



U.S. hands off Raúl Castro Ruz and Cuba!

On May 20, U.S. government prosecutors indicted Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz, a lifelong Cuban revolutionary and former president of Cuba, for murder. The charges stem from the 1996 shooting down of two planes operated by a counter-revolutionary terrorist group, the Miami-based “Brothers to the Rescue.” Four people died in the downing of the planes, which the U.S. Justice Department claims was ordered by Raúl Castro, who will be 95 years old on June 3.

Workers World rejects this effort to characterize Raúl as a murderer. We regard him as a true revolutionary hero. Raúl was with his brother Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz when the July 26th Movement attacked the Moncada Barracks in 1953. This attack, regarded as the beginning of the Cuban Revolution, was brutally crushed, and Fidel, Raúl, Haydée Santamaría, Melba Hernández and others were sent to prison by the U.S.-backed repressive dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

After being released from prison in 1955, Fidel and Raúl joined others, including Che Guevara, on the yacht Granma, which sailed from Mexico to Cuba in 1956. Those who survived the assault by Batista’s forces, including Fidel, Raúl and Che, formed the guerrilla

WW STATEMENT

army of the Revolution, which triumphed on Jan. 1, 1959.

After the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, Raúl held the important position of minister of the Armed Forces from 1959 to 2008. In 2006, as Fidel was ailing, Raúl became president of Cuba, in which office he served the Revolution until 2018. He was First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba from 2011-2021. Although he retired from those positions, which are now held by Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, he retains the title of Army General.

We agree with the Cuban government that the U.S. charges against Raúl represent “a despicable and infamous act of political provocation” and a pretext for a U.S. invasion of the island of 11 million people. As the revolutionary government points out, Cuba had issued a number of formal complaints to the U.S. government about the intrusions



into its airspace by “Brothers to the Rescue.”

We salute the Cuban Revolution, in the year of the centenary of the birth of Fidel, who was born August 13, 2026. And we are in solidarity with the Cuban government’s statement that: “The Cuban people reaffirm their unwav-

ering decision to defend the Homeland and its Socialist Revolution and, with the greatest strength and firmness, their unrestricted and unchanging support for Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, Leader of the Cuban Revolution.” (Read the full statement, page 4)

Long live Raúl Castro Ruz! U.S hands off Cuba! □

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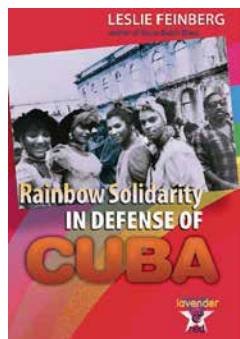
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This book by **Leslie Feinberg** is a compilation of chapters 86 to 110 from the Lavender & Red series in Workers World newspaper that began June 3, 2004. It is available at workers.org/books



Supporters gather May 24, 2026, at JFK Airport in New York City to welcome home participants in the Global Sumud Flotilla that tried to bring supplies to Palestine.

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Vol. 68, No. 21 • May 28, 2026

Closing date: May 27, 2026

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is pub-
lished 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 con-
densed 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 photo-
copy 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.

A headline digest is available via e-mail
subscription. Subscription information is
at workers.org.

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

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, LGBTQIA2S+ 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, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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San Diego shootings—act of domestic terrorism

Three people were killed during a shooting on May 18 at the Islamic Center in San Diego. The Center is the largest mosque in San Diego County and also includes the Al Rashid School. Also, the two teenagers who allegedly opened fire on the Center are dead, reportedly via suicide.

One of the victims was Amin Abdullah, a security guard and father of eight children. He had worked at the Center for 10 years. Abdullah is considered a hero for sacrificing his life to protect the children who were in the Center during the shooting. Fortunately, no child was injured.

Workers World agrees with the assessment of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), one of the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy groups in the U.S. In its statement, CAIR condemned the shooting, saying, “We are deeply disturbed, but not at all surprised, to learn that those who attacked the Islamic Center of San Diego were reportedly motivated by anti-Muslim hate.”

CAIR continued: “Hate against American Muslims is completely out of control. Numerous politicians have spent the past year claiming that all ‘mainstream Muslims’ should be destroyed, that American mosques and elementary schools should be shut down, and that American Muslims should be expelled from our nation. Just last week, House Republicans held a congressional hearing to fan the flames of hate against American Muslims, their houses of worship and even Muslim schoolchildren.

“A deadly attack on an American mosque was as predictable as it is unacceptable. Anti-Muslim hatred is one of the last acceptable forms of bigotry in American society, and it is long past time for the tolerance of this hate to end.” (cair.com, May 18)

On its website, the San Diego Islamic Center states that its mission is to “work with the larger community to serve the less fortunate, to educate, and to better our nation.” (icsd.org) The two other people killed were Mansour Kaziha and Nader Awad. Like Abdullah, they are considered heroes. Two thousand people attended a May 21 memorial in San Diego for the three victims.

The real culprit – Islamophobia

The two teenagers may have pulled the triggers that tragically ended the lives of three people. However, this shooting did not happen in a vacuum. It occurred amid a wave of anti-Muslim hate, also called Islamophobia, driven by the U.S. imperialist ruling class, its politicians

and corporate media, who target Islam as a religion and culture anchored mainly in the oppressed nations of the world.

U.S.-based Islamophobia reached a fever pitch in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, (9/11), when the U.S. rulers scapegoated all Muslims for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Random individuals who wore traditional Muslim clothing were singled out for physical attacks, some resulting in loss of life.

Reactionary laws, such as the U.S. PATRIOT (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) Act of 2001, were passed after 9/11 to falsely label Arab people and Muslims in general as “terrorists.” This was to justify the U.S. invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and to allow the George W. Bush administration to either deport or imprison Muslim individuals.

One example is Aafia Siddiqui, who (along with her children) was kidnapped by the U.S. from Pakistan in 2003. She was sentenced to 86 years in prison by a U.S. federal court and has been held in a federal prison near Fort Worth, Texas, since 2010.

Zionism is racism

On Oct. 7, 2023, organizations of the Palestinian Resistance rose against the Israeli occupation with the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood. When the Israeli Occupation Force responded with a genocidal war against the people of Gaza, a movement protesting this genocide developed around the world.

In the United States, these protesters have been arrested by the authorities and demonized by the bourgeois media as “antisemitic.” The corporate media’s labeling of any pro-Palestine action as “antisemitic” adds fuel to the fire of Islamophobia and spurs acts of racism, such as what happened in San Diego.

From 1975 until 1991, a symbolic vote took place annually in the United Nations General Assembly on the proposition that “Zionism is colonialism and racism.” A majority of countries, located mainly in the Global South, would vote “yes,” with the “no” votes always coming from the Zionist state of Israel, the U.S. and mostly other imperialist countries. The Palestinian Resistance has requested that the worldwide movement help resurrect “Zionism is racism” as a major slogan.

There are frequent public calls for an end to “anti-Jewish hate.” But the same cannot be said for calls to end anti-Arab or anti-Muslim hate. Such sympathy towards Muslims, which would be a welcome antidote to Islamophobia, fails to serve the geopolitical interests of U.S. imperialism and its pit bull ally, the decaying terrorist state of Israel. □



Two thousand people attend a May 21, 2026, memorial for three victims killed at the Islamic Center in San Diego.

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Cuba condemns U.S. accusations against the leader of the Revolution

Statement by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba

The following statement was posted on radiohc.cu on May 20, 2026.

The Revolutionary Government [of Cuba] condemns in the strongest terms the despicable accusation by the United States Department of Justice announced on May 20 and proclaimed for several weeks against Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, leader of the Cuban Revolution.

The United States government lacks the legitimacy and jurisdiction to carry out this action. It is a despicable and infamous act of political provocation, based on the dishonest manipulation of the incident that led to the downing, in February 1996, of two aircraft operated by the Miami-based terrorist organization Brothers to the Rescue over Cuban airspace, whose repeated violations of Cuban airspace for hostile purposes were of common knowledge.

Furthermore, the U.S. government distorts other historical truths about the event it uses as a pretext. It omits, among other details, the numerous formal complaints filed by Cuba during that period with the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) regarding more than 25 serious and deliberate violations of Cuban airspace committed by the cited organization between 1994 and 1996, in blatant transgression of international law and U.S. legislation itself.

It also ignores public and official warnings issued by Cuban authorities about the inadmissibility of such violations of its airspace and alert messages conveyed directly to the President of the United States about the seriousness and possible consequences of such transgressions.

Cuba's response to the violation of its airspace constituted an act of legitimate self-defense, protected by the Charter of the United Nations, the 1944 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation and the principles of air sovereignty and proportionality.



Raúl Castro, May Day 2008, Havana.

The United States, which has been a victim of the use of civil aviation for terrorist purposes, does not and would not permit the hostile and provocative violation of foreign aircraft over its territory and would act, as it has demonstrated, with the use of force.

The inaction of the U.S. government in the face of the warnings issued by Cuba at the time revealed its complicity in the planning and execution from its territory of violent, illegal and terrorist actions against the Cuban government and people, a recurring and systematic practice since the triumph of the Revolution to the present day.

It is highly cynical that this accusation is made by the same government that has murdered nearly 200 people and destroyed 57 vessels in international waters of the Caribbean [Sea] and the Pacific [Ocean], far from the territory of the United States, with the disproportionate use of military force, for alleged links to drug trafficking operations that were never proven, which qualify as extrajudicial executions, in accordance with International Law, and murders, according to U.S. laws themselves.

This spurious accusation against the Leader of the Cuban Revolution adds to the desperate attempts by anti-Cuban elements to construct a fraudulent narrative in an effort to justify the collective and

ruthless punishment against the noble Cuban people, through the strengthening of unilateral coercive measures, including the unjust and genocidal energy blockade and threats of armed aggression.

Cuba reaffirms its commitment to peace and its firm determination to exercise the inalienable right to self-defense, recognized by the Charter of the United Nations.

The Cuban people reaffirm their unwavering decision to defend the Homeland and its Socialist Revolution and, with the greatest strength and firmness, their unrestricted and unchanging support for Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, Leader of the Cuban Revolution.

Homeland or Death. We Will Prevail. □

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¡Raúl Castro Ruz es un héroe revolucionario!

¡EE. UU., no se meta en Cuba!

El 20 de mayo, los fiscales del Gobierno de Estados Unidos imputaron a Raúl Modesto Castro Ruz, revolucionario cubano de toda la vida y expresidente de Cuba, por asesinato. Los cargos se derivan del derribo, en 1996, de dos aviones operados por un grupo terrorista contrarrevolucionario, «Hermanos al Rescate», con sede en Miami. Cuatro personas murieron en el derribo de los aviones, que según el Departamento de Justicia de EE. UU. fue ordenado por Raúl Castro, quien cumplirá 95 años el 3 de junio.

Mundo Obrero rechaza este intento de caracterizar a Raúl como un asesino. Lo consideramos un auténtico héroe revolucionario. Raúl estaba junto a su hermano Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz cuando el Movimiento 26 de Julio atacó el cuartel de Moncada en 1953. Este ataque, considerado el inicio de la Revolución Cubana, fue brutalmente aplastado, y Fidel, Raúl y otros fueron enviados a prisión por la dictadura represiva de Fulgencio Batista, respaldada por Estados Unidos.

Tras salir de prisión en 1955, Fidel y Raúl se unieron a otros, entre ellos el Che Guevara, en el yate Granma, que zarpó de México hacia Cuba en 1956. Los que sobrevivieron al asalto de las fuerzas de Batista, entre ellos Fidel, Raúl y el Che, formaron el ejército guerrillero de la Revolución, que triunfó el 1 de enero de 1959.

Tras el triunfo de la Revolución Cubana, Raúl ocupó el importante cargo de ministro de las Fuerzas Armadas entre 1959 y 2008. En 2006, ante el deterioro de la salud de Fidel, Raúl asumió la presidencia de Cuba, cargo en el que sirvió a la Revolución hasta 2018.

Raúl ocupó el cargo de primer



Che Guevara, Raúl Castro y Vilma Espín.

secretario del Partido Comunista de Cuba entre 2011 y 2021. Aunque se retiró de dichos cargos, que ahora ostenta Miguel Mario Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, conserva el título de general del Ejército.

Coincidimos con el Gobierno cubano en que las acusaciones de Estados Unidos contra Raúl representan «un acto despreciable e infame de provocación política» y un pretexto para una invasión estadounidense de la isla de 11 millones de habitantes. Tal y como señala el Gobierno revolucionario, Cuba había presentado una serie de reclamaciones formales al Gobierno de Estados Unidos por las intrusiones en su espacio aéreo por parte de «Hermanos al Rescate».

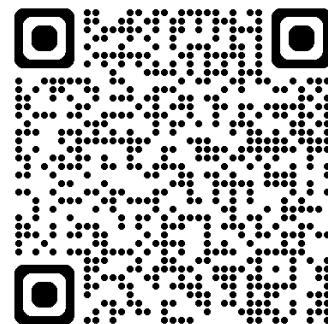
Saludamos a la Revolución Cubana, en el año del centenario del nacimiento de Fidel, quien vino al mundo el 13 de agosto de 1926. Y nos solidarizamos con la declaración del Gobierno cubano de que: «El pueblo cubano reafirma su inquebrantable decisión de defender la Patria y su Revolución Socialista y, con la mayor fuerza y firmeza, su

apoyo incondicional e inquebrantable al General de Ejército Raúl Castro Ruz, Líder de la Revolución Cubana» (Lea la declaración completa en radiohc.cu)

¡Viva Raúl Castro Ruz! ¡EE. UU., no se meta en Cuba! □

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