made use of by the ruling classes of the imper- alist world, who have indoctrinated peo- ple by the hundreds of millions to fight and die “for their country.”

In fact, the 20th century’s world wars, as well as devastating that “ser- actions” — think Vietnam and Korea — were driven not by noble senti- ments of democracy and freedom, but by for-cos and profits built into the capitalist system.

Learning otherwise — as have so many GIs who were forced into the Vietnam War and now visit that socialist country in friendship — is a shattering but neces- sary experience.

In recent years, when capitalist gov- ernments call on the masses of people for more sacrifice, cynicism has replaced enthusiasm. And understandably so. But cynicism is the absence of belief or conviction. It is what you do, not what you scoff at and don’t do, that changes the tide of history.

An anti-capitalist movement is devel- oping over the globe in response to the crimes of imperialism. One of its urgent issues is climate change. Can enough be done to stop global warming before the “tipping point” is reached which, scien- tists warn, would make it irreversible? "Tipping point" is a shattering but neces- sary experience.

This mobilization also helped resist and balance the sanctions and shortages the government sent water trucks to street corners and to central distribution sites which was out for most of the week. There were long lines of people collecting water that was out for most of the week. There were long lines of people collecting water for emergency distribution, while the local community councils were telling them to turn off their faucets and buy water at a higher price. The government and the people are working to keep the water flowing.

People’s militias, armed groups made up of the masses, function through these community councils, which are telling them to turn off their faucets and buy water at a higher price. The government and the people are working to keep the water flowing.

But it is the peoples of Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean, much of West and East Asia and the Pacific, who have contributed the least to global warming but are suffering the most from its consequences.

The recent cycloone that hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, killing more than 600 people at a min- imum and devastating hundreds of thousands, is a case in point. So is the hurricane devastation of Puerto Rico that continues. But we must also include the massive floods in the U.S. Midwest, where those most affected are always the poor, who lack adequate shelter and can’t afford food insurance.

Despair won’t get us anywhere. The only effective response to global warming is to fight like hell for workers’ power and socialism.

Eyewitness Venezuela

Chavista people’s power resists U.S. attack

By Sara Flounders

Flounders, a co-director of the International Action Center, was part of the solidarity delegation from North America organized by the U.S. Peace Council.

March 17 — During nine days in Venezuela, the U.S. Peace Council’s deleg-ation witnessed the danger posed by U.S.-organized sabotage of the country’s electricity grid and its efforts to undermine the Bolivarian government. Working with the Bolivarian state apparatus to resist.

Water can’t be pumped without power, which was out for most of the week. There were long lines of people collecting water for emergency distribution, while the electrical service was being restored.

As important as the government’s quick repair was, however, it succeeded because the government and the popula- tion mobilized to resolve the everyday problems caused by the power outage. This mobilization also helped resist and balance the sanctions and shortages the imperialist governments have imposed on Venezuela.

Community councils

Some background on the community councils: Caracas is in the mountains. Caracas has a network of neighborhoods or barrios that surround downtown. This was a big accomplish- ment of the early days of the Bolivarian Revolution — to break the forced isola- tion in those working-class suburbs or shantytowns.

In two of the larger barrios the delega- tion visited — Catia, a poor mountainside district with 1.5 million people, and January 23, where the late president and revolutionary leader Hugo Chávez is bur- ied — it looked like there was 100 percent support for the revolutionary process.

Electric attacks also impacted plumbing, elevators, gas lines and more. Keeping everything running is based on the direct work and collective determination of the local community councils.

A community council is a self-orga- nized group of about 200 families. They apply for government recognition, and direct government aid is distributed through these councils. People are elected at each level to these councils. Eight to 10 community councils make up a com- mune. The councils elect commune rep- resentatives to the National Constituent Assembly, a popular alternative to the reactionary National Assembly.

There are 500 communes. They are based in all the poor and working-class communities and represent thousands of organized community councils. These coordinate their efforts to find workable solutions to the shortages, which the impe- rialists’ internal sabotage has created in their efforts to sow chaos and confusion.

The communes have created a func- tioning popular power base or network throughout the country. Involving every- one in problem solving solutions for immediate emergencies has empowered the population and energized people to see this as a historic challenge.

People’s militias, armed groups made up of the masses, function through these organs of government and coordinate with the Bolivarian Armed Forces. Tenacity and determination are their watchwords!

Food distribution

The government organization known as CLAP delivers boxes of essential food supplies through these council networks. This past year alone, the government has provided aid to 6 million families. Almost all poor, working and out-of-work families receive staple supplies of corn flour, cooking oil, beans, coffee, sugar, per- sonal hygiene and paper products.

Of Venezuela’s total population of 32 million, these 6 million families make up more than two-thirds of the people. Even the young hosts in the COSI solidarity organization need and rely on these basic supplies. COSI is the International Solidarity Committee (Spanish: Comité de Solidaridad Internacional) estab- lished in Venezuela in 1970.

The people are preparing now for the next U.S. attack through their commu- nity councils, which are telling them to store food, water and batteries.

Food production

Of course, the government has to have food in order for CLAP to distri- bute it. The economic sanctions and the theft of Venezuela’s wealth have prevented the government from purchasing food abroad. The long- term solution requires producing more food at home.

The head of the Ministry of Urban Agriculture, Madeline Arias, explained how Venezuela will produce two-thirds of its food needs this year, using backyards, empty lots and small greenhouses.

Venezuela plans small agricultural pro- duction that is 100 percent organic and sustainable, and that goal requires the latest scientific advances. The Venezuelans are learning about small-scale agriculture solutions from Cuban, Vietnamese and Korean experts who have had to deal with the same conditions created by U.S. wars and sanctions.

There is an all-out effort to develop urban gardens to provide low-cost veg- etables and fruit. The plan includes up to 1-acre gardens on rooftops and in backyards and up to 3-acre gardens in empty lots. Also, fish farms are being developed to create protein and fertilizer from more than 260 large fish ponds. Rabbit raising is planned. It’s easy and clean, provides high protein, and you can eat the rabbits.

And there are other, larger local farming- efforts that are also 100 percent organic.

In addition to the government’s quick recovery of electric power, the people are experiencing the power of their own orga- nizations, which are integrated with the defense of the country.
Hundres of thousands say no to poverty and repression

By G. Dunkel

Beginning Feb. 22, hundreds of thousands of Algerians took to the streets of every city in Algeria—from Oran and Timimcen in the west, through Algiers and Tizi Ouzou in the center, to Constantine and Skikda in the east—to tell President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and his family that Bouteflika was not going to get a fifth term in office.

Even in the south of Algeria, in towns and cities scattered in oasis plundered and there in the Sahara, from Ouargla to Ain Salah passing by Adrar and totally isolated Illizi, thousands of people came out into the streets demanding “no” to a fifth term for Bouteflika.

Any of the candidates for parliament brave or foolhardy enough to be on the places where demonstrations were taking place were meet with cries of “Resign!”

Besides demanding that Bouteflika retire, angry denunciations flowed from the streets of Algerians faces high unemployment, inflation, police surveillance, the arbitrary behavior of government officials, and corruption which produces a burning sensation of frustration, rancor and humiliation. (tinyurl.com/2yevqy6b6)

YouTube videos of recent protests on Place Maurice Audin in the center of Algiers show how huge, wide, and quite complete filled with people and signs, banners and placards. Signs were in Arabic, French, English, Amazigh (Berber), Spanish and English. There was music, singing and organized chanting. Men and women—some wearing a hijab, some without any head covering—and families were all mixed together.

While there are a number of opposition parties, ranging from the Algerian Party for Democracy and Socialism (PADS), which considers itself communist, the Socialist Forces Front (FIS) to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), they have not played a significant role in calling this month of nearly daily protests.

Youth and students have coordinated through social media, bringing out students at all 48 Algian universities, and the Union Confederation of Productive Forces (COSYFOP: Confedération Syndicale Des Forces Productives), which called a 4-day general strike, had more impact. Even after Bouteflika had announced that he was not going to run for a fifth term, protests continued, especially after he said he was going to continue in office.

The way Algerians summed it up was by being summed out denunciation: We protested for five weeks for elections without Bouteflika, now we have Bouteflika without elections.

Any of the candidates for parliament brave or foolhardy enough to be on the places where demonstrations were taking place were meet with cries of “Resign!”

In the 1990s there was a bloody and costly civil war in Algeria between armed groups oving their political allegiance to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the Algerian army, whose political direction came from the FLN.

While the United States has strong diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation.
Ante nuevas amenazas norteamericanas, Venezuela lucha por la liberación de un continente

Por Sam Ordóñez

23 de marzo – Esta semana se reunió entre Kim Jong Un, el líder supremo de la República Coreana, Vietnam y la máquina de guerra de los Estados Unidos que actualmente dirigen el esfuerzo de cam- peón de un continente

La batalla por el destino

Venezuela.

Silva, que en 2018 era el candidato con más votos, fue derrotado como “socio global.”


Venezuela del siglo pasado, dominada por una oligarquía racista y completamente servil al imperialismo norteamericano. Venezolano se llama la revolución “boli-variana.” Los ideales de Bolívar se ven en todos los aspectos de la revolución, desde la economía, el sabotaje y todas las otras represalias que han usado contra Venezuela. Pero también, mediante el control que tienen en la región, han jun-tado a sus titiriteros derechistas en el Grupo de Lima para atacar a los países independientes de la región.

Si a gran escala la guerra es entre Monroe y Bolivar, entonces el Grupo de Lima es los perros falderos de Monro. Son gobiernos de derecha completamente dominados por el Pentágono, que con una mano se juntan para amenazar a Venezuela y con otra reprimen con fuerza sus pueblos para garantizar las ganancias norteamericanas.

En centroamérica los dos países del Grupo de Lima, Guatemala y Honduras, están viviendo un éxodo al norte, y la guerra civil que siguió, en Honduras el golpe de estado ocurrió en 2009.

Presidente Nicolás Maduro, marzo de 2019.