

Assassination is a war crime

STOP U.S. WAR DRIVE!

By Sara Flounders

*Bulletin: The Iranian government announced that, in response to the U.S. assassination, at 1:20 a.m. local time Jan. 8 its armed forces had launched surface-to-surface missiles striking the U.S.'s Al Asad and Erbil military bases inside Iraq. As of the following afternoon there are no U.S. reports of casualties or of further U.S. attacks on Iran. For updates see workers.org.*

Jan. 7 — Enormous demonstrations in Iran, Iraq and region-wide are expressing anti-imperialist rage, and signaling a new day, a rebirth of mass movements that will drive the U.S. out of the region.

A criminal U.S. act has kindled this firestorm.

On Jan. 2, U.S. imperialism pushed its aggressive war against Iran to a new level. A U.S. drone carried out a sneak attack that assassinated top Iranian General

Qassem Soleimani, head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force.

Soleimani was on an official visit to Iraq, really on a mission to negotiate for peace. He was met by Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the leader of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), who was also murdered in the drone attack. The PMF are officially part of the Iraqi Security Forces.

The U.S. Defense Department admitted it carried out the attack following President Donald Trump's orders.

In the days after this war provocation, the following has taken place:

In Iraq, tens of thousands of people joined a funeral march for the two military leaders murdered by the Pentagon. The Iraqi Parliament voted to expel the 6,000 U.S. troops that have been stationed in Iraq after its members heard evidence of a U.S. political assassination violating Iraq's sovereignty.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi



Millions across Iran mourn General Qassem Soleimani. Here, a million in Tehran.

had told the parliament that the U.S. government knew that Gen. Soleimani was traveling to Iraq as an official peace emissary to meet with him as part of negotiations with Saudi Arabia to de-escalate tensions in the region. Iraq was to act as mediator. Abdul-Mahdi said that Trump had also asked Iraq to play a mediating role with Iran.

Continued on page 8



On Jan. 4, tens of thousands took to the streets in 80 cities across 38 U.S. states, including here in Philadelphia. Demands included U.S. out of Iraq and no war or sanctions on Iran. More on 6-7.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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# Women’s March 2020

By Sue Davis

The 2020 Women’s March is happening Saturday, Jan. 18. The slogan for this year’s intersectional, international protest is “Women’s Rights Are Human Rights and Human Rights Are Women’s Rights.”

This will be the fourth multinational, multigenerational, multigendered march since its founding Jan. 21, 2017. That date was chosen to protest President Trump’s inauguration the day before. The mass uprising of women and their allies, estimated to include 5 million people in the U.S. and millions in cities around the world, turned out to be the largest national and international protest up to that time.

Urging U.S. attendance this year by all women and their allies, Co-President of the Women’s March Isa Noyola stated, “Donald Trump and his cronies are morally bankrupt and growing more brazen with their lawbreaking every day. Meanwhile, our climate is in peril; our reproductive freedom is under attack; and racist bigots are writing our immigration policies.” (womensmarch.org, Nov. 27)



GABRIELA New York at the Women’s March, Foley Square, New York City, Jan. 18, 2019.

Fortunately, fabricated charges of anti-Semitism that divided last year’s march have not reared their ugly head this year. Unfortunately, two founding members of Women’s March, Inc., Tamika Mallory and Linda Sarsour — an African American and a Muslim of Palestinian descent, respectively — resigned from last year’s Board of Directors after false charges of anti-Semitism were leveled at them. Another founder, Bob Bland, also stepped down.

This year’s Board of Directors represents diverse communities, with mostly young members representing all regions of the country and many kinds of activism. Their experience on issues ranges from environmental and workplace organizing to reproductive health care and oppressed-gender organizing, to groups devoted to ending racism, bigotry against people with disabilities and the criminalization of trans, queer and immigrant communities of color.

While major attention is focused on organizing a huge turnout in Washington, D.C., as in past years, statewide chapters have been planning marches across the country. To find out where marches are being held, look for “Find a Sister March” on their website. If none is listed in your area, and you’re willing to organize one, look for “Host.”

The official progressive rally in New York City will be held in Foley Square as it was last year. One holdover from last year will be a countermarch in New York’s westside midtown organized by the so-called Women’s March Alliance. Meanwhile, Women’s March Global’s 100 chapters and thousands of individual members are organizing worldwide. To find out more about international actions, visit womensmarchglobal.org.

Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.

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## WORKERS WORLD

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

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, LGBTQ2+ 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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# 1974 March Against Racism

## ‘An important experience for a young revolutionary’

By Larry Holmes

*Here are edited excerpts from a talk given by Workers World Party First Secretary Larry Holmes in Boston Dec. 14 on the 45th anniversary of the 1974 Boston March Against Racism.*

I was living in New York at the time of the march, as I have most of my life, even though I was born right here in Boston, in Roxbury. I was a 22-year-old ex-GI during the Vietnam War. For about a year and a half I had been a member of WWP, which supported me and other soldiers who were struggling against the war.

The thing about the march which was so incredible to me personally was how it demonstrated how powerful a revolutionary can be, especially if they are in an organization with other revolutionaries, when there is a crisis.

This is an important experience for a young revolutionary. It is one of the markers that influences their revolutionary path for the remainder of their life. This was a very racist, fascistic, dangerous situation.

People in more recent years recall Ferguson, Mo., and all the other places where Black and Brown people have been slaughtered by police and how there are not only local mobilizations but national mobilizations.

But back in 1974 Boston was the center of the anti-racist struggle, like no other region, including the South. It was an experience that in this city they had not seen: these mobs of white thugs attacking children on buses, beating them up, throwing rocks at them, attacking people on the street. It was quite something.

My recollection is that the movement, with a lot of progressive anti-racist people, somehow was paralyzed. So at the invitation and urging of our comrades in Boston, we decided we were going



Larry Holmes speaking in Boston Dec. 14.

WW PHOTO: LIZA GREEN

to intervene — we were going to have a national march.

We were a small party. We did not have that many members in that many branches, but this had to be done. The state was against us; most of the politicians were against us. “We don’t want outsiders coming here” — all that stuff. But we did this, and it changed the party in an incredible, historic, meaningful way.

Obviously it is not only an important chapter for the Boston branch of the party; it was a transformative chapter. You can talk about the bus drivers union [United Steelworkers Local 8751] and how it came out of the defense of the children, etc. We were coming, no doubt, to the defense of the Black community, to Black children, to Black parents — being in solidarity with them.

That was one aspect. Another aspect is that we are a workers’ party and we understood how, historically, racism is used to divide workers and that intervening

in Boston at that period against racism was a way to assert unity for our class. It is important because some people say, “You want unity, then don’t talk too much about racism and everything will be nice.” That does not work. That’s evading the subject. That’s cowardly.

Our view has always been that to have unity you confront the racists and you explain to everybody — including progressive white people and white people who may not be so progressive but are susceptible to changing — that this is necessary, not only for equality and fighting racist oppression here. If the working class is going to do bigger things — ultimately defeat capitalism — then we are going to have to have this unity. So that class message was very important to us.

I was thinking about the period; that was one year before the official end of the Vietnam War, but the U.S. was already losing. The Vietnamese had already won. The war was winding down, and it was the

beginning of the first capitalist economic recession in the post-Vietnam era. The war expenditures had artificially pumped up the economy and the stock market, but that was running out and the capitalist recession and crisis were beginning in the 1970s.

### Anti-racist class unity needed now

That was before Reagan and before Thatcher in Britain, who were sort of two sides of the racist, reactionary ruling class on both sides of the Atlantic. They imposed attacks on the working class: deindustrialization, the closing of auto and steel plants, the busting of unions, austerity, and more and more attacks. What is the ruling-class strategy? To derail the working class, to divide it, to try to stop it from fighting back. Racism is one of those things they use. And you can see from Trump that that strategy is just as potent and just as dangerous, if not more so, because of the world economic crisis, austerity and inequality, and all the other things that working people are fighting.

I’m going to try now to contextualize the lessons of Boston and the importance of unity against racism for today. On Dec. 12 there were elections in the north of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. It was the Tories (the main conservative bourgeois party) against the Labour Party. And the program that it has all been mobilized around — Boris Johnson, the Conservatives — is this racist Brexit.

Brexit won out and what we are dealing with is racism winning. The left there is down now, very demoralized, but that will pass. This is one of the bad things that happened like the election of Trump. As the capitalist crisis deepens, the working class will find a way to fight itself out of demoralization, out of confusion and to push aside this racism.

I am not worried about the future. We had the same struggle here. □

# Social Trans Initiative goes socialist

**A New Year’s statement from Socialist Trans Initiative Pensacola, Fla.**

Jan. 1 — Over the past five years, Strive has never attempted to conceal our views. We recognized early on that a major factor in the widespread oppression of transgender/nonbinary/genderqueer/Two-Spirit/non-Western-gendered people is capitalism.

In precapitalist times, gender variance was not only acknowledged, but celebrated. It was only through the development of private property and divide-and-conquer tactics of the developing capitalist class that what we now know as transphobia began to take hold.

Transgender people face higher amounts of homelessness, of poverty, of job discrimination, of medical discrimination, of violence, of assault and of murder. At the most concentrated level of these issues are Black transgender women, who face the highest amounts of all these issues, plus the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection. All this stems from the exploitative system that is capitalism.

Since the current Executive Board began running Strive back in 2017, Strive has branched out to do solidarity work with other organizations around police brutality, prison abolition, anti-racism, anti-xenophobia, pro-immigration and other forms of anti-capitalist work.

All this was one with developing our own Emergency Housing Program, a core mission of Strive, which serves to keep transgender people off the streets, thus reducing the risk of violence to them. We do not discuss numbers much, so as not to come off as bragging or anything like that, but we have kept perhaps a dozen, if not more, homeless transgender people off the streets. We have,

with the help of the community, raised thousands of dollars to help transgender people in need. We’ve had power restored in homes, put food in people’s kitchens and put gas in people’s cars. All this is how we win against an exploitative system that does everything in its power to make us fail.

Many people have called us “extremists” or “a welfare group”; sadly some of these people are transgender themselves or in the general LGBTQ2S+ community. Strive is not a welfare group; fellow queer/transgender people who say this are well off, detached from the reality of exploitation that working-class queer/transgender people go through.

Solidarity is not charity or welfare; we believe in solidarity. It is unfortunate that many in our LGBTQ2S+ movement do not believe in that. As far as “extremists” go, we look to the words of George Jackson, Black Panther Party field marshal and political prisoner:

“I am an extremist. I call for extreme solutions to extreme problems. Where face and freedom are concerned, I do not use or prescribe half-measures. To me life without control over the determining factors is not worth the effort of drawing breath. Without self-determination, I am extremely displeased.”

Transgender people, as well as the LGBTQ2S+ community, face extreme problems. Strive believes, therefore, in extreme solutions.

All this is to say: On Dec. 25, 2019, the Executive Board of Strive voted unanimously to approve a name change. Strive has, up until now, stood for Social Trans Initiative. We believed that a name change to reflect our core values was necessary.



We are a socialist organization, and we believe socialism is the only way for transgender people to get free. Therefore, we voted to change our name to Socialist Trans Initiative. This change takes effect as of today, Jan. 1, 2020.

Thank you to all of you who have worked with us over the years. We look forward to working continuously with you and building a better future.

Happy New Year! Solidarity forever!

*Several Workers World Party members and candidates belong to Strive.*



# On the picket line

By Sue Davis

## ‘U.S. labor says: No war on Iran! U.S. out of Iraq’

The United Electrical Workers posted the following Jan. 3 statement from U.S. Labor Against the War denouncing the war threat in the Middle East: “U.S. Labor Against the War stands with the workers of Iran and Iraq, who will be the main casualties of this madness. We call for the immediate, unconditional withdrawal from Iraq and no catastrophic war with Iran. Our members have more in common with the working brothers and sisters abroad than with the Trump administration.” USLAW requests union members: “Reach out to your union leadership to take a public stance against this aggression.”

USLAW was founded in January 2003 as a national organization of unions and labor organizations opposed to the threatened war against Iraq. The organization has since emerged as a network of more than 165 unions, labor councils, state labor federations, allied labor organizations and labor antiwar committees. (uslaboragainstawar.org)

## Minimum wage increases in more than 20 states

The good news in 2020 is that a raise in the minimum wage in more than 20 states and 26 cities and counties will boost wages for more than half the U.S. population.

It’s the largest hike in U.S. history, researcher Yannet Lathrop of the National Employment Law Project told abcnews.go.com on Dec. 31. The minimum wage will hit or surpass \$15 an hour in 17 states and three cities and counties.

The Jan. 6 New York Times estimates “the effective [average] U.S. minimum wage is closer to \$12 an hour, most likely the highest in U.S. history even after adjusting for inflation.”

Cities that are raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour are Seattle; Petaluma, Calif.; and New York City. Seattle and Petaluma will maintain lower wage floors for smaller businesses, but not New York City. “States and localities understand that costs of living are rising, and minimum wages need to keep up with that,” said Lathrop.

“The Fight for 15 has been really key in driving a lot of these wages.” What’s “helped has been . . . getting the public to see that minimum wage increases are really needed,” she added.

Meanwhile, due to a Senate stalemate, the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 has remained the same for 10 years — the longest period without an increase since passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act under the Roosevelt administration in 1938.

Conservative economists oppose increasing the federal rate, claiming businesses will transfer increased costs to consumers by raising prices. “Some firms, like a McDonald’s or other sort of food service or retail outlets, might start substituting things like automated kiosk machines” [instead of workers], said Michael Tanner, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

A July report from the Congressional Budget Office argued that increasing the minimum wage nationally to \$15 an hour would benefit 27 million people but cost 1.3 million people their jobs. Lathrop doesn’t agree. Noting that New York City wages doubled between 2012 and 2019, she observed: “So those wages doubled, and we did not see businesses closing. We did not see an effect on jobs or hours. But we did see an increase in the earnings earned by workers.”

## Victory for over 21,000 education workers at 25 NYC colleges

As of Dec. 18, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York voted to approve a long-overdue, much-needed, hard-fought 2017 to 2023 contract with the Professional Staff Congress, which represents 21,416 workers in higher education on 25 campuses around the city.

In a statement, PSC President Barbara Bowen wrote, “PSC leaders have already begun pushing the CUNY administration and city and state officials to pay the retroactive salary increases [going back to 2017] and begin paying members at their new salary rates as soon as possible.” Salaries will increase across the board by more than 10 percent by November 2022. And there were no concessions in the contract.

The restructuring breakthrough in teaching adjunct pay was “the biggest gain in equity in the union’s history,” wrote Bowen. By the end of the contract, the minimum for a three-credit course rises to \$5,500 (an increase of 71 percent) and for a four-credit course to \$6,875. As of next semester, restructuring will include paid office hours for every course. Bowen noted, “Everyone gains when the salary floor for the lowest-paid is lifted.” (psc-cuny.org, Dec. 19) □

# Plant closings, poverty and overdose deaths

By Martha Grevatt

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study on Dec. 30 on the correlation between automobile plant closings and deaths from opioid drug overdose.

The four authors reached the conclusion that “Automotive assembly plant closures were associated with increases in opioid overdose mortality, highlighting the potential importance of the role of declining economic opportunity in the U.S. opioid overdose crisis.”

The study covered 112 counties with a manufacturing-dependent economy, all of which were within commuting distance of one or more vehicle assembly plants. Comparisons were made between counties “exposed” and those “unexposed” to plant closings between 1999 and 2016. Communities impacted saw a rate of opioid overdose deaths 95 percent higher than the national average of 12 deaths per 100,000 people.

The figures combine deaths from prescription opioids and illegal substances such as heroin. Overdose deaths from non-opioid drugs such as cocaine were not included. Nonfatal overdoses were not part of the study, but logic would suggest that those too would be higher in areas around closed plants.

During the years covered by the study, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler (now FCA) closed 22 assembly plants, 15 of which were in counties studied. The full impact of plant closings is much greater, however, as many plants had already been closed beginning in the late 1970s.

In addition to assembly plant closures, the Detroit auto companies and their spin-offs (such as Delphi and Visteon, created when GM and Ford spun off a number of parts plants) have also closed many other types of plants — foundries, electronics plants, stamping plants, tooling builders, etc. — as well as warehouses.

New plant closings have also taken place since the end of the study in 2016, including GM’s sprawling assembly plant in Lordstown, Ohio.

### Pauperization of the working class = death

As the JAMA study demonstrates, the use of drugs as a means of escape has risen because of the pauperization of the working class.

Capitalist restructuring, from the high-tech revolution of the 1980s to today’s gig economy, has made the whole working class poorer. Official unemployment statistics mask the number of workers who are discouraged, underemployed or part of the working poor. Poverty remains highest in communities of color, and the world has witnessed the “feminization of poverty.”



This gigantic auto assembly plant, once a state-of-the-art facility, opened in 1966 with much fanfare. GM permanently closed the plant in March 2019.

Once-thriving industrial cities, towns and rural areas have been devastated by the closure of factories, mills, mines, hospitals, shopping malls and more. This is where some of the highest rates of opioid and other drug-overdose deaths occur.

Ohio, part of what was once called the Steel Belt and is now called the Rust Belt, is a prime example. Montgomery County, home to one of the closed GM assembly plants included in the study, had the highest rate in the state of overall overdose deaths from opioids and other drugs— 56 per 100,000 population from 2012 to 2017.

Overdose deaths in Cuyahoga and Summit counties — both ravaged by closings in the auto, steel, rubber and machine tool industries — averaged 28.5 and 31.6 per 100,000, respectively, over the five-year period.

Overdose death rates in the counties most affected by the GM Lordstown closing, Trumbull and Mahoning, stood at 42 and 30.3 per 100,000. Warren and Youngstown were already hard hit by steel mill shutdowns. How many more will die now that the GM plant has closed? (odh.ohio.gov)

By cutting thousands and thousands of jobs, the capitalist ruling class has contributed to the rise in drug overdose deaths. At the same time, Big Pharma has made billions of dollars in profits by flooding the market with overprescribed, highly addictive opioid pain medications. This abuse has led over 2,000 state, local and tribal governments to file lawsuits, with Cuyahoga and Summit counties the first nationwide to win a settlement. (tinyurl.com/yedsg4t5)

Meanwhile, money that could be used to treat substance abuse is instead dumped into the \$738 billion Pentagon budget.

Opioid overdose deaths are preventable. This is one more reason why the profit system must go! □

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— Makasi Motema

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# Housing is a human right!

## Oakland moms take over vacant house

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, Calif.

Dec. 30 — What happens when virulent, corporate-led gentrification meets the resistance and resilience of the Black community here in Oakland, where the homeless population increased to over 4,000 in two years?

What happens is that a small group of Black moms “reclaim possession” of a West Oakland house that has been vacant for two years. This act has galvanized a strong movement that demands housing as a human right for all.

The Moms, led by cofounders of Moms 4 Housing, Dominique Walker and Sameerah Karim, moved into the vacant house on Magnolia Street on Nov. 18 and started to fix the place up. The property is owned by a multimillion-dollar investment company, Wedgewood Properties. First, Wedgewood refused to speak with the Moms, and then the company filed an eviction notice against them Dec. 6.

The Moms and their supporters have managed to beat back the eviction so far with the combined force of community-eviction defense and legal support.

### Moms 4 Housing triumphs over eviction

The eviction legal defense, argued in court by attorney Leah Simon-Weisberg in late December, asked the court to approve and sanction the Moms’ possession of the vacant house as a moral and legal act “due to the severity of the housing crisis in Oakland.” While the Judge Patrick McKinney did not allow expert testimony in open court, he did not dismiss the Moms’ case and put Wedgewood’s demand for immediate eviction on hold until he rules. He did take written expert testimony and the Moms’ arguments to read and consider

in his ruling. The Moms and the legal team agree that “no dismissal” is a victory at this point. After the hearing, at a press conference outside the courthouse, the Moms gave some of the testimony they would have liked to have given in court.

Asked what she would say to the judge if given a chance, Walker said, “I would talk about the programs put in place to help, that don’t help. I would tell the court about all the applications that I [have] filled out, the application fees and the credit checks that led nowhere. I would talk about how violent homelessness is to my two small children, and I would encourage the court to consider that when making its decision.”

Another Mom, Misty Cross, spoke of how she has been working multiple jobs, paying taxes to the city and barely having enough time to spend with her kids, because she is working hard to make sure they have a stable home. “We are hard-working moms, and all of us hold [something] like three jobs just to make ends meet. That’s what I would tell the ones that think this [taking over the home] is a lazy tactic. This is a tactic that had to be done. We are mothers who took a stand — we had had enough!”

Oakland City Councilperson Nikki Fortunato Bas stated that this case epitomizes the struggle between the right of the people for adequate housing and the greed of corporate speculators like Wedgewood.

Bas pointed out that over the past two years, while homelessness has increased by 47 percent, the house that the Moms took over has been vacant but unavailable to people living on the streets. She further explained that while Oakland has 4,000 officially homeless

people — the great majority of whom are African-American — the city has only 1,600 places available in shelters. There are an estimated 4,000 vacant houses in Oakland today.

“This is the crisis that these Moms have responded to,” Bas noted. They are “doing what any mom would do to keep their children safe and sheltered.” She called this a “crisis of profiteering and greed.” Bas concluded by stating that in this “conflict,” she is firmly on the side of the Moms.

### Save the Moms’ House!

The grassroots effort to save the “Moms’ House” has been aided by organizations like Oakland ACCE (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment), which has a strong record of fighting for housing justice. Also active has been APTP (Anti-Police Terror Project), which has been working since the murder of Oscar Grant to fight racist police murders in Black and Brown communities of the Bay Area and beyond. ACCE and APTP have trained many activists in eviction-defense techniques and strategies.

A Dec. 30 victory rally was held outside the Moms’ House in West Oakland celebrating the judge’s “no dismissal” ruling that kept the Moms in possession for now. But the battle to save the house and to win justice for the unhoused community in Oakland looms ahead.

Cat Brooks, a founder of APTP, called this struggle for housing “the civil rights and human rights issue of our time.” She explained, “This is Oakland. We are a town of resistance; we are a town of movement building. We are a town of resilience. Every single major movement that has happened to progress equity and justice in this country has happened because the people stood



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

**Moms 4 Housing held a victory rally Dec. 30 after beating back the investment firm landlord’s eviction notice.**

up to say, ‘Hell no!’” And that’s exactly what the Moms and their supporters are continuing to do. The chant of “Whose house? Moms’ House!” echoed strongly throughout the crowd at the celebration.

Young mother and organizer Walker, just out of the court hearing, summed up the sentiment of the day: “Housing is a human right, a basic need, and it’s being used as a commodity. Corporations like Wedgewood are displacing us. They are poisoning our food, our air, our water, our soil, and now we don’t have access to even a basic need like shelter.”

She emphasized that the Moms are fighting not just for their house, but for all the people who need housing. “Even if we win this house, we are not stopping until everyone has a house,” Walker said.

For more information about this struggle, see [moms4housing.org](https://moms4housing.org) or [facebook.com/pg/moms4housing/community](https://facebook.com/pg/moms4housing/community). □

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# Fighting gentrifiers for the rights of the homeless

By Martha Grevatt

On New Year’s Eve, Cleveland City Councilwoman Dona Brady looked out her upstairs window at demonstrators outside her home. A noisy group was holding a vigil and chanting, “Who’re we out here for? The homeless.”

Councilwoman Brady has attempted to prevent the progressive Denison United Church of Christ, located in her Ward 11 on the West Side, from providing shelter to homeless Clevelanders.

Since 2011 the Metanoia Project has provided overnight respite and other services to homeless people in Cleveland. Besides shelter, its services include meals and counseling to those whose personal traumas are barriers to staying in traditional shelters. After Metanoia’s original home in St. Malachi’s Church lost bed space this year, Denison UCC opened its doors to the homeless.

With many low-income parishioners, Denison UCC has been struggling to make its building compliant with city building and fire codes. Rather than assist the church and Metanoia in meeting the legal requirements to become a safer place for homeless people, Councilwoman Brady has taken a mean-spirited attitude that caters to gentrifiers moving into this mixed-income community. Citing code violations, she first attempted to prevent the church from providing shelter and, most recently, has moved to take away its designation as a church.

As Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless Chris Knestrick wrote in a Jan. 1 op-ed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Brady “has turned down every invitation to discuss the



Cleveland, Ohio

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

issue, is resorting to ‘Not in my backyard’ tactics in the Denison neighborhood, which only perpetuate the history of segregation and racist housing policy in Cleveland.” This “history of segregation” refers to the division between the East and West Sides, divided by the Cuyahoga River, with African Americans concentrated on the East Side.

Because of the special trauma-sensitive services Metanoia provides, combined with general overcrowding in existing shelters, Brady is putting homeless people at risk of freezing to death in Cleveland’s brutal winter. Homeless advocates are not exaggerating the danger: 65-year-old Juan Procter was found frozen to death last January inside an abandoned house, after two days when temperatures fell below zero.

On Jan. 5 supporters of the homeless packed City Hall during the weekly City Council meeting. □



# Coast to coast protests: “U.S. OUT OF IRAQ!”



In Boston, marchers chant, ‘The people united will never be defeated!’ WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN



New York City WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



Syracuse, N.Y. WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT



Buffalo, N.Y. WW PHOTO: ELLIE DORRITTE



Philadelphia WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Raleigh, N.C. WW PHOTO: PETER GILBERT

By Betsey Piette

Just days into the new year and a new decade, on Jan. 4, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in 80 cities across 38 states to demand U.S. out of Iraq and no war or sanctions on Iran. Many activists described the massive turnout as the largest anti-war protests since 2003.

The widespread emergency protests were based on only three days of urgent social media blasts by the Answer Coalition, Black Alliance for Peace, Code Pink, Workers World Party (WWP), IFCO/ Pastors for Peace, International Action Center (IAC), Popular Resistance, United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC), U.S. Peace Council, Veterans for Peace and World Beyond War. Joining in were many other social justice and left organizations, including Black Lives Matter, Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW), United for Peace and Justice.

The collective actions from diverse organizations brought people into the streets to oppose the criminal assassination by the U.S. on Jan. 3 of General Qassem Soleimani, leader of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ elite Quds Force, and Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, leader of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units.

In its call for protests, Popular Resistance stated: “The United States has been conducting a ‘maximum pressure’ campaign against Iran, but these assassinations are a new level of recklessness and lawlessness.”

Coast-to-coast protests from Fayetteville, Ark., to Portland, Maine, ranged from small picket lines to turn-outs of thousands demonstrating in major cities. All actions were on Jan. 4, unless otherwise noted.

### People in U.S. chant: ‘No war on Iran!’

Hundreds rallied at Park Street Station in downtown **Boston** in a militant rally to denounce U.S. imperialism’s murderous assassinations and the escalating criminal war waged by Big Oil, the Pentagon and Wall Street against Gulf region nations resisting military aggression and occupation in defense of their national sovereignty.

The rally reflected a growing movement of anti-war and progressive organizations, including Answer, the Committee for Peace and Human Rights (which has held a weekly anti-war vigil since the first Gulf War), DSA, IAC, Mass Peace Action, the National Iranian Advocacy Council, Team Solidarity of United Steelworkers Local 8751 — the Boston School Bus Drivers, UNAC, Vets for Peace, WWP, and Bernie supporters and student groups, all uniting around the demand: “Stop the bombing, stop the war, bring the troops home now!”

The rally ended with a multinational, multigendered youth-led march, with the Vets for Peace delegation close behind. Taking to city streets, they received overwhelming support from passersby, many joining in to express their shared outrage at Trump’s war escalation. Chants of “Occupation is a crime, from Iraq to Palestine!” and “Money for Jobs and Education, Not for War and Occupation!” drew a connection between U.S. wars abroad and the deepening war on poor and working-class people in the U.S.

In **New York City**, hundreds rallied in Times Square in fierce opposition to the U.S. escalation of war against Iran. They marched to Herald Square, chanting for the U.S. to get out of the Middle East, Latin America and Africa and end its coups and sanctions. One sign noted the murderous campaign the U.S. has waged against Iraq since the first Gulf War in 1990: “U.S. killed over one million Iraqis! No more murdering for Wall Street.”

Protesters denounced the assassination of Soleimani by drone strike at Baghdad International Airport as an act of war and violation of international law and Iraqi sovereignty. The action was supported by many antiwar and social justice groups, including Answer, Black Alliance for Peace,

Code Pink, IAC, IFCO/Pastors for Peace, the Peace Council, The People’s Forum, UNAC, Vets for Peace and WWP.

Chanting “Iran is not our enemy, war is not the answer,” more than 125 people rallied in freezing rain and snow in **Syracuse, N.Y.** Speakers raised that the military-industrial corporations, like Lockheed Martin in central New York, reap billions profiting from war, when the cost of one Predator Drone could pay for 10 affordable housing units. Ed Kinane, of Upstate Ground the Drones, said assassin drones, similar to that used to kill Soleimani, are piloted out of Syracuse’s Hancock International Airport by New York National Guard’s 174th Attack Wing.

An Iranian-American activist told WW: “I am used to these episodes of rising tensions between the U.S. and Iran. This has been the reality of U.S.-Iran relations for decades, and although it hurts, it became ‘normal.’ This time, it feels like almost overnight I woke up and there is a war, but the truth is that we had been at war this whole time.”

A young Iranian woman, who works with the local refugee community, emphasized the suffering inflicted by war and said, “We are here to protest U.S. war crimes!” Organizations calling the regional protest included CNY Solidarity Coalition, DSA-Syracuse, Geneva PSL, Geneva Women’s Assembly, the Green Party of Onondaga County, Syracuse Peace Council, and Vets for Peace CNY Chapter.

Anti-war activists in **Buffalo, N.Y.**, gathered for a demonstration that stretched for a full city block. Organized by the Western New York Peace Center, with IAC-Buffalo participating, it denounced U.S. aggression toward Iran and opposed U.S. occupation of the Middle East.

Over 700 people turned out for a rally and spirited march in **Philadelphia**, receiving broad support from passersby. “U.S. imperialists — the real terrorists” was a popular chant during a long march through Center City. Participants included older activists from the decades-long anti-war movement, with a majority of younger and more diverse activists from protests against police brutality and white supremacy, for im/migrant rights, climate justice, in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal and for LGBTQ+ rights.

Most younger speakers, having grown up under the U.S. state of endless wars, represented a growing class consciousness about the need for anti-racist, international, working-class solidarity.

Ted Kelly, representing WWP, opened the rally, affirming: “We are rising up to say, ‘No War for Oil, No War in the Middle East and No to U.S. imperialism!’” Kelly referred to a Prison Radio commentary by Mumia Abu-Jamal on the devastating impact of the U.S. actions. Abu-Jamal stated: “The U.S. assassination of Soleimani isn’t an end — it’s the beginning of things to come.”

Anh Nguyen, with Philly SocFem, raised the impact of U.S. weapons of mass destruction, chemical warfare and targeted attacks on the people of Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and more. Nguyen’s Vietnamese immigrant parents were children scarred by the U.S. war in Vietnam.

Deandra Price and Anthony Smith with Philly REAL Justice compared racist police occupation of U.S. communities of color to U.S. military occupations abroad. Other speakers included Bessam Idani of Socialist Alternative, Dr. Asad Sadiq with Shia Association of North America and Mexican immigrant activist Carmen Guerrero, who spoke about the historic U.S. theft of Mexican land. Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture of Black Alliance for Peace called for an end to Africom, the U.S. military presence in Africa.

A diverse crowd of over 100 people gathered at Schenley Plaza in **Pittsburgh** to join in denouncing the assassinations of Soleimani and Al-Muhandis as acts of war and war crimes. A counterprotester infiltrating the rally was immediately surrounded and expelled to chants of “Nazis out!”

Several hundred rallied at the state capitol building in **Raleigh, N.C.**, saying, “No War on Iran.” Organizers from the Piedmont N.C. Chapter of DSA convened the rally, with



Atlanta WW PHOTO: JIMMY RAYNOR



Cleveland, Ohio WW PHOTO: SUSAN SCHNUR

# NO WAR OR SANCTIONS ON IRAN!”

speakers and participants from Black Workers for Justice, the Durham Workers’ Assembly, the Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia (MERI), Muslims for Social Justice and Vets for Peace. All were united in demanding “U.S. out of the Middle East,” an end to sanctions, and the need for an international anti-imperialist movement.

About 150 people rallied in **Atlanta** against the threat of another endless U.S. war for profit. The gathering at the Little 5 Points shopping district was much bigger than organizers expected. Passing drivers lent a steady sign of approval by honking their horns. The majority of protesters were youth, including a soldier from Savannah and others who came from outside the Atlanta metro area with their own hand-made messages.

For two hours the crowd chanted, billboarded the street and applauded speakers denouncing the recent U.S. attack. The Atlanta IAC brought its big green banner: “No threats! No sanctions! No war on Iran!” Local chapters of Answer, DSA, the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, and Refuse Fascism also brought banners and signs to line the street.

Over 100 people turned out in **Cleveland** to say, “U.S.! Hands off Iran, Syria and Iraq!” The local call was initiated by Cleveland Peace Action and Code Pink. Speakers included Swetha Kareti of PSL-NEOH, Elias Khawam with CSU Middle East and North Africa-MENA student group, and Martha Grevatt for Workers World Party. Don Bryant of the Greater Cleveland Immigrant Support Network chaired.

Dozens of demonstrators attended the “No war on Iran! U.S. out of Iraq!!” event in **Columbus, Ohio**, carrying signs and shouting slogans demanding the U.S. military leave the Middle East and cease aggression toward Iran. The event was sponsored by Central Ohio Revolutionary Socialists, Central Ohioans for Peace, Code Pink, Columbus Socialist Alternative, Columbus DSA, Jewish Voice for Peace Central Ohio and YDSA Ohio State. Members of PSL, WWP, Ohio for Bernie and U.S. Congressional candidate Morgan Harper also attended.

Over 100 anti-war demonstrators gathered in **Des Moines, Iowa**, near the state capital building on Jan. 5. Despite the distance between Iowa and Iran, many Iowans are outraged by the U.S. assassination of Soleimani, the escalation of U.S. military aggression and the increase of U.S. troops in the region — all of which point to another disastrous imperialist war. Organized by Central Iowa DSA, the march called for "an end to the new wars, the forever war, and all wars."

Some demonstrators were long-time veterans of the anti-war movement, while for others it was their first time taking part in such an action. They braved cold winds to march over a mile carrying signs with such slogans as "No War But the Class War," "No More Oil Wars" and "End Endless Wars." They chanted: "No more blood for oil, U.S. off Iraqi soil" and "Iowa is here to say, No War, No Way." When protesters reached the I-235 overpass, they walked to the middle and unfurled a giant red banner reading, "No War with Iran."

Around 1,000 people gathered in **Denver**, the Colorado state capital, and marched the length of downtown in response to the national call. They waved signs and chanted, "No War on Iran" and "No More Endless Wars." Speakers denounced the U.S. attempts to start a war with Iran and emphasized that Iraqis, Iranians and people in the U.S. are angry and have had enough of U.S. military adventures that have caused great suffering.

Two demonstrations were held in **Houston** on Jan. 5 to protest the assassinations and President Trump's threats to attack Iran. The first protest, called by the Houston Socialist Movement and co-sponsored by PSL and WWP, was held at an intersection where more than 60,000 cars pass through daily. There was constant honking of approval from passing drivers. Dozens of militant speakers, including students, youth and the elderly, rallied the crowd, condemned Soleimani's murder and demanded imperialist U.S. get out

of the Middle East. The later action of over 200 people in a Houston downtown park was sponsored by Black Lives Matter, DSA, Indivisible Houston, Students for Justice in Palestine and SURG-HTX. The protest attracted many Democratic Party people and groups, who made a big push for voter registration. While the participants were definitely opposed to a U.S. war in the Middle East, they espoused solutions that relied on voting and holding politicians accountable.

About 50 people gathered in **San Antonio, Texas**, in front of the Fort Sam Houston military base to protest U.S. military aggression. Most of the crowd was young and multinational. During speeches by many veterans, including younger vets, a woman who had served in the U.S. military torture prison of Abu Ghraib spoke of her pain and guilt at having been there. Shelley Ettinger of WWP emphasized international working-class solidarity in resistance to U.S. imperialism. Speaker Judy Lerma represented her nurses’ union.

On Jan. 3, over 300 protesters gathered in **Portland, Ore.**, at the “No War on Iran” rally called by the local DSA. “We need to show strong opposition to the illegal war Trump is trying to launch in Iran," said key organizer Olivia Katbi Smith. “This is not about democracy or protecting Iraqi, Iranian or American people. This is about money and power.” Smith emphasized the need to organize in workplaces connected to the war machine: “Locally that includes the Boeing facility in Gresham and Leupold & Stevens, a Beaverton-based company that manufactures military equipment.”

A speaker from the All-African People’s Revolutionary Party said the U.S. is founded on imperialist and colonialist violence. U.S. expansion is the real root cause of Soleimani’s assassination. Other speakers included Sahar Yarjani Muranovic, president of the Oregon chapter of the National Organization of Women, who was born in Iran; Marwan Ibadi, born in Iraq; and Albert Lee, a congressional candidate.

Sarah Schneider, from Never Again Action, a Jewish group which fights the persecution and deportation of U.S. im/migrants, said, “We’ve invaded other countries and created a situation that drives refugees over here,” identifying U.S. imperialism and colonialism as responsible.

Emily Kollantai from WWP commented, “It gives me hope to see people from across the left making time to speak against the crimes of U.S. imperialism and protest a war the likes of which we’ve seen a dozen times before. It’s important that activists continue to organize events like this.”

In the **San Francisco Bay Area**, chanting "No Sanctions — End the War," nearly 2,000 people rallied, then marched from San Francisco’s downtown shopping district to U.N. Plaza where a rally was held under the statue of Simón Bolívar. The protest gathered a broad group of organizations, including Answer, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, BAYAN, DSA and Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism. A statement from the IAC and WWP was delivered by Judy Greenspan during the closing rally.

A rally in downtown **Seattle** drew 400 demonstrators demanding, "No War on Iran. U.S. Out of Iraq and the Middle East!" which was a strong rebuke to Trump’s aggression and terror. Participating organizations were Anakbayan Seattle, Answer, Code Pink, DSA, Seattle Anti-War Coalition, Seattle-Cuba Friendship Committee, Veterans for Peace, and others.

*Contributing to this article: Nigel Bouvart, Judy Greenspan, Teresa Gutierrez, Audrey Hoak, Mike Kuhlenbeck, Joshua Link, Dianne Mathiowetz, Jim McMahan, Lyn Neeley, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Jimmy Raynor, Gloria Rubac, Brenda Ryan, Susan Schnur, Maureen Skehan, Viviana Weinstein.*



In Denver, one sign read: ‘We must end wars and work together as humans!’ WW PHOTO: VIVIANA WEINSTEIN



Houston WW PHOTO



San Antonio, Texas WW PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ



Seattle, Wash. PHOTO: BILL REID



Portland, Ore. PHOTO: CANDY HERRERA



Long-time union activist Dave Welsh at San Francisco protest. WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN



Columbus, Ohio WW PHOTO: JOSHUA LINK



Des Moines, Iowa PHOTO: MIKE KUHNLECK







## Argentina

# The turnaround that ended four years of savage capitalism

By Carlos Aznárez

*Published by tlaxcala-int.org and lapluma.net on Jan. 1. Aznárez is an Argentine Marxist journalist and the director of the e-magazine resumenlatinoamericano.org. Translated by John Catalinotto.*

There are years that seem to last so long that, according to the popular saying, they are like a century. Argentina has not been exempt from this comparison in this difficult 2019 that has just ended.

Such has been the burden of pain, suffering and signs of impotence that the population has had to endure because of the savage capitalism the government of President Mauricio Macri has imposed — even the smiles have been erased from the faces of many people.

It is not easy to describe the mood of the largest sectors of the population as the statistics rang in their ears every day. These generated a mixture of anguish and fury, especially since this government, which at last no longer exists, was imposed on them, not by military boots as in other times, but by the people's vote — a vote rigged and manipulated. Ultimately it was voluntary.

### Macri's atrocious setbacks

Let's go over some facts to get the picture. Macri left behind a final measure of poverty estimated at 35.5 percent. Beyond the percentages, this amount placed us once again in a scene that we had already witnessed in 2001: children eating from garbage pails; standing in endless lines with parents as hungry as their children; at the door of luxury restaurants when at midnight they dump the leftovers of the day's meals into the street in large barrels — those leftovers that had remained on the plates of people who could still afford to have three meals a day.

Another familiar picture is repeated daily in slum neighborhoods, where, out of solidarity, social and popular organizations provide dining halls to feed thousands of mouths.

What can we say about inflation, which as never before has swept away everything that stood in its way — when at the end of the year the rate is 54.5 percent. This, as everyone knows, is not just one more piece of information; its repercussions hit the pocketbooks of the population every day, with astronomical prices, increases in fares for essential services and the constant rise in the price of



Argentiniens celebrate an electoral victory over the right wing, Oct. 27, 2019, with the banner, "We won! All, united."

gasoline and its derivatives, which in turn produce more increases in trips on public transportation.

Unemployment was another atrocious chapter in the Macrist era. The number of men and women who lost their jobs is around 400,000, and there are studies that put it at around half a million. The foreign debt, which is illegitimate from every point of view, is already very close to \$300 billion U.S., which means that every Argentine is already in debt to the [International Monetary Fund] for about \$6,310.

In every area during the last four years that could be analyzed, there have been gigantic setbacks, and in some cases the disappearance of historical conquests by the working class — both those of lower economic standing and those of sectors of the middle class, which the crisis has brought down several notches.

### The people challenge

Education, health, housing are the sectors most affected by these policies that have not been applied only in Argentina, but are now being challenged in the streets by millions of people around the world. Examples of this challenge are in Chile, Colombia, Peru, Haiti, Panama — even in the France of Macron and its capitalist right wing. [That country] has reached the end of this year with all its cities paralyzed by an unlimited anti-neoliberal strike. The constant and courageous weekly fight of the Yellow Vests Latin Americanized the rebellion in France.

The people are fed up. They go out to put their bodies on the line in a thousand possible ways, and Argentina was no exception. That's why August was a key month to launch the battle and shorten

a year that had been hitting the workers hard. The electoral explosion that the PASO [primary elections] signified and the 15-point lead of the Frente de Todos [the winning electoral coalition] over the Macrista candidates changed the mood of the Argentine people.

From then until October it seemed like there was a long road ahead, but the people were aware that the victory they had won was not going to be marred by the narrow rightists and their puppet masters in Washington.

Of course, as many people in struggle proposed, the ideal outcome would have been to corner Macrista in the streets under the slogan "Fight and they will leave." That's what is happening today with Sebastián Piñera [Chile] and Iván Duque [Colombia], but we [in Argentina] already experienced a 2001 in which it seemed that the revolt was going to end in revolution — yet this was not possible.

That is why this time the effort was made to reaffirm the feelings of the masses, and what seemed impossible a year earlier (for fear of fraud and Macri's alliances with the U.S. empire) became a reality.

[The presidential/vice presidential ticket of] Alberto Fernández/Cristina Fernández won, without leaving any doubt, and this past Dec. 10, within 24 hours, the joy and the celebration overcame all the accumulated sadness and pain when millions were cheering and celebrating their inauguration.

### Gains at home within weeks

Now that a new stage of the struggle has begun, we know that it will be difficult and in some ways uncertain because of the threats of a local and international

right wing who refuse to concede and who, in the first hours of the new government, has already shown its teeth.

But we already have much: a needed economic emergency law; wage increases for private and state workers, including special bonuses for retirees; a national plan against hunger; increased taxation of sectors of the agricultural-livestock oligarchy; intervention in the intelligence services; radical changes in the leadership of the security forces; and an end to the criminalization of abortion, which had been demanded unsuccessfully for decades.

### Foreign policy changes

And there's also a turnaround in foreign policy: by showing support and refuge to President Evo Morales, overthrown by a coup d'état; receiving with all state honors Cuban President Miguel Díaz Canel and Bolivarian Communication Minister Jorge Rodríguez; and a long list of advances, projects and concrete accomplishments that Alberto Fernández's government has put in place in only two weeks.

Of course, this is no panacea, and there is still a long way to go, but it is clear that these are measures that the people have longed for and will resolutely support. It is even more clear since we know that the right wing has not stopped conspiring and that those the Macrista policy favored ad nauseam are already paralyzing the country and threatening more forceful measures.

Moreover, the International Monetary Fund and Donald Trump will try to collect a debt that the people did not contract for; and if they do not succeed in collecting it as they wish, they will generate further waves of destabilization.

In the face of this probable future, we must remember that this is once again the hour of the people, and every step taken to oppose capitalism's insane strategy will only be won if the people struggle and put their bodies on the line in the streets. As did the 30,000 disappeared people in their time and more recently the feminists and sexual minorities.

No one concedes anything without being pushed, and that is the great lesson we must learn from the recent past. It is not with flirtation or misplaced moderation that an enemy who cares only about accumulating profits is neutralized — but only with resistance, struggle and unity, to defend what gains might be made and to make sure that politics is no longer deformed by the lovers of bourgeois democracy. □

## Anniversary of Haitian Revolution

# Big protests against President Jovenel Moïse

By G. Dunkel

Gonaïves is the city where Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared Haiti to be independent Jan. 1, 1804. It has been traditional for the president of Haiti to go to Gonaïves on New Year's Day for a celebration in its cathedral.

Thousands of protesters joyously marched through the streets of Gonaïves on Jan. 4 to celebrate the victory. President Jovenel Moïse did not come to town as expected. This year, fearing the wrath of the people, Moïse stayed in Port-au-Prince.

Speaking in Gonaïves, opposition Senator Nenel Cassy told Voice of

America on Dec. 19 that opponents will continue to urge the U.S. to stop supporting Moïse. "We consider Jovenel (Moïse) to have fallen already, but the Americans are propping him up," he said. "As long as Jovenel is in power, we'll keep protesting." (Haiti-Liberté, Dec. 24)

While protests in Haiti were quiet in November, since the middle of December there have been frequent protests in front of the U.S. Embassy and barricades erected in many Haitian cities. □

**Haitians marched through Gonaïves on Jan. 4 to celebrate their country's winning its independence in 1804 — the first victorious national rebellion of an enslaved people.**



PHOTO: VIVA TV



# No war on Iran! U.S. out of Iraq!

The gangsters in the White House and the Pentagon are responsible for the targeted assassination of a top representative of a sovereign government. The target, Qassem Soleimani of Iran, was on a peace mission that the U.S. president was aware of and had encouraged.

Trump has now followed up this political murder with a tweeted threat to destroy Iran’s heritage by striking 52 sites in Iran, some of them cultural. Under international law, such destruction is a war crime. Most people would also see it as an act of terrorism.

POTUS applied his usual way of operating, this time to actions that might lead to a world war. He once infamously said he could murder someone on New York’s Fifth Avenue in daylight and get away with it. Has he deceived himself about getting away with this murder?

After the Iraqi Parliament voted on Jan. 5 to expel U.S. troops — about 6,000 are still there, plus some thousands of mercenaries — Trump threatened Iraq with sanctions harsher than those applied from 1990 to 2003, during the administrations of George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Since those sanctions killed more than a million Iraqis, including a half-million children under five, it means he is threatening Iraq with genocide.

Take note that nearly the entire

Republican Party has given thumbs up to this murder. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Vice President Mike Pence, Senator Lindsey Graham — those for whom the word “warmonger” would be a gentle term — praise Trump and tell outrageous lies to defend murdering the Iranian leader.

All Republicans and nearly all Democrats supported both the hostility toward Iran and the wars and sanctions against Iraq. So did nearly all the corporate media. These crimes are the responsibility of the U.S. ruling class as a whole.

Regarding the murder of Soleimani, the Democratic Party leadership — Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Chuck Schumer — has limited its criticism to Trump’s failure to notify and consult with Congress and his administration’s incoherent strategy.

The two parties differed on one major issue: Democratic President Barack Obama promoted the 2015 treaty limiting Iran’s nuclear development in return for ending the punitive economic sanctions. On May 8, 2018, the Trump administration broke this treaty and reimposed economic sanctions.

### U.S. role as oppressor

A quick look at the reality of the last 66 years of U.S.-Iran-Iraq relations shows which one is the oppressor state and the war criminal, contrary to U.S.

imperialism’s version.

A U.S.-coordinated coup in Iran in 1953, led by the CIA, deposed an Iranian elected government and replaced it with 26 years of dictatorial rule by Shah Reza Pahlevi. (See CNN documentary on the CIA’s role in the coup at [tiny.cc/6x1diz/](http://tiny.cc/6x1diz/).)

In 1979, a massive popular revolution expelled the shah and replaced him with what has become the current Iranian Islamic Republic.

From 1980 to 1988, Washington encouraged the Iraqi regime under Saddam Hussein and Iran to fight each other, arming and killing millions of people on both sides. In 1990, the U.S. targeted Iraq, bombing its cities and its army. It followed that with 12 years of genocidal sanctions against Iraq.

Then, on March 19, 2003, U.S. imperialism invaded Iraq under the pretext — later proven to be absolutely false — that it had “weapons of mass destruction.” To defeat Iraqi resistance to U.S. occupation, Washington then provoked and exacerbated sectarian and regional differences among the Iraqi population.

The occupation and sectarian war killed and displaced millions, tearing apart Iraqi society. U.S. imperialism remains in Iraq only to plunder its resources. Washington threatens Iran in order to plunder the whole region.

So far the Iranian government and its



allies have said they will hit back on their own timing and will aim at U.S. military targets, not civilians.

If Trump carries out another escalation, it would threaten a conflagration in Southwest Asia, raise the danger of a world war and put people in the United States at risk.

From the people of the U.S. — especially from the working class and all oppressed sectors of U.S. society — there can be only one reaction: “Get the U.S. out of Iraq! No war against Iran!” □

## Undeclared war is real war

The White House and the Pentagon, with their totally illegal assassination of Iran’s leading general, Qassem Soleimani, have opened up a new era of confrontation that could plunge the Middle East into more war, suffering and devastation.

As the U.S. rushes thousands more troops to the area, the cost of war in both human lives and dollars for the Pentagon and its military contractors keeps mounting.

According to the U.S. Constitution, only Congress has the power to declare war. This was reaffirmed by the War Powers Act of 1973, during the U.S. war in Vietnam.

The Democrats currently have a majority in the House while Republicans control the Senate, the more powerful of the two and long considered a millionaires’ club.

How are they responding to the recent usurpation of power by the executive branch of the government?

A few young, newly elected Democrats in the House like Rashida Tlaib, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar, as well as Bernie Sanders in the Senate, have strongly condemned Trump’s move and called for getting U.S. troops out. They reflect the fact that the prospect of more undeclared wars is deeply unpopular in this country.

The Democratic Party leaders, however, have a history of backing every imperialist war of the past. “Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?” was a favorite slogan of anti-war protesters during the Vietnam War — a thoroughly bipartisan disaster.

Will the Democratic Party leaders limit themselves to playing to public opinion and criticizing Trump where that gets them votes? What about taking a stand by demanding that Congress reassert its right under the Constitution as the sole body empowered to declare war?

The U.S. government, with bipartisan support, has waged wars around the world for generations — without ever declaring war.

The Korean War of 1950-53 — with its scorched-earth destruction inflicted on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea — killed millions of Koreans and nearly 40,000 U.S. troops, according to official figures. Congress never declared war. The Pentagon called it a “police action.”

More than 3.4 million people died in the Vietnam War. The overwhelming majority were Vietnamese. Nearly 60,000 U.S. soldiers also died. Congress never declared war.

The U.S. has been bombing countries in the Middle East and sending young soldiers to their deaths there for decades. Congress has never declared war.

The Democratic Party has a majority in the House of Representatives. It could demand that the government live up to the Constitution and not attack other countries without a declaration of war.

Such a demand could be the opening wedge of a broader struggle NOT to go to war, declared or undeclared.

The undeclared war that devastated Vietnam became so unpopular that in 1973 Congress passed the War Powers Act, restating the requirement that a president get approval from Congress before committing the U.S. to an armed conflict.

However, as the New York Times pointed out on Jan. 7, “Congress’s control over decisions about going to war has been eroding for generations, and administrations of both parties have established precedents that undercut the resolution as a meaningful check on presidential war-making authority.”

For the peoples of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Yemen, wars promoted by the U.S., whether declared or undeclared, are real. They have killed millions and reduced vast sections of these lands to rubble.

This area, which includes North Africa, had once been described in the West — the imperialist countries of Europe and North America — as the cradle of civilization. For centuries, these societies existed together in relative peace. Many shared a religion — Islam — as a buffer against the Christian Europeans.

But in the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain and France invaded these resource-rich areas and turned them into lucrative colonies. Germany tried to seize control over them in World War II, but lost.

After that war, the anti-colonial struggle liberated them from at least direct political control by the weakened colonial powers.

For decades since then, U.S. imperialism has been trying to recolonize them — in essence, if not in name. Its brazen assassination of Soleimani is part of that effort.

The only answer to this brutal history is to rebuild a united, working-class anti-war movement here, independent of both capitalist political parties. It will draw its strength instead from the millions in this country eager to fight exploitation, repression, racism, sexism, xenophobia, injustice and inequality, while building solidarity against imperialism and war. □

## El imperialismo EE.UU. usa dólares para gobernar economía mundial

*Continúa de la página 12*

Francia envían dinero a casa es por mensajería: alguien pone el dinero en un cinturón y toma un avión.

Las sanciones no son la única arma financiera que Washington tiene en su arsenal. Para cinco países, Kirguistán y Tayikistán en Asia Central, Haití, Liberia y Nepal, las remesas del exterior equivalen a una cuarta parte o más de la producción económica de cada país, que tradicionalmente se mide como producto interno bruto.

En 2018, las remesas a Haití superaron ligeramente el 30 por ciento del PIB. En 2016 y 2017, el porcentaje de

remesas también fue muy cercano al 30 por ciento. En términos absolutos, esto equivale a aproximadamente a \$60 millones a la semana.

En los últimos tres años, cientos de miles de haitianos han salido a las calles para exigir cambios significativos en las políticas gubernamentales: precios de combustible más bajos, salarios mínimos más altos, apoyo a los agricultores. Si el gobierno haitiano intentara hacer cambios políticos a los que Washington se opone, Estados Unidos podría ralentizar el flujo de dinero o incluso detener las remesas. Este castigo significaría un daño inmediato y sustancial a la economía de Haití.

El gobierno de Trump ha tratado de poner fin al estado de protección temporal para 50.000 haitianos que actualmente viven y trabajan en EE.UU. Poner fin al TPS no solo sería un desastre para las personas protegidas por él, sino también un gran golpe para la economía de Haití.

Los días internacionales de acción contra las sanciones y la guerra económica se llevarán a cabo del 13 al 15 de marzo. Los organizadores dicen: “¡Las sanciones matan! ¡Las sanciones son guerra! ¡Termine las sanciones ahora!”

Para más información: [sanctionskill.org](http://sanctionskill.org). □



France

# Month-long strikes reach decisive week

By G. Dunkel

January 5 marks the 32nd day of a strike involving hundreds of thousands of French workers against the Macron government's plan for pension "reform." The current retirement systems would be replaced by a single system based on "points" that a worker would accumulate.

The over-65 poverty rate in France is currently the lowest in Europe, but this could change rapidly. In almost all cases, the unions leading this long, political strike have established that this new pension system would be less secure than the current ones and have a smaller payout.

The French Communist Party has charged that this new plan is also a "wily maneuver" to open up France's retirement plan to partial privatization that would benefit the multibillion dollar U.S. hedge fund BlackRock.

The week beginning Jan. 6 could be decisive, with an intensification of the strikes and negotiations between some unions and the government.

Philippe Martinez, head of the CGT (General Confederation of Labor), has called for national demonstrations Jan. 9 and Jan. 11. The call has been supported by the other major trade union confederations in the coalition that organized the strike — FO, CFE-CGC, FSU (Workers Force, French Confederation of Management-General Confederation of Executives, United Union Federation, respectively) — and Solidaires, a union confederation that's a left-wing split from

CFDT. The CGT position is that the government's proposal on retirement has to be withdrawn, but the current systems also need to be improved.

Martinez supported the call of the CGT-Energie to blockade all the refineries and fuel depots in France for four days beginning Tuesday, Jan. 7. He said, "We support going on strike everywhere, not just in the refineries."

Elisabeth Borne, minister of ecology and transitions, declared that these blockades were illegal and service stations would be fully supplied. Martinez responded on LCI, a French cable channel, saying Borne "gives a lot of lessons to us French, talks a lot, but not always with full knowledge."

The CGT affiliate in the French ports and docks has called for an "operation dead ports," a total shutdown of all trade on Jan. 9.

Workers in the electrical distribution company EDF, who have given low-cost electric service to low-income customers and cut power to police stations, banks and tax offices, have gotten encouragement from the CGT. The federation and its allies in the labor movement consider such acts part of "French workers constitutionally protected right to strike." Of course, the government claims they are illegal.

**'Time for government to listen to workers' demands'**

After 33 days of striking, Martinez told LCI that it was time for the government



**French workers prepare to march with a banner reading: 'Let us defend our retirement and block Macron.'**

to "listen" to the demands that the social movements — Yellow Vests, workers, farmers — have made these past few years. "They have to leave their bubble of self-satisfaction and understand that there are problems in this country that are necessary to fix." (LCI, Jan. 6)

Laurent Berger, the head of the largest French labor confederation, the CFDT (French Democratic Confederation of Labor), which has a reputation as a nonmilitant, accommodating union, was interviewed on France2's nightly news program "20Hours" on Jan. 5. He explained that the CFDT did support a single retirement system, using points, but found the government's insistence on setting a fixed age to retire "useless" and "unjust." When the government refused to budge on this feature of the plan, the

CFDT began to fully support the strike.

Berger pointed out that public opinion in France is strongly against the government's proposal, even stronger in the area around and including Paris where the disruption of train service has been the most severe. People interviewed on French TV have often said that the unions are right and are fighting for the future of all workers, whatever their age.

The strike support fund set up by the CGT to accept donations from the general public has received over 2 million euros from all over the country since Dec. 5 when the strike began.

The Macron government's arrogant inflexibility is meeting well organized, massive, militant working-class resistance. □

# Millions protest anti-Muslim laws in India

By Joe Piette

Millions of people have taken to the streets in India in massive protests to denounce Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies that pose immediate threats to Muslims and their citizenship rights. On Dec. 11, he orchestrated passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act, a discriminatory amendment to India's existing citizenship laws.

Critics say this law, combined with the creation of a National Register of Citizens proposed on Nov. 20, can be used to disenfranchise, incarcerate or deport large numbers of Muslim citizens. Effectively, they would make millions of poor Muslims in India stateless.

Since the CAA was passed, Indians have defied government bans and restrictions on assembly to demonstrate in many cities, leading to clashes with police that have left 27 protesters dead. Muslims have spearheaded the protests, with allies from many communities joining them.

Demonstrations have continued into 2020. More than 200,000 people assembled in the city of Kochi in the state of Kerala on New Year's Day. An encampment perseveres on a highway outside of Delhi, the country's capital.

Organizers say over 200,000 protesters marched in the "Million March" in Hyderabad, the country's "technology hub," on Jan. 4. Other protests took place that day in southern cities in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, the state's capital.

Women have helped organize the protests since they began, and they have been on the front lines. Braving the cold, hundreds of Muslim women of all ages have maintained an outdoor occupation in Delhi's Shaheen Bagh neighborhood since Dec. 15. Women marched through Kolkata on Dec. 22.

Members of the LGBTQ2+ community demonstrated in Delhi on Jan. 3. They waved rainbow flags, carried placards and shouted slogans, including "We want freedom from fascism."

**New laws violate 'secular' Constitution**

Opponents assert these laws violate India's 1949 constitutional guarantee of secularism, equality and nondiscrimination. The term "secular" was incorporated into the Preamble by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976. It stated that all religions in India would get equal respect, protection and support from the state.

Modi's new law will grant citizenship to all Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian refugees from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan who entered India on or before Dec. 31, 2014, without valid documents. It specifically excludes Muslims from the list, effectively labeling all Muslim migrants illegal.

Modi already has blood on his hands from his term as chief minister of the state of Gujarat, when he allowed over 1,000 Muslims to be massacred over a two-month period in 2002. The riots took place after 60 Hindu pilgrims accidentally burned to death in a train crash, for which Muslims were unfairly blamed.

The Modi government's response to the people's resistance has been to suppress dissent by imposing curbs on public gatherings in many areas of India. The government has also implemented 95 internet blocks — the highest number in the world in 2019 — in an attempt to stop the protests. In Kashmir, occupied by India for decades, broadband and mobile data services have been cut off since August.

The Coalition Against Fascism in India is asking South Asian students in



**Muslim women's occupation in Shaheen Bagh neighborhood of Delhi, begun Dec. 15.**

the U.S. to sign a statement decrying the Indian state's fascist acts. ([tiny.cc/nxuciz](https://tiny.cc/nxuciz)) Another solidarity petition is at [tinyurl.com/yemvnyku](https://tinyurl.com/yemvnyku). There will be solidarity protests on Jan. 26 in many U.S. cities; for information, email [media@stopgenocideinindia.com](mailto:media@stopgenocideinindia.com).

**India, U.S., Israeli reactionary ties**

India is the world's third-largest economy. The U.S. is the country's largest trading partner. In 2018, the Trump administration increased duties on 14 percent of India's exports to the U.S., which benefitted domestic corporations. Modi retaliated by slapping new tariffs on 6 percent of U.S. exports to India.

The U.S. and Indian governments may disagree on some trade issues, but when it comes to militarism, racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia and misogyny, Modi and Trump agree.

In 2015, then President Barack Obama and Modi signed a "Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region" that substantially increased U.S. weapons exports to India. From 2013 to 2017, U.S. arms shipments to India increased by 557 percent over the

previous five-year period.

As part of Washington's campaign to threaten China's ports across the Indian and Pacific oceans, Trump and Modi agreed on a new deal for India to purchase \$1 billion worth of naval weaponry — in addition to the current \$18 billion in U.S. arms sales to India.

Modi has also broadened ties with the Zionist, "terrorist" state of Israel, with massive armaments sales and technology transfers from Jerusalem to Delhi, meant for use against India's diverse population and its neighbors, Pakistan and China.

Modi's right-wing ideology of "Hindutva" reveres and mimics Zionism: The Hindu majority would rule over Muslims and other minorities in India, like Israel brutally oppresses Palestinian people in their own homeland.

Progressive movements fighting against Israel's repression in Palestine and endless U.S. wars worldwide need to show solidarity with youth and workers demonstrating against Modi's terror in India. United, the people will win!

*Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.*





MO FOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

'No hay guerra contra Irán!' Boston, 4 de enero de 2020.

# ¡Saquen a los EE.UU. de Iraq! ¡No a la guerra contra Irán!

MUNDO OBRERO

editorial

*Publicado el 1 de enero, antes del asesinato mayor general iraní Qassem Soleimani por un ataque aéreo estadounidense.*

La Casa Blanca está utilizando una manifestación masiva en la fortaleza militarmente defendida de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos en Bagdad, Iraq, para amenazar con otro ataque contra Irán. ¿Cuál es la excusa esta vez? La Casa Blanca culpa a Irán por la manifestación en Bagdad, como si los iraquíes no tuvieran suficientes razones para detestar la ocupación estadounidense de su país.

Antes de examinar esta última confrontación, debemos revisar la historia reciente de los EE.UU. en la región de Asia occidental (también conocida como Oriente Medio).

El 19 de marzo de 2003, el imperialismo estadounidense invadió Iraq con el pretexto, que luego demostró ser absolutamente falso, de que Iraq tenía "armas de destrucción masiva". Posteriormente, para derrotar la resistencia iraquí a la ocupación estadounidense, Washington provocó y exacerbó diferencias sectarias y regionales entre la población iraquí, hasta que estalló en una virtual guerra civil.

La invasión inicial de los EE.UU. y el conflicto resultante mataron a más de un millón de iraquíes y desplazaron a millones más, destrozando a la sociedad iraquí. Estas bajas se sumaron a la asombrosa pérdida de vidas iraquíes causadas por casi 13 años de sanciones estadounidenses en ese país que precedieron a la acción militar directa.

La ocupación estadounidense no hizo nada que haya

ayudado al pueblo iraquí. No hay una razón legítima para que el imperialismo estadounidense permanezca en Iraq.

Es importante mencionar esta historia de crímenes de guerra de EE.UU. porque los medios corporativos no lo harán. Presentan la invasión estadounidense como una aberración de la administración George W. Bush, que llevó a cabo el ataque. Pero casi todos los republicanos, la mayoría de los demócratas y casi todos los medios corporativos respaldaron la invasión en ese momento. El hecho de que las sanciones previas y la invasión en sí fueran crímenes de guerra por parte de la clase dominante imperialista de EE.UU. debe ser expuesto y subrayado.

De la gente de los EE. UU., —especialmente de la clase trabajadora y de todos los sectores oprimidos de la sociedad estadounidense — la demanda debería ser: “¡Saquen a los EE.UU. de Iraq! ¡No a la guerra contra Irán!”

#### Otro ataque estadounidense contra Iraq

Este 29 de diciembre, Estados Unidos lanzó un ataque aéreo contra la milicia iraquí que presuntamente había matado a un ciudadano estadounidense, llamado “contratista” por funcionarios estadounidenses y medios corporativos. El ataque aéreo estadounidense mató al menos a 24 personas iraquíes.

Los funcionarios estadounidenses están usando la palabra “contratista” para disfrazar el papel real del individuo en el terreno. Para quitar el disfraz, usemos la palabra adecuada: “mercenario”. La mayoría de los contratistas militares son ex fuerzas de combate de los EE.UU. —por más dinero que el que recibieron de las Fuerzas Armadas de los EE.UU. —realizan el “trabajo” como pistoleros contratados. Miles de ellos están en Iraq y también en Afganistán.

En respuesta a la muerte del mercenario, las fuerzas de ataque estadounidenses atacaron objetivos en Iraq

que supuestamente albergan a la milicia con vínculos a Irán. Muchos funcionarios del gobierno iraquí advirtieron a Estados Unidos contra los ataques y los calificaron de asalto a la soberanía iraquí.

Washington sobrepasó a los líderes iraquíes y ordenó el ataque. Trump siguió con un tuit beligerante que amenazaba a Irán.

#### Otra amenaza estadounidense contra Irán

El 8 de mayo de 2018, la administración Trump aumentó la hostilidad contra Irán al romper el tratado de armas nucleares de 2015 y volver a imponer sanciones económicas. Ha seguido apretándolos desde entonces. Las sanciones han dañado la economía iraní y han provocado el descontento popular.

Esas fuerzas dentro de la clase dominante estadounidense y sus agentes que son más beligerantes hacia Irán, por ejemplo, el ex asesor de seguridad nacional John Bolton y el senador Lindsey Graham, ya habían atacado la decisión de Trump de detener la primavera pasada (en el último momento) un ataque militar estadounidense contra Irán, un país de 80 millones de personas.

Medios como el New York Times repiten las incitaciones de los belicistas. Ahora Bolton y Graham están presionando nuevamente a la administración para atacar a Irán.

Tal ataque amenaza una conflagración en la región de Asia occidental y aumenta el peligro de una guerra mundial. Esto también es una amenaza para las personas dentro de los Estados Unidos.

La única posición legítima posible para las fuerzas progresistas y antiimperialistas dentro de los Estados Unidos es oponerse a cualquier ataque contra Irán y luchar para sacar a los Estados Unidos de Iraq y de toda la región del Medio Oriente. □

## El imperialismo EE.UU. usa dólares para gobernar economía mundial

Por G. Dunkel

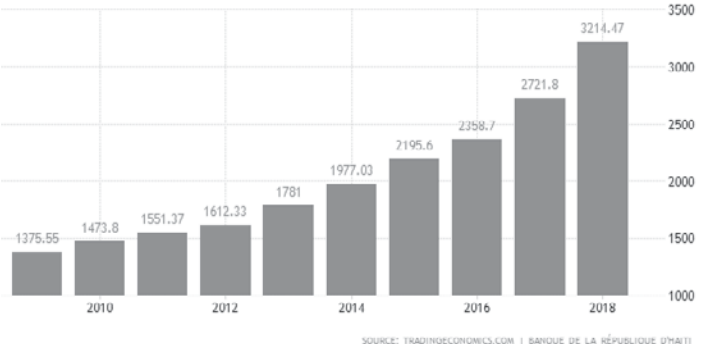
Toda la estructura del sistema financiero mundial, donde cada día, billones de dólares, euros y yuanes se desplazan de un banco a otro, de particulares a empresas, y de todo tipo de instituciones, aún refleja la dominación del dólar estadounidense.

Según el Banco Mundial, el 50 por ciento de todos los bonos y préstamos emitidos en todo el mundo están valorados en dólares estadounidenses, y la proporción del comercio mundial valorada en dólares es cuatro veces la cantidad de comercio mundial proveniente de los EE.UU. Además, el 60 por ciento de los países del mundo, que producen el 70 por ciento de la producción mundial, dependen del dólar estadounidense para valorar su moneda.

Dicho de otra manera, la mayor parte del comercio mundial es en dólares estadounidenses, incluso entre entidades fuera de los EE.UU.

Los 32 regímenes sancionados aplicados activamente por los EE.UU., que incluyen no solo países y organizaciones sancionados como las “Organizaciones criminales transnacionales”, sino también países que hacen negocios con estas entidades sancionadas, cambian con frecuencia. Algunos, como las sanciones contra Cuba, han permanecido en vigor durante décadas. Otros países con un número significativo de neocolonias, como Francia, tienen sus propias políticas de sanciones.

Sin embargo, Alemania, cuya economía produce mucho más por trabajador que la economía de EE.UU., ha tenido que seguir el decreto de sanciones estrictas



**El gráfico muestra el aumento de las remesas totales a Haití por parte de inmigrantes haitianos en millones de dólares. Estas remesas, de más de \$ 3 mil millones, ahora equivalen al 32 por ciento del PIB del país.**

contra Irán. Los bancos alemanes, los mercados bursátiles y las compañías comerciales necesitan acceso al capital que está bloqueado detrás del dólar estadounidense.

Después de que la poderosa Alemania cedió ante el poder del dólar, las potencias europeas más débiles como Bélgica, Francia e Italia se alinearon en las sanciones, a pesar de que sus gobiernos se quejaron.

No fue la primera vez que el imperialismo alemán sintió el poder del dólar estadounidense y las sanciones. Después de que el armisticio de noviembre de 1918 terminó la lucha en la Primera Guerra Mundial, pasaron ocho meses antes de que se firmara el tratado de paz en junio de 1919. Los Aliados mantuvieron sus sanciones en los puertos alemanes durante esos ocho meses, mientras que 100.000 alemanes murieron de hambre y enfermedades prevenibles.

#### Sanciones permiten que EE.UU. oculte su papel

Tanques, bombas, explosivos, balas y napalm dejan un rastro claro. Los niños a los que les faltan extremidades porque jugaron con las minas y las bombas que el Pentágono ha dejado caer en gran abundancia pueden ser fotografiados y entrevistados. Cuando las Fuerzas Armadas de los EE.UU. disparan a las personas y ocupan un país, las personas a menudo responden.

Esta resistencia popular puede despertar oposición en los Estados Unidos para apoyar tales medidas militares.

Por otro lado, si los niños mueren por falta de vacunas o sus padres mueren por falta de dinero para medicamentos para la presión arterial, el impacto político es menor. Y se puede culpar a los gobiernos de los países sancionados, en lugar del país que impone las sanciones. Un ejemplo es la cobertura mediática de Zimbabwe.

Los países utilizan relaciones estrechamente conectadas en red para realizar intercambios, y muchos intercambios son monitoreados por servidores informáticos ubicados en la ciudad de Nueva York. Esto dificulta que los países que enfrentan sanciones oculten sus intercambios.

#### Remesas

Los gobiernos de EE.UU. y Francia imponen sanciones a Mali, una nación pobre de 20 millones de personas en África occidental sin litoral, que tiene una gran comunidad de migrantes en Francia. Las sanciones evitan que los migrantes simplemente transfieran dinero a sus hogares. Según un estudio de 2015 realizado por el Banco Mundial, la forma en que la mayoría de los malienses en

Continúa en la página 10