



# Sudan: Popular movement demands civilian rule

By John Catalinotto

April 30 – Reports from Sudan’s largest seaport, Port Sudan, located on the Red Sea describe a chaotic scene of thousands of migrant workers and their families attempting to leave the country in order to escape a conflict between two military factions fighting for control of the government.

The corporate media in Europe and the United States confine their coverage to describing the suffering of civilians and the numbers killed. Their analysis is limited to dissecting the personalities of the two generals commanding the two opposing military forces: Gen. Abdelfattah al-Burhan, who commands the army, and his one-time ally and deputy, Gen. Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), who commands the Rapid Forces Militia.

These analyses omit the role of the major imperialist powers in the region and their local client states. Involved up to their necks are U.S. imperialism and its junior partner Britain, which was once



Sudan borders seven other African countries and the Red Sea.

the colonial power in Sudan, plus Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. While these states, known as “the quad,” claim to be promoting negotiations to end the fighting, they all have economic and geopolitical interests in who runs Sudan.

The capitalist media also make sure to omit the very active role played in the

last five years by popular civilian organizations, which represent the majority of the people of Sudan. It was this popular movement, in which Sudan’s Communist Party played a leading role, that in 2018 deposed the military government which had run Sudan for decades. At the time, Washington maneuvered to keep the civilians out of power.

### Economic and strategic interests

Even after its 2011 split into two countries — Sudan and South Sudan — Sudan alone is still the third-largest country in Africa by area, and has a population of 48 million. Washington promoted the split, which left South Sudan occupying most of what had been Sudan’s oil reserves. The U.S. aimed to control the south, especially to keep its oil from being traded with China.

Sudan has ample arable land and access to water, and is the world’s third-greatest producer of gold. Sudan borders on seven other African countries and its long coast on the Red Sea faces Saudi Arabia.

Washington, along with others in the

quad, has staked out a position of promoting negotiations, taking advantage of the chaos and misery caused by the fighting. This position hides U.S. imperialism’s interest in controlling the resources of Sudan and keeping any potential rivals out — especially Russia and China.

Washington has been extending its intervention, first using its military to extract its diplomatic personnel from the embassy in Khartoum, Sudan’s capital, and then arranging bus transport for some of the 18,000 U.S. citizens who were in Sudan on April 15 when the fighting broke out. While this has the appearance of rescuing civilians from a nasty war, it allows Washington to put its most powerful face forward: the military might of the Pentagon.

### Popular movement issues joint statement

A united popular movement, which overthrew the military regime in 2018 and has opposed the new military coup that took over in October 2021, is continuing

*Continued on page 3*

## WORKERS WORLD editorial

# Smash anti-trans bigotry!

Enough is enough. And we mean **enough!**

Transgender youth are under siege. Legislators in **all but four states** have introduced at least **469** bigoted bills, many of which have passed. (aclu.org) Some bills deny trans youth the opportunity to participate in school athletics. Some deny youth under 18-years-old access to trans-affirming health care, criminalizing doctors who provide care and/or parents who approve it. Then there are the reactionary book bans and the gag order bills like Florida’s “Don’t say gay” bill.

There appears to be no end in sight.

But what are we told, practically from the day we start kindergarten? This is the greatest country in the world! Nobody else enjoys the democratic freedoms that we enjoy. What George Washington called the “great experiment” continues to perfect itself.

Garbage. For proof of the fraudulent



Rep. Zoey Zephyr speaks against being banned by the Montana House of Representatives, April 26, 2023. Inset: Rep. Justin Jones, Tennessee, who defended Zephyr.

hypocrisy in capitalist propaganda one need look no further than the state of Montana, where a democratically elected trans woman state legislator has been

barred from entering the legislature’s chambers. House Rep. Zoey Zephyr had given an impassioned speech against a bill to deny trans-affirming health care to

trans youth.

Zephyr, the first and only transgender Montana state representative, was banned for violating “decorum” when she said, “If you disallow that care and don’t allow people to have access to that, the only therapy left is either, A, meaningless or, B, conversion therapy, which is torture. ... If you vote yes on this bill and yes on these amendments, I hope the next time there’s an invocation, when you bow your heads in prayer, you see the blood on your hands.” (Democracy Now! April 28)

Before the vote to ban her from the Montana House floor, Zephyr added, “I have had friends who have taken their lives because of these bills. I have fielded calls from families in Montana, including one family whose trans teenager attempted to take her life while watching a hearing on one of the anti-trans bills. ... So, when I rose up and said there is blood on your hands, I was not being

barred from entering the legislature’s chambers. House Rep. Zoey Zephyr had given an impassioned speech against a bill to deny trans-affirming health care to

*Continued on page 5*

**California floodwater threat** 5

**Harry Belafonte – Genuine internationalist!** 5

- Celebrating Philippine people’s struggle** 2
- Oakland teachers fight back** 3
- Fashionistas: ‘No Chinatown arena’** 3
- Growing resistance to sanctions** 4

# Portland Celebration of 50 years of people's struggle in the Philippines

By Maddi Johnson  
Portland, Oregon

April 24 marked the 50th anniversary of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. Branded a terrorist organization by the U.S.-backed Marcos regime, the NDFP consists of 18 mass-based organizations ranging from communist guerrillas, to Indigenous rights groups, to scientists and artists.

In Portland, Oregon, a gathering was held on the eve of this anniversary to celebrate half a century of people's struggle. The evening featured live music sung in Tagalog, and speeches on the struggle for a more just society. The event was hosted by Portland's People Organizing for Philippine Solidarity (POPS).

The meeting featured recorded interviews with two leaders of the New People's Army who were brutally murdered in August 2022, Comrade Benito Tiamzon, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Central Committee, and Comrade Wilma Austria-Tiamzon, General Secretary of the Party. ([tinyurl.com/4wwjs2cw](https://tinyurl.com/4wwjs2cw))

Dana Hutchins, a member of POPS, stated: "They [the government of the Philippines] don't understand what a genuine people's movement is. Part of what distinguishes the NDFP and the revolutionary movement from the government of the Republic of the Philippines is that there are no leaders at the top coming up with all the directives and commanding everyone at the bottom on what to do.

"They [the government] think they can just kill enough leaders that the revolution will be defeated. They fail to grasp that the NDFP is representing the interests of 99% of Filipinos.

"For 50 years, NDFP has been working towards a just and lasting peace, in which peasants can eat the food that they grow; in which land is not concentrated in the hands of a few rich families but instead is collectively tended to; in which there is genuine democracy; in which no foreign power has military bases on Philippine soil,

no foreign corporations extract resources from the land and water, no Filipino ever has to leave the country in search of a job to sustain themselves.

"A peace in which elders, peace advocates, are not tortured and murdered on a regular basis by the govern-



WW PHOTO: MADDI JOHNSON

The meeting included a comedic performance satirizing the relationship between U.S. imperialism and Filipino president Ferdinand Marcos Jr., son of the notorious Ferdinand Marcos.

ment. This is the just peace that the Filipino people want. This is the just peace that Benito and Wilma Tiamzon gave their lives for."

Hutchins also explained how the NDFP's 12-point program will benefit the vast majority of the people. "It's something the masses want, and are literally willing to die for, because they know it's either a quick death at the hands of the fascist regime or the slow death of poverty, malnourishment, and inhumane exploitation. The U.S.-Marcos II regime doesn't understand that the Filipino people's revolution is invincible!"

The U.S. plans to build four more military bases in the Philippines, in addition to the five that already exist, turning the country into a sacrificial pawn for Washington's desired war against China. □

## 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, LGBTQ2S+ 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. □

### If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

**National Office**  
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404  
New York, NY 10001  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org

**Atlanta**  
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org

**Austin**  
austin@workers.org

**Bay Area**  
P.O. Box 22947  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510.394.2207  
bayarea@workers.org

**Boston**  
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.522.6626  
boston@workers.org

**Buffalo, N.Y.**  
335 Richmond Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org

**Central Gulf Coast**  
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)  
centralgulfoast@workers.org

**Cleveland**  
cleveland@workers.org

**Durham, N.C.**  
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org

**Houston**  
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org

**Minnesota**  
minnesota@workers.org

**Philadelphia**  
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org

**Portland, Ore.**  
portland@workers.org

**Salt Lake City**  
801.750.0248  
slc@workers.org

**San Antonio**  
sanantonio@workers.org

**West Virginia**  
WestVirginia@workers.org

## MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD this week

### ◆ In the U.S.

- Portland honors resistance in the Philippines . . . .2
- Oakland teachers fight for community schools . . .3
- Philly fashionistas: 'No Arena in Chinatown!' . . . .3
- Harry Belafonte: a genuine internationalist . . . . .5

### ◆ Around the World

- Sudanese people demand civilian rule . . . . .1
- Three ways to resist sanctions . . . . .4

### ◆ Tear Down the Walls!

- California floodwater threatens prisoners . . . . .5

### ◆ Editorials

- Smash anti-trans bigotry! . . . . .1

### ◆ Noticias en Español

- Lecciones de Lenin para el 1 de mayo . . . . .6
- Declaración de fuerzas democráticas de Sudán . . .6

### Online articles

#### ◆ In the U.S.

- Cleveland honors housing defenders. . . . . LINK
- Workers hit with bigger student loan debt . . . LINK

#### ◆ Around the World

- Korean people deserve peace, autonomy . . . . . LINK

Workers World  
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404  
New York, NY 10001  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: [ww@workers.org](mailto:ww@workers.org)  
Web: [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org)



Vol. 65, No. 18 • May 4, 2023  
Closing date: May 3, 2023

Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

*Tear Down the Walls!* Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl, Gloria Rubac

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

Copyright © 2023 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.

Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited.

Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the Web at [www.workers.org](http://www.workers.org).

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at [workers.org](http://workers.org).

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404 New York, N.Y. 10001.

# Oakland teachers fight for higher pay, community schools

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, California

The Oakland Education Association represents around 3,000 teachers in the Oakland Unified School District. Its 50-member bargaining committee has been trying to get OUSD to respond to its demands for higher salaries, smaller class size, equity and parity for substitute teachers, and hiring more nurses, psychologists, resource specialists and librarians. There are over 35,000 students in more than 80 schools in the district.

The district's refusal to even come to the bargaining table led OEA to file an Unfair Labor Practice charge March 23. Middle and high school teachers went on a one-day wildcat strike March 24 to protest OUSD's callous disregard for teacher demands.

On April 24, the OEA membership, by an 88% majority, gave its leadership authorization to call an Unfair Labor Practices strike.

The week of the vote was full of "ready to strike" activities which included an OEA press conference announcing the opening of the strike vote, poster-making

sessions, art builds, and a large protest at the school board meeting.

Hundreds of teachers picketed outside and then rallied inside Met West High School, where the Oakland School Board was scheduled to meet on April 26. Chanting "Get up, Get down, Oakland is a union town!" teachers, parents, and students surrounded the building to demand that the school district start bargaining seriously on a new teacher contract.

## Press conference hits cuts to special education

Teachers, students, parents and community members held a press conference April 28 at United for Success Academy (UFSA), an Oakland public middle school, to expose the deteriorating conditions for students and teachers inside the school and the abrupt closure of its only special education class. Students testified about an alarming rodent infestation and a lack of safety in the student bathrooms. Despite ongoing complaints about health and safety concerns, the district has done little to remedy the situation.

At the press conference, students of the Special Day Class and their parents spoke

out about how upset they were when they received the district form letter saying their class was ending at the end of this school year in May. To add insult to injury, the special education teacher only found out about the imminent closure after parents phoned her in tears. The district didn't even inform the teacher appropriately.

Parents are now faced with sending their children across the district to schools where they don't know anyone. One parent noted that her daughter would have to take two buses to get to school next fall. Right now, her daughter walks to school.

Last minute negotiations have continued all weekend without substantial progress. It is unclear at this time whether a strike will be avoided. Meanwhile, teachers spent all of Saturday, April 29, making strike posters and banners with bilingual slogans like, "Strike for safe and racially



WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

Teacher protest at the April 26, 2023 school board meeting.

just community schools!/Huelga para escuelas comunitarias seguras y racialmente justas!"

While teachers know it is very difficult to go on strike at the end of the school year, they are determined to win a just contract for all educators in the Oakland Education Association.

Judy Greenspan is a teacher at UFSA and a proud member of the Oakland Education Association.

# Community leaders, petitioners, and fashionistas agree: 'No Arena in Chinatown!'

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Piled in front of a Philadelphia City Hall entrance April 27, were 18 boxes filled with 15,000 petitions and 3,000 written postcards opposing the proposal to build a \$1.3 billion 76ers' basketball arena. This would lead to the destruction of one of the last neighborhoods in the city's downtown core that is predominantly composed of people of color and low-income individuals.

The boxes were slated to be delivered to council members by over 50 participants in a rally who shouted in unison, "Hands off Chinatown!" "People over profits!" and other popular chants.

Speakers included Kenny Chiu



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Fashionistas pose in front of some of the boxes of 15,000 petitions and 3,000 postcards on April 27, 2023.

of Students for the Preservation of Chinatown who said, "The developers behind the arena do not have Philly's best

interests at heart. They are thinking of their own bank accounts."

Sinta Penyami Storms, cofounder of the Indonesian group Gapura, added, "For my community, Chinatown is near and dear to our hearts," explaining that is where Philadelphia's Indonesian community first landed when they immigrated to the city in the 1990s.

Will Gross of the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance of Pennsylvania said, "It is a battle between a handful of billionaires who want to take a section of land for themselves versus the people of Philadelphia."

And then a fashion show became the highlight of the event.

As a model strutted in front of the boxes, banners, signs and protesters, the moderator at the mic said, "Debbie is wearing a beautiful flowing dress that is 4% rayon and 96% opposed to the arena and billion-dollar development."

Attached to the garments of each of the four models were dozens or even hundreds of signed anti-arena postcards. After their catwalks, each model either read one of the postcards or made their own comment opposing the developers' plan.

## 'No Arena in the Heart of our City'

Following the fashion show, the demonstrators broke down into four groups, each delivering boxes of petitions and cards to council members' offices. Organizers are calling for council members to commit to opposing any legislation allowing the heavily criticized arena to be built.

Each of the city council members this writer's group visited — Darrell Clarke, Cindy Bass and Anthony Phillips — were absent due to a council meeting, but their staff members took the boxes of petitions. They each responded that the "councilmanic prerogative tradition" requires them to follow the lead of council member Mark Squilla, who represents the district where the proposed arena would be constructed.

The city's regressive tradition of "councilmanic prerogative" gives the 10 members who represent geographic areas the ultimate say on land-use decisions in their districts.

Staff representatives also commented that they were waiting for an impact study by the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation before deciding whether to support the arena. Mayor Jim Kenney commissioned the study to "assess building design, community impact and urban planning, economic impact, and parking/traffic impact," according to the PIDC.

The Save Chinatown Coalition developed a legal document known as Request For Proposal that lists other things that should be studied, including mental health, community life and culture, and the "tangible or intangible" value of the neighborhood. One portion calls for examining the "disruption of social and cultural life," stressing experiences in Washington D.C., St. Louis, Oakland, California, Seattle and Boston and the recent struggle to stop Black displacement in University City Townhomes in Philadelphia.

"The impact study for me is the community voicing concern," Gross said, pointing out during the street rally why many Chinatown residents mistrust whatever conclusions the PIDC will make; "There's no more important impact study than the constituency who says we don't want an arena in the heart of Philadelphia."

## March on June 10 to stop the arena!

Bad weather caused the postponement of a planned mass march on April 29. "No Arena in the Heart of Our City March and Rally" is now being organized for June 10, with a rain date of June 17. ([workers.org/2023/04/70596](http://workers.org/2023/04/70596))

The community's message is: "We'll be marching from Chinatown to City Hall to show the Philadelphia City Council that our city is not for sale! We don't need or want an arena in the heart of our city. We don't need or want corporate-designed, billionaire-driven predatory development in Philadelphia. Our neighborhoods need investment that is driven by the needs of the people who call it home. We need investment that builds community and connections — instead of tearing them apart." □

# Popular movement in Sudan

Continued from page 1

to mobilize, while faced with the bloodshed caused by the two warring armed forces. Here are excerpts from its April 19 statement, signed by 42 organizations:

"We, in the resistance committees and democratic political, civil, and professional forces, hereby declare that our country has slid into the abyss of total war, in which generals use their weapons to eliminate everything in their path, and excessive violence has been used by the regime forces as a tool to settle the disputes and conflicts over power. This is contrary to the rules of democratic transition and peaceful power-sharing.

"Despite our differences in political views, we are completely united in our stance against the war and its continuation, and in our opposition to the return of the remnants of the previous regime to the political scene.

"We call for an immediate cessation of the war and the silencing of the clamor of guns, and we reject any results of the

war, no matter what they may be. We emphasize the necessity of unity among the forces of the revolution in the face of the schemes of the remnants, those who are striving to regain control of the country, even if it means tearing it apart. We assure them that their efforts will fail, and they will never return to power, as the glorious December revolution is still alive and burning.

"In this regard, we intend to agree on a joint mechanism to monitor developments, coordinate positions, and confront anything that threatens the security and safety of our country and its citizens. We hold the warring parties fully responsible for any violation of human rights.

"We should mobilize to declare a comprehensive political strike and civil disobedience, which is the duty of the moment that we must all rally around, and not allow speeches of sedition, fragmentation, and hateful rhetoric to tear this country apart, and to undermine its unity, sovereignty, safety, and the dignity of its people." ([menasolidaritynetwork.com](http://menasolidaritynetwork.com)) □

# Resistance to sanctions: three components

By Sara Flounders

Below is a talk given by Sara Flounders to the Americas Policy Forum “Burying 200 Years of the U.S. Monroe Doctrine,” held at American University on April 29. Flounders spoke at a panel entitled “Opposing Sanctions and Unilateral Intervention.”

Our Sanctions Kill campaign is dedicated to explaining how sanctions, as a “Crime Against Humanity,” intentionally target the most vulnerable people and deprive millions of basic essentials.

Sanctions by the U.S. and its allies have caused millions of deaths around the world. I saw this up close in many trips to Iraq during the 1990s. I’ve seen the impact of sanctions on isolated, surrounded Gaza, on Israel-bombed Lebanon, on Sudan during a famine, on former Yugoslavia during the U.S./NATO bombing, and on resilient Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua.

But new forms of resistance are arising. I’ll describe three different ways that resistance to sanctions is developing in the Americas and globally.

## First form of resistance: economic self-sufficiency

First, there is resistance by developing economic self-sufficiency. North Korea, having survived 70 years of the world’s harshest international sanctions, calls self-reliance “Juche.”

I was recently in Nicaragua, which is now 90 percent self-sufficient in food. Nicaraguans coped heroically with COVID-19, providing door-to-door health care even as the U.S. blocked their access to vaccines. Education there is free. The Sandinista government has developed essential infrastructure, especially roads, health clinics and schools.

Nicaragua now ranks among the top five countries in the world in gender parity. Women fill more than half the seats in legislatures — local to national — and in administration, medicine and the rural economy, from bottom to top.

Nicaragua was declared by the U.S. to be a “national security threat,” precisely because it provides a good example, an alternative to a neoliberal world order. The U.S. government tries to justify its inhumane sanctions by funding NGOs that interfere in the internal affairs of Nicaragua and other targeted countries.

In the midst of sanctioning Nicaragua, a biased, sensationalized U.N. “human rights report” was released March 2 and publicized in the corporate media. This report didn’t use well-documented material from the Nicaraguan government



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

Panelists and participants at the Americas Policy Forum “Burying 200 years of the U.S. Monroe Doctrine,” held April 29, 2023, at American University, Washington, D.C.

that was readily available. The Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition says it “is fatally flawed and should be withdrawn.”

I was in Nicaragua when the latest U.S. smear report was released to justify the Washington-instigated, violent regime change operation of 2018 and its paid operatives.

The so-called “human rights” that the U.S. so frequently accuses targeted countries of violating are little more than a cynical ploy, a weapon. Our role as activists here in the U.S. is to build solidarity with workers’ struggles and refuse to be part of the U.S. propaganda machine that promises “human rights” — while delivering misery.

I hope everyone here will sign on to a statement at the Nicaragua lit table rejecting this fraudulent report. (Go to [tinyurl.com/24d3mbvf](https://tinyurl.com/24d3mbvf) to sign online.)

## Solidarity with sanctioned countries: a second form of resistance

Cuba, which provides more doctors to Africa than the World Health Organization, developed its own COVID-19 vaccines, but didn’t have and couldn’t get syringes to give its own population the shot. That took an international solidarity campaign.

That is the other key part of resistance to sanctions: all of us here building solidarity and aid campaigns with countries under sanctions and not being confused by each propaganda campaign.

The web of thousands of U.S.-led restrictions that strangle economies for the benefit of corporate power is growing. Over the past 20 years the number of U.S. sanctions grew from 912 to 9,421. Now 40 countries, encompassing one-third of humanity, are victimized.

Sanctions — economic coercive measures — are part of a regime-change strategy to promote hyper-inflation, chronic shortages, and supply chain chaos. These sanctions undermine social progress, such as land distribution, food subsidies, and expanded education and healthcare.

## Third part of resistance: coordination among sanctioned countries

What is new?

Change is coming rapidly with earth-shaking implications. A new development is burying the Monroe Doctrine, which has asserted that no foreign power except the U.S. could be allowed in Latin America and the Caribbean. Any intervention in the political affairs of the Americas by foreign powers was considered a hostile act against United States interests.

But, 200 years after the Monroe Doctrine, the countries of Latin America are no longer alone, facing the continuing

threat of invasions, coups and sanctions, and economic strangulation.

**The imposition of U.S. and European Union sanctions on Russia, based on the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine, has undermined the U.S. use of sanctions dramatically. The sanctions didn’t create economic collapse, which President Biden had predicted. Cutting trade hurt the EU economy far more than the Russian economy, and forced the birth of de-dollarization.**

China is now South America’s top trading partner. Between 2000 and 2020, China’s trade with Latin America and the Caribbean countries grew 26-fold, from \$12 billion to \$310 billion. China is among the top sources of direct foreign investment and finance.

Now, sanctioned Russia, Iran and China provide vital lifelines for sanctioned Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua. All are sanctioned countries that are determined to survive and thrive.

The impact is wider than trade among sanctioned countries. China is now a dominant trading partner for Chile, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Ecuador.

China, Brazil and Argentina just signed deals for trade in local currencies.

The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) system and its New Development Bank offer an alternative to the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund.

U.S. strategists, both Democrats and Republicans, are worried sanctions are losing their power as a threat.

Last week, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, former chair of the Federal Reserve, admitted that Washington’s imposition of unilateral sanctions on countries around the world could weaken the dominance of the dollar. “There is a risk, when we use financial sanctions that are linked to the role of the dollar, that, over time, it could undermine the hegemony of the dollar,” she said. Even she conceded that the U.S. sanctions create a desire to find an alternative to the dollar.

Likewise, Republican Senator Marco Rubio complained: “We won’t have to talk sanctions in five years, because there will be so many countries transacting in currencies other than the dollar, that we won’t have the ability to sanction them.”

Of course, these war criminals are

concerned about their almighty dollar, not the human consequences of sanctions.

The imposition of U.S. and European Union sanctions on Russia, based on the U.S./NATO war in Ukraine, has undermined the U.S. use of sanctions dramatically. The sanctions didn’t create economic collapse, which President Biden had predicted. Cutting trade hurt the EU economy far more than the Russian economy, and forced the birth of de-dollarization.

However, ruthless decisions to enforce the Monroe Doctrine will still be attempted. U.S. imperialism is the biggest impediment to development and progress in Latin America and the Caribbean, in the past and the present.

U.S. corporate domination is in a constant alliance with the most reactionary, backward and repressive forces in the Global South. This is not by accident. This is who they cultivate, arm, train and reinforce.

## Justice = reparations

Justice demands that we support reparations for sanctioned countries, for damage to their economies and the shortened lives of their populations.

In 1986 the International Court of Justice ruled that the U.S. had violated Nicaragua’s sovereignty through the arming and training of the contras and the mining of Nicaragua’s harbor, and Nicaragua was due reparations. In 2017 Nicaragua revived its claim against the United States for compensation of \$17 billion in reparations.

France owes Haiti at least \$28 billion in return for the reparations Haiti was forced to pay after freeing itself from enslavement in 1804.

Consider the wealth stolen — not only from sanctioned Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua — but from ALL the countries of the formerly colonized Global South.

Just as descendants of enslaved and Indigenous peoples of the U.S. are due reparations for stolen labor and stolen land, so too are the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean due reparations for past U.S. invasions, expropriations and sanctions.

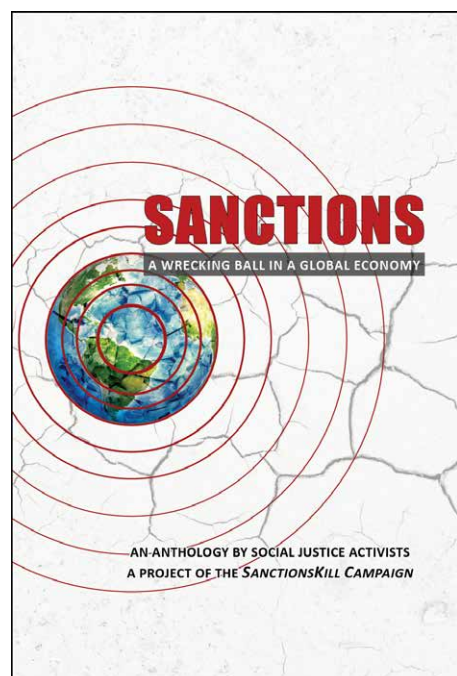
## Free Alex Saab!

In closing, I want to raise the case of Alex Saab. This Venezuelan special envoy is imprisoned in the U.S. because he helped bring desperately needed humanitarian supplies — food, fuel, and medicine — to Venezuela, in circumvention of the illegal U.S. sanctions, but his actions were in legal international trade.

When Alex Saab was being held captive and tortured in Cabo Verde, I traveled there to help bring attention to his case. Saab has since been kidnapped again and brought to Miami, where he is now imprisoned. His cancer, which had been in remission, has recurred, and he is without adequate medical treatment. In this emergency, I urge this gathering to go on record calling for Alex Saab’s release.

In conclusion, Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua in our hemisphere are targeted for regime-change by the U.S. empire, not because of the things that they have done wrong, but for the things they have done right.

They give us a glimpse of a better world, an alternative vision from the imperialist-dominated unipolar world order. That is why they are being attacked and why we must act in solidarity with them and their right to defend themselves. □



Sanctions: A wrecking ball in a global economy, from the SanctionsKill Campaign, is available through [www.iacenter.org](http://www.iacenter.org)

# Smash anti-trans bigotry!

Continued from page 1

hyperbolic.” The bill was signed by Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte, despite pleas from his non-binary son that he decline to sign.

Statistics fully back Zephyr’s position. The Trevor Project reports that its 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health “found that 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth.”

The rates of contemplated or attempted suicide are even higher for trans youth of color. (thetrevorproject.org)

Zephyr is not the only oppressed person who managed to be elected as a state legislator, only to be muzzled by a reactionary Republican majority. Several weeks ago in Tennessee, the two youngest Black representatives were expelled for — here too — violating decorum. Reps. Justin Pearson and Justin Jones had demonstrated inside the state capitol for a ban on assault weapons sales.

Rep. Jones has drawn parallels between what happened to him and Rep. Pearson and what happened to Rep. Zephyr: “We see this weaponization of decorum to silence dissent, to silence voices that make people uncomfortable. And that’s really what they’re doing, is silencing any voice of divergence from their dominant narrative.”

Pushing back what Jones called “this rising tide of fascism and authoritarianism” is not going to be easy. We can’t count on the Democratic Party to put a halt to it.

Solidarity between Black and Brown

communities and LGBTQ2S+ communities, as demonstrated by Rep. Jones, is definitely a place to start.

But there needs to be more than the support of one censured legislator for another. We need a broad movement against white supremacy, misogyny, transphobia, ableism and all forms of oppression, one that encompasses the whole working class, including but not limited to organized labor.

That is what is needed to stop these bigoted bills from being implemented. □

## More than a Civil Rights activist

# Harry Belafonte was a genuine internationalist

By Monica Moorehead

The great Jamaican-identified artist, Civil Rights activist and internationalist, Harry Belafonte, died from congestive heart failure at age 96 on April 25, 2023.

Despite becoming the first Black person to win a TV Emmy award in 1960, a Broadway Tony award in 1954 and selling millions of recordings, Belafonte experienced racist discrimination firsthand, like most Black entertainers in the 1950s and 1960s, including his good friend, the late actor Sidney Poitier. Belafonte was an important political organizer and financial backer of the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Belafonte was inspired personally and politically by the great singer and radical actor, Paul Robeson, who was a victim of the anti-communist, McCarthyite witch hunt that all but destroyed his livelihood.

In a speech before the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade/Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives meeting in New York City on April 27, 1997, Belafonte, a survivor of the witch hunt, stated, “And it was from Paul that I learned that the purpose of art is not just to show life as it is, but to show life as it should be. And that if art were put into the service of the human family, it could only enhance their betterment.

“Paul said to me, ‘Harry, get them to

sing your song, and they will want to know who you are. And if they want to know who you are, you’ve gained the first step in bringing truth and bringing insight that might help people get through this rather difficult world.”

Belafonte ended his speech this way: “Thank you -- and long live the Brigade and what it stands for -- and long live each and every one of you -- and give up smoking! Fidel Castro gave it up, you can give it up!” (University of Chicago)

Belafonte also supported a just trial for the revolutionary journalist and African American political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

### Going beyond Civil Rights

Belafonte was an important U.S. spokesperson for the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Belafonte supported left-wing progressive causes that upset the racist, white status quo; this includes being an outspoken opponent of imperialist war. In January 2006, Belafonte led a delegation, which included actor Danny Glover, farmworker organizer Dolores Huerta and professor Cornel West, to Caracas, Venezuela, to meet with the late President Hugo Chávez.

Belafonte told Chávez during a TV and radio broadcast: “No matter what the greatest tyrant in the world, the greatest



On January 6, 2006, Harry Belafonte told Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez:

“No matter what the greatest tyrant in the world, the greatest terrorist in the world, George W. Bush says, we’re here to tell you: Not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of the American people support your revolution.”

terrorist in the world, George W. Bush, says, we’re here to tell you: Not hundreds, not thousands, but millions of the American people ... support your revolution. ... We respect you, admire you, and we are expressing our full solidarity with the Venezuelan people and your revolution.” (jamaicaobserver.com Jan. 9, 2006)

### All of the Cuban Revolution

Belafonte supported the Cuban Revolution and became a good friend of Fidel Castro. The excerpted article below, “Our friend Belafonte, on his 95th birthday,” by Pedro de la Hoz, first appeared on the website of “Granma,” the official voice of the Communist Party of Cuba’s Central Committee, on March 7, 2022. (Read the entire article at [tinyurl.com/4bddhvr](http://tinyurl.com/4bddhvr))

# Floodwaters, torture: Demand Corcoran prisons be shut down

By Judy Greenspan  
Oakland, California

The big news coming out of California is about the flooding of the Central Valley where multi-million dollar agribusiness makes its money. Missing from this headline story is the imminent danger faced by over 8,000 incarcerated people at two prisons in the small town of Corcoran: California State Prison, Corcoran (CSP-COR), and the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison, Corcoran (SATF-CSP).

The flooding caused by an unprecedented late winter rainfall and snowfall, now melting, across the Central Valley has made continued incarceration in these prisons life-threatening. It’s time to not only evacuate these prisoners, but to close these two prisons, which have a history of medical neglect, torture, and human rights abuses.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is

notorious for its refusal to evacuate prisoners facing life-threatening climate catastrophes or other dangers. Just two years ago, during a particularly dangerous season of fires, prisoners at several California prisons were subjected to hazardous and unhealthy air quality, and high temperatures in their cells.

The CDCR refused to even consider evacuating prisoners at any of those prisons, including incarcerated people at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, most of whom are elderly and immunocompromised.

### Prisoners face dangerous climate disasters

Right now the most dire situation is faced by prisoners at both Corcoran prisons. CSP-COR and SATF-CSP were opened in 1988 and 1997, respectively. Construction began on CSP-COR in 1986, just three years after the last period of serious flooding in Corcoran in 1983. There is nothing in place to prevent a

serious climate catastrophe in that town. (Truthout, April 14).

CSP-Corcoran contains a Security Housing Unit (SHU), commonly known as solitary confinement, that is infamous for its decades of torture and violence against prisoners housed there. However, prisoners in the general population have also been victims of medical neglect and violence perpetrated by prison guards. In 1998, eight prison guards were found guilty of serious civil rights violations and abuse — which led to the murder of a prisoner.

CSP-COR was one of the prisons where guards set up fights in the prison yard between rival prisoner groupings and then opened fire during these altercations, killing and injuring many prisoners. These came to be known as “gladiator fights,” which from 1989 to 1994 caused the death of seven prisoners and injured 43 others.

California Prison Focus, an Oakland-based prison abolition group, issued a



PHOTO: INCARCERATED WORKERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Banner at protest outside of Corcoran State Prison, February 2019.

report condemning the conditions at CSP-COR and documenting abuse from 2002 to 2004, particularly for those incarcerated in the prison’s SHU.

And now, with the once dry Tulare Lake flooding its banks and more water cascading down from the Sierras, the incarcerated populations of both Corcoran prisons are facing life-threatening climate disasters. This crisis not only calls for an immediate evacuation of both prisons but the closure of these torture chambers once and for all.

Judy Greenspan was a member of California Prison Focus and visited prisoners in the Security Housing Unit at CSP-Corcoran.



Hugo Chávez y Harry Belafonte, ¡presente!

## Lecciones de Lenin para el Día Internacional de los Trabajadores

El Día Internacional de los Trabajadores, también conocido como Primero de Mayo, nos recuerda una anécdota sobre la Revolución Rusa de 1917 en relación con la clase obrera.

En aquel momento, el Partido Bolchevique, formado y dirigido por V.I. Lenin, estaba en proceso de tomar el poder. Un intelectual antibolchevique discutía con un obrero bolchevique y sacaba a relucir todas las complejidades de dirigir un gobierno y de abandonar a los aliados de Rusia en la gran matanza de la Primera Guerra Mundial. “Yo lo veo así”, dijo el obrero bolchevique. “Los patronos están de un lado. Nosotros estamos en el otro lado. Si no tomamos el poder, ellos lo harán”.

El obrero tenía razón.

Los jefes, es decir, los capitalistas, están de un lado. Los trabajadores están en el otro lado. Cuando un lado gana, el otro pierde. Lenin enseñó esa lección a su partido. Recuérdalo en este próximo día para la clase obrera.

Los capitalistas y sus propagandistas a sueldo insisten en que la clase obrera no cuenta, no dirigirá revoluciones y, desde luego, no puede dirigir la sociedad. Aquellos que poseen la riqueza pagan a personas para que enseñen estas mentiras, incluso mientras los capitalistas llevan a la sociedad al caos del colapso económico, la crisis climática, la pandemia y la guerra.

Entonces, ¿quién es la clase trabajadora? Los que se presentan en una fábrica, una mina o una central eléctrica y producen los bienes o la energía, que el propietario vende con un beneficio, son trabajadores. Los que conducen un tren o un autobús, o los mantienen, o reparan el correo o la atención sanitaria o la educación o el ocio o el café son trabajadores.

Los que sobreviven sólo vendiendo su trabajo son trabajadores, incluso en las industrias en las que es difícil nombrar a tu jefe. Pero la cosa no acaba ahí. Las trabajadoras del sexo, los trabajadores encarcelados y las personas con discapacidad pertenecen a la clase trabajadora, al igual que quienes crían niños o cuidan de familiares



Vladimir Ilich Lenin

sin remuneración. Tras la globalización, la mayoría de la población mundial pertenece a la clase trabajadora, incluidos los jubilados.

Ahora mismo en Francia, la patronal está intentando quitar años de la paga de jubilación a los trabajadores. Los trabajadores, con el apoyo de la mayoría de la población, están luchando. Y planean hacer del Día Internacional de los Trabajadores un día de lucha de clases.

Lenin, mencionado antes, promovió el internacionalismo de la clase obrera. Todos los capitalistas del mundo quieren ver al gobierno francés aplastar esta rebelión. Y todos los trabajadores del mundo ganan si la rebelión triunfa. La clase obrera es internacional.

### ¡Unan todas las luchas!

Luego está la cuestión de la guerra.

La clase capitalista estadounidense dirige el país, controla el ejército, la policía, los tribunales y el aparato de propaganda. Esta clase está librando una guerra por poderes, utilizando a la OTAN, en Ucrania contra Rusia. Esta clase amenaza con una guerra con China por Taiwán. Esta clase dominante, enemiga de todos

los trabajadores, está librando una guerra económica mediante sanciones contra todos los países y naciones que exigen soberanía e independencia.

Como dijo Lenin antes y durante la gran matanza de la Primera Guerra Mundial: “El enemigo está en casa”. En ningún lugar es eso más significativo que en los propios Estados Unidos.

El Día Internacional de los Trabajadores debe ser un día de lucha contra la agresión de EE.UU. y la OTAN. El enemigo de los trabajadores en EE.UU. es la clase dominante estadounidense.

Luego está la cuestión de unir las luchas en casa.

Ha habido indicios de un repunte en la organización de la clase obrera en los últimos años. Huelgas en hospitales y escuelas, incluidos estudiantes de posgrado en universidades, una casi huelga de trabajadores de trenes de mercancías que el gobierno federal reprimió e iniciativas para sindicalizar a los trabajadores multinacionales, multigénero y principalmente jóvenes de los almacenes de Amazon y las cafeterías Starbucks.

Mientras tanto, todos los trabajadores, incluso en los EE.UU., Europa y Japón, se han visto perjudicados por la inflación y los salarios congelados, mientras que las conquistas sociales de 1945-90 están siendo reducidas por la globalización y el ataque de la clase dominante imperialista. Ya es hora de unir sus luchas.

En los EE.UU., la defensa de los que son atacados, especialmente los jóvenes negros y morenos como Ralph Yarll en Missouri, con ataques racistas por supremacistas blancos y la policía — esa es una lucha de la clase obrera. La lucha por restaurar el derecho y el acceso al aborto, esa es una lucha de la clase obrera. La lucha por una vivienda digna, esa es una lucha de la clase obrera. La defensa de los derechos de los transexuales, atacados por los intolerantes, es una lucha de la clase obrera.

El Día Internacional de los Trabajadores recuerda todo eso a la clase obrera. Y Lenin nos recuerda que cada batalla debe llevarse tan lejos como sea posible. □

## Declaración de las fuerzas democráticas de Sudán

Por autor invitado

Escrito el 19 de abril por las fuerzas contra los golpistas y contra los militaristas en Sudán. Traducción: Enrique García para Sinpermiso.

Nosotros, los Comités de Resistencia y las fuerzas políticas y democráticas — civiles y de las profesiones liberales — como continuación de nuestra primera declaración publicada el 14 de abril, declaramos por la presente que nuestro país se ha deslizado al abismo de la guerra total, en la que los generales utilizan sus armas para eliminar todo lo que encuentran a su paso. La violencia extrema es utilizada por las fuerzas del régimen como una herramienta para resolver disputas y conflictos relacionados con el poder. Esto es contrario a las reglas de la transición democrática y el reparto pacífico del poder.

Más allá de nuestras diferencias políticas, estamos totalmente unidos en nuestra posición contra la guerra y su continuación, y en nuestra oposición al regreso de los restos del antiguo régimen a la escena política.

Llamamos al cese inmediato de la guerra y al cese del estruendo de las armas, y rechazamos todos los objetivos de la guerra, sean cuales sean. Insistimos en la necesidad de la unidad de las fuerzas de la revolución frente a las maniobras de quienes quedan y se esfuerzan por recuperar el control del país, incluso si eso significa desgarrarlo. Les aseguramos que sus esfuerzos fracasarán y que nunca volverán, porque la gloriosa revolución de diciembre [2018] sigue viva y movilizada.

En este sentido, tenemos la intención de acordar un mecanismo común para seguir la evolución de la



Jartum, Sudán, diciembre de 2022. Grandes manifestaciones conmemoran el cuarto aniversario de la revolución de 2018. El movimiento popular vive.

situación, coordinar posiciones y hacer frente a todo lo que amenaza la seguridad de nuestro país y de sus ciudadanos. La continuación de la guerra ha tenido, y sigue teniendo, efectos catastróficos, ya que ambas partes no han respetado el alto el fuego declarado anteriormente por las Naciones Unidas. No se crearon corredores de seguridad para la evacuación de las personas bloqueadas, los equipos médicos no fueron protegidos, los hospitales no se salvaron.

Consideramos que todas estas violaciones son contrarias al derecho humanitario internacional y a las convenciones de Ginebra. Hacemos a los beligerantes plenamente responsables de cualquier violación de los derechos humanos.

Renovamos el llamamiento a todas las fuerzas de la

revolución civil para que tomen la iniciativa y se unan para condenar las operaciones militares, para pedir el cese inmediato de las hostilidades y para no dejar al país en manos de los militares y de los restos del antiguo régimen.

Tendremos que movilizarnos para declarar una huelga política general y la desobediencia civil, que es el deber del momento al que todos debemos unirnos, y no permitir que los discursos de sedición, fragmentación y retórica odiosa desgarran este país y socaven su unidad, su soberanía, su seguridad y la dignidad de su pueblo. (Publicado por MENA Solidarity Network)

### Firmantes:

Reunión del Comité de Resurgimiento de Haj Yousef, Coordinación de los Antiguos Comités de Resistencia de Omdurman, Coordinación de los Comités del Sur del Nilo Oriental, Comités de Resistencia de la Zona Industrial, Comités de Resistencia — Wad Al-Nil, Comités de Resistencia de Al-Dali y Al-Mazmoum — Estado de Sennar, Partido Baas Árabe Socialista — Asl, Fuerzas de la Libertad y Profesionales y Profesores de la Universidad del Imam Al-Mahdi, Reunión y Red de Ingenieros de la Universidad de Jartum, Reunión de Ingenieros de la Universidad de Sudán, Conferencia de Graduados de la Universidad de Jartum, Reunión de Banqueros Sudanés, Reunión de Trabajadores del Sector Petrolero, Reunión de Profesionales del Departamento Fiscal, Reunión de Funcionarios Administrativos, Reunión de Artesanos y Trabajadores Sudanés, Solidaridad de Sindicatos de Sudán, Confederación Guardianes. □