

## **PART's Perspective:**

# **From a One-Day General Strike to a Protracted Struggle for Liberation - Anti-Fascism and the Electoral "Cliff" in 2032**

by Michael Novick, *Anti-Racist Action-LA/People Against Racist Terror*

The call has been raised for a general strike against war, ICE, high prices, and the violation of democratic norms on May 1, historically International Working Peoples' Day or May Day. It is a follow-up to the growing sequence of No Kings rallies, and given that it is scheduled as a day of "no work, no school, no shopping" on a workday rather than a weekend, it represents a step up in militance, putting some teeth into the earlier rhetorical calls to "shut it down".

Even though the call arises from the forces behind No Kings, like 50501 and Indivisible, who fit comfortably within the orbit of the mainstream Democratic Party, no US labor union or federation has endorsed the call. Some on the left have criticized it as pointless or futile for that reason. But organized labor -- because of the debilitating effects of racism and anti-communism -- represents a small minority of workers in the private sector in the US, and a not much larger share of government employees. For a general strike to have a significant impact, it would in any event have to extend far beyond the ranks of those currently in a trade union.

Many unions are hemmed in by contract language and "no-strike" clauses. A case in point is the settlement reached by the unions representing teachers, administrators and other education workers with the Los Angeles Unified School District, second largest in the country, just before a deadline for a strike on April 14. The teachers, clerks, and cafeteria workers, even though they have been strong and forthright in demanding that LAUSD protect students, staff and their families from ICE, voted to accept the deal that satisfied their key demands on staffing and pay, without going on strike.

The role of unions within the capitalist system, even the most progressive, is to get the best deal they can from their employers for their members at the lowest cost in lost pay due to work stoppages. A general strike independent of and outside the norms of business unionism and contractual bargaining may do a lot to revive class consciousness and stimulate a sense of working people's power. Middle school, high school and college students are in a much clearer position to enforce a "no school" pledge than their teachers are.

The more justified criticism of No Kings and the May Day call is that they have not provided a framework or strategy for deep-rooted organizing, base-building and unification on the basis of class-conscious solidarity; nor have they called for the kind of thorough-going economic, social and political transformation the times demand. Their focus has been on Trump's atrocities and inanities, and not on the system of empire, exploitation, environmental devastation and inequality that produced Trump and hoisted him to imperial power. They are operating on the assumption that a return to the status-quo-ante, the norms of prior times, is necessary, possible and sufficient.

### **The "Electoral Cliff" in 2032**

The foolhardy nature of that supposition is underscored by the recent hand-wringing by pundits who fear that the Democratic Party is failing to sufficiently moderate its political positions. These "moderates" or "centrists" see the handwriting on the wall in the form of the 2030 census and the 2032 general elections, by which time a victory in the northeast, the west coast and the Great Lakes Midwest would no longer be sufficient to capture the presidency. Because of the population shift from those states, their Congressional delegations and electoral votes would be reduced and transferred to Arizona, Texas, Tennessee, Florida and the Carolinas.

## **NATIONAL MOBILIZATION AGAINST GENOCIDES, JULY 4th, 2026 - ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

by the Peoples' Senate/Spirit of Mandela Coalition  
<https://spiritofmandela.org/news-events/july-4th-2026-mobilization-against-genocides-atlanta>

Today's reading of the United States Declaration of Independence leaves little to celebrate. The forefathers of the USA called to dissolve the political bonds that connected their new colonies to the British empire. However, the masses of people living here, created equal in the eyes of God/Allah/the Great Spirit, were in no way treated equally or free by those who proclaimed this land to be the "United States." The truth is this country had replaced the British empire with another even more genocidal one.

Although many "Americans" on July 4th, 2026, will wave flags and celebrate "bombs bursting in air" for the 250th anniversary of the USA's Declaration of Independence, for many others, the relevance of the Declaration will be centered on a critique of tyrannical leaders and a government celebrating 250 years of genocidal policies and practices.

The Spirit of Mandela coalition, continuing the work of the 2021 International Tribunal that found the US government GUILTY OF GENOCIDE against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples, ([spiritofmandela.org](https://spiritofmandela.org)), will commemorate 250+ years of consistent resistance. We will celebrate the building of new people's movements, united fronts, international alliances, and local initiatives fiercely combating modern genocide, imperialism, white supremacist oppression, and injustice.

The 19th Century Abolitionist, Frederick Douglass asked, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" ([MassHumanities.org](https://masshumanities.org)). In the legacy of Crazy Horse, Rev. Nat Turner,



Unmentioned in their argument that the Democrats need to move to the right to win, but underpinning it, is the reality that most of those states were part of the Confederacy, and that the GOP lock on those states, like that of the "Dixiecrats" on the 'Solid South' in times past, is based on white supremacy and voter suppression. Nor do they address the essentially undemocratic nature of the Electoral College, which magnifies the influence and impact of sparsely-populated and mostly white states (as does the US Senate).

Hope for change begins with recognizing that the fascist forces already wielding state power are deeply rooted in settler colonialism, institutionalized white supremacy, and empire and that we cannot go back to a mythical "norm", but forward to a fundamentally different society and economy.

### **It Takes a Revolution to Defeat Fascism**

Fascism, based in colonialism, was not defeated at the end of World War II but simply reintegrated into the US national security state, war machine, and corporate monopoly capitalist economy. Only a revolutionary dispossession of those forces and a liberation of oppressed and colonized people will defeat fascism and empire.

But the left needs to take at least one thing from the argumentation of the so-called moderates -- they are looking well ahead, down the road not just to the 'mid-term' elections, or the 2028 presidential election, but six-plus years into the future; and they are proposing a strategy or at least a set of tactics beginning now, to change the shape of that future.

What would an anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian, anti-imperialist left path forward to shaping the future look like? Start with the recognition that the working class that empowers, enriches and sustains the US empire and the billionaires who run it is not located only inside the US, but also globally. The problems of de-industrialization and capitalist globalization will not be solved by a race to the bottom through the use of child labor and slave labor inside the US, or by "beggar-thy-neighbor" tariffs and trade-wars (or shooting wars).

We need international and inter-communal labor solidarity, decolonization, environmental (and social) reparation, and social control of the means of production to meet human needs. Overturn imperialist unequal exchange and raise wages and living standards for all by expropriating the expropriators, the billionaires who have been financing and strategizing the turn towards neo-fascism internationally.

Domestically, we need to stand with migrant workers, sex workers, and incarcerated workers, and end racist and

sexist differentials in pay affecting women, particularly Black women. We need to provide education, housing and health care as human rights, particularly reproductive and prenatal health care and paid parental leave. We need to reforest, restore agricultural soil through regenerative, organic processes, and replenish our aquifers.

We must speak to the justified mistrust of artificial intelligence and the opposition to the data centers being built to fuel it. We must address the well-founded fears that A-I will predominantly eliminate jobs, render human labor and creativity superfluous, and generate a new and costly arms race and battles with robots on the land and sea and in the air and space. These are pressing immediate realities, not a science fictional future, as shown by Trump's request for a \$1.5 trillion dollar annual military budget, and his effort to preempt regulation of A-I. We need, not simply a "Green New Deal," but a transformation from an economy based on war and profit at the expense of humanity and the planetary eco-system, to one predicated on peace, solidarity and eco-socialism.

But to get to those goals, we need to build the base of solidarity relationships through shared and protracted struggle. We need to develop the capacity to organize "below the radar" in classrooms and workplaces, in prisons, and inside the military, and in all those arenas to organize the unorganized.

It may be too much to expect the organizers of May Day Strong to embrace the concept of a July Semi-Quincentennial Without Colonies, or endorse the Peoples' Senate call for July 4th Against Genocides in Atlanta GA (see below), but May 1 protesters can and should.

We need interfaith movements, consciousness-raising groups, study circles, sex-positive education and respect for young people. We need to promote collective self-help and wellness, community defense and physical fitness, and to meet the human need for connection and self-worth. We cannot yield those issues to RFK Jr.'s conspiratorial MAHA, to the Christo-fascists, or to the manosphere.

We need to unite homeowners, renters, and people with no fixed abode. We need to unite students, farmers, consumers, and even nations burdened by debt for a jubilee; to unite "cowboys and Indians", farmers and campesinos, rural and city-dwellers around protecting the land and water. We need to overturn and uproot white supremacy and identification with the Empire. And as we do so, we will increase the creative power of poor and working people the world over, and reduce the power of the oppressors and exploiters, our enemies, until we can eliminate them as a class by ending exploitation and oppression as a system.

Gabriel Prosser, Denmark Vesey, Harriet Tubman, Lolita Lebron, and all the freedom fighters throughout history, we respond by taking this moment to redouble our efforts to build and connect mass and popular movements that are truly of the people, by the people, and for the people. The Spirit of Mandela's work to build a Peoples' Senate is a continuum, an integral part of this historic process of resisting the USA's genocidal policies against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples, and oppressive actions worldwide. We invite you to help us build the Peoples' Senate.

In light of the courageous and continuous history of resistance and freedom struggles, the Spirit of Mandela coalition, in pursuit of building the Peoples' Senate, is calling for a 4th of July 2026 National Mobilization Against Genocides.

On July 4, 2026, we will convene, along with many allies and friends, a grand national convergence in Atlanta, Georgia. We will have culture and conversation, dancing and debate, building unity across ideological lines and beyond geographic and other boundaries. Centered under the leadership of, but not exclusive to, our Black Panther/Black liberation legacy, we will convene to proclaim: No to Genocide Anywhere! Yes to People's Movements and Liberation Everywhere!!!

In the Spirit of all of our many Mandelas, let us once again raise the rallying cry: "Amandla! Awethu!" In English, that has always meant "Power to the People!" SAVE THE DATE AND CITY!

Learn more about the Spirit of Mandela coalition and the Peoples' Senate at: [spiritofmandela.org](https://spiritofmandela.org)

July 4th support, participate, and/or endorse! [tinyurl.com/july4-form](https://tinyurl.com/july4-form)  
For more information, contact us at: [peoplesenate@spiritofmandela.org](mailto:peoplesenate@spiritofmandela.org)

*Prisons as warehouses was an analogy,  
Warehouses as prisons is a new reality.*

## THE WAREHOUSE IN PLAIN SIGHT - A DISAPPEARING MACHINE

by Charmaine Chua

<https://placesjournal.org/article/the-warehouse-in-plain-sight-a-disappearing-machine/> [Excerpt]

Something dark... is ...brewing, in Socorro and San Antonio, Texas; in Social Circle and Flowery Branch, Georgia; in Tremont and Hamburg, Pennsylvania; Roxbury, New Jersey; Hagerstown, Maryland; Surprise, Arizona; Romulus, Michigan; Salt Lake City, Utah; maybe soon in a hollowed-out suburb near you.

Between 2021 and 2025, pandemic demand led to a frenzied explosion of warehouse construction. Everyone wanted to build a logistics hub and lease it to Amazon. But this was growth without a plan: 71% of the warehouse space developers brought to market in the second quarter of 2025 was speculative, and most of it sat empty. Spooked by Donald Trump's chaotic tariff policies, retailers weren't signing leases. By the summer, vacancy rates were higher than they'd been in a decade. 34 Supersize warehouses — some exceeding one million square feet — couldn't find tenants. What would happen to all that surplus space?

The answer is so grim it is hard to face. Last July, Republicans in Congress gave the Department of Homeland Security a staggering \$171 billion budget increase, including \$45 billion for new detention facilities. Within months, Immigrations and Custom Enforcement began buying commercial warehouses with the goal of retrofitting them into detention

centers larger than any prison. By the midterm elections, ICE aims to have 70,000 to 92,600 new beds in a couple dozen warehouses. The open, unplanned layout of the warehouse floor will be reformatted as a concentration camp.

Federal plans for the conversion of a million-square-foot warehouse to an ICE detention center in Social Circle, Georgia, show more than 8,000 beds, as well as spaces labeled "special housing unit," "vehicle sally port," "processing," "court interface," and "gun range." [ICE Infrastructure Analysis Social Circle, posted February 18, 2026, on the city government website]

This is a serious escalation in ICE's terror spree. Acquiring detention space through contracts is slow and inefficient, fragmenting the state's capacity to sweep and detain people. Under Biden, ICE had about 200 detention sites across the country, mostly space leased in county jails and private prisons, holding about 40,000 people on any given day. As immigration enforcement surged under Trump's deputy Stephen Miller, that number grew to 66,000 by the end of 2025. And if the "ICE Detention Reengineering Initiative" succeeds, warehouse conversions in 2026 will more than double that capacity.

Republicans in Congress budgeted \$45 billion for new detention facilities. This winter, ICE has bought eleven vacant warehouses, totaling 7.9 million square feet, in eight states.

ICE is now using a military procurement program known as WEXMAC to pre-qualify vendors and avoid normal bidding rules, so that construction can start immediately. Sixteen warehouses are planned to hold between 1,000 and 1,500 people, while eight mega-facilities will hold 7,000 to 10,000 people facing imminent deportation. The public knows little about what is happening inside ICE facilities, except for the trickle of horror stories about rancid food, medical neglect, and severe overcrowding, as immigrants are moved across state lines to circumvent legal defense and journalistic scrutiny. At least 32 people died in ICE custody in 2025, and fifteen so far in 2026 — one every six days.

## The Fall of Trumpty-Dumpty's Great Wall

by Jim Hightower

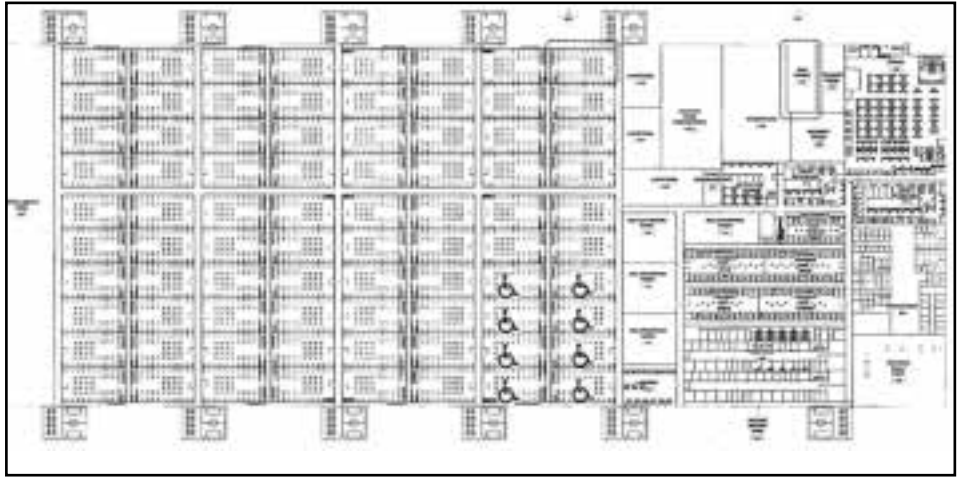
<https://jimhightower.substack.com/p/the-fall-of-trumpty-dumpty-great>

Even in this ugly era of political divisiveness under "King Donald," some things remain bigger than partisan politics.

For example, travel deep into Southwest Texas to the Mexican border, and you'll witness two powerful forces of political harmony in Big Bend National Park. First is the true majesty of nature — 1,200 square miles of high desert beauty, spectacular canyons, the Chisos Mounains' "sky islands," black bears and jaguars, ancient artifacts of native peoples, etc.

But you could also experience the marvelous rebellious spirit of today's Big Bend people who are battling the White House's ideological extremists. At issue is "The Wall," the xenophobic piece of nastiness pushed by Stephen Miller, the Trump government's tyrannical, anti-immigrant chief. Build a multi-billion-dollar, 30-foot-high steel wall atop the Rio Grande's fragile, thousand-foot high cliffs, Miller maniacally commanded!

Hello — such a monstrous wall would destroy the cliffs, devastate the economic, cultural, and other essential cross-border relationships that Big Bend communities rely on — and do nothing to stop desperate refugees. So, in a grassroots, non-partisan rebellion against such ideological bullstuff, a majority coalition of



Schematic floor plan for transforming a massive open warehouse into an 8,000-“bed” ICE detention center. “Bed” is prison euphemism for cell.

This winter, ICE has bought eleven vacant warehouses, totaling 7.9 million square feet, in eight states. More are coming. Flush with cash, the agency is paying a steep premium over market rate. It has learned from warehouse developers that the best way to win local approval is to promise that retrofitting and staffing will create jobs and tax revenue. And for most property owners waiting to convert land into money, it doesn't matter how the space is used, only that market conditions are met.

### Beachline Logistics: A Case in Point

On the eastern fringe of Orlando, Florida, lies a one-mile stretch of Aerospace Parkway, linking Innovation Way and International Corporate Park Boulevard. It may someday connect directly to the “Space Coast” where SpaceX and Blue Origin lease space from the federal government, but right now it just dead-ends into swampland.

Beachline Logistics Center opened [there] in February 2025, with 98 cross-dock doors and four drive-in bays, favorably located in a designated Foreign Trade Zone, but the building did not attract a tenant in its first year. ICE officials toured the facility in January 2026 to evaluate its potential as a detention center. It is one of five prospective sites currently tracked by Project Salt Box. [Image via



LoopNet]

We can understand this absorption of warehouse surpluses through the lens of carceral geographies. Surplus is the logic of containment, as abolitionist geographer Ruth Wilson Gilmore shows in her foundational work *Golden*

*Gulag*, which examines California's 1982–2000 prison boom as a response to economic crisis. Three surpluses, she argued — of finance, land, and labor — were brought together through a fourth, “surplus state capacity.” Governments that lost their mandate with the sunsetting of the welfare state formulated new political problems, so they could promote new technical solutions, requiring new markets. Most notably, they manufactured a fear of crime so they could justify a prison boom.

So we get places like California City in the remote Antelope Valley (the state's third largest incorporated city, by land area, after Los Angeles and San Diego). Here, a discarded military site became, in the 1960s, a failed real estate development, where a few thousand people settled in a city that was designed for half a million. In 1998, developers built a 2,500-bed private prison there on spec — without any prisoners to fill it. It took several years, but eventually they found tenants, including the U.S. Marshals Service, ICE, and the CA Department of Corrections. Last year, the site was reactivated as the largest immigrant detention center in California.

This pattern now repeats in the spec warehouse market. The Trump regime casts people who came to the U.S. seeking work or asylum as invading “enemy aliens” and “criminals” who must be removed, which justifies the reformatting of surplus commercial space for mass detention. (But which is a greater threat to public safety: non-citizens who overstay their visas? Or a rogue government agency staffed by secret police, led by an unbroken string of twelve acting directors who have avoided Senate oversight, which is now violating court orders faster than those orders are handed down?)

It is not coincidental that this fascist government sees the warehouse as the perfect detention center. The current acting director of ICE, Todd Lyons, made a chilling and explicit comparison last year at a Border Security Expo in Phoenix: “We need to get better at treating this like a business,” he said. “Like [Amazon] Prime, but with human beings.”

ranchers, environmentalists, local sheriffs, native Americans, and just folks have momentarily stalled the scheme.

[TTT Note: Trump has waived 28 federal laws to advance the project. Read more here: <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/04/03/texas-border-wall-big-bend-national-park-ranch-state-park/>]

As a longtime Republican resident puts it: “Those advocating for this insane project should... acknowledge their nonsensical, aesthetically, and environmentally quixotic conduct, so their names may be indelibly placed on that border wall and remembered forever in infamy.”

This is Jim Hightower saying... Trump is expected to push ahead, but the feisty grassroots champions are not intimidated. “We will be civil,” says one leader, “but we don't have to be polite.” Stay connected to them at <https://nobigbendwall.org>.

*Jim Hightower is the former elected Texas state Agricultural Commissioner and a “progressive populist” commentator on substack and radio.*

## On-Line Resources for Turning the Tide & ARA-LA/PART:

You can find archives of *Turning the Tide* at [www.antiracist.org](http://www.antiracist.org) that go back more than 15 years.

In addition, there are several Facebook pages, such as [facebook.com/tideturning](https://facebook.com/tideturning), and [facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity](https://facebook.com/intercommunalsolidarity).

You can follow @ara\_losangeles on Twitter, and the De-Colonize LA! blog at [ara-la.tumblr.com](http://ara-la.tumblr.com).

# The Strait of Hormuz and U.S. Imperial Decline

By Hedelberto López Blanch on April 21, 2026 from Havana

<https://resumen-english.org/2026/04/the-strait-of-hormuz-and-imperial-decline/>

Although the hegemonic media controlled by the US, Israel, and the West have tried to conceal the military and political defeat suffered by Washington and Tel Aviv following their devastating attacks launched against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the facts have come to light after 40 days of fighting.

The fury of the egocentric President Donald Trump has been unleashed because he was unable to overthrow the Iranian government or seize its oil as he always does, and he has reacted aggressively following the failed negotiations held in Islamabad.

Starting on April 13, Trump ordered the U.S. Navy to close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for the trade of oil, gas, and fertilizers, among other commodities.

## The Cost of War

For Iran, the cost of war is incalculable, as the violent and indiscriminate bombings by the United States and Israel against its territory have caused billions of dollars in losses, destroyed numerous infrastructure projects, educational and health centers, and oil facilities, and resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, including hundreds of children.

The cost to the United States is estimated at \$280 billion, to which must be added tens of billions in ammunition, damage to military bases in the region, aircraft losses, and the devastating impact on key energy infrastructure in the Gulf.

Losses in aircraft alone total more than \$2.4 billion: one F-35 Lightning II worth \$110 million; four F-15E Strike Eagles worth \$90 million each; one A-10 Thunderbolt II worth

\$18.8 million; one E-3 Sentry AWACS worth \$700 million; five KC-135 Tankers at \$40 million each (two destroyed and five damaged); three HH-60M helicopters at \$20 million; 24 MQ-9 Reaper drones at \$30 million each; and one MQ-4C Triton drone at \$238 million.

As for Israel, which for the first time has witnessed massive bombings against its cities, the cost of the war stands at over \$17 billion and a rise in the fiscal deficit to over 6% of GDP.

The military toll on the United States and Israel has been very heavy, which led Trump—under pressure from the failures resulting from his inability to destroy the Iranian government and “change its political system”—to seek a ceasefire that would allow him to calm the sentiments of the many people and nations opposed to the aggression against Iran, which has endangered international stability and raised again the threat of a possible nuclear war that could wipe out all of humanity.

## The Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is a sea lane of vital strategic and geopolitical importance that constitutes one of the engines of the global energy economy.

The narrowest point of the strait, at the end of the

Persian Gulf, is 21 nautical miles (39 kilometers) wide. This narrowness places all key maritime routes—including two two-mile-wide navigable channels and a two-mile buffer zone—within the exclusive economic zones of Iran and Oman.

It is one of the world's major commercial and geostrategic “bottlenecks,” giving it great value on both regional and global scales.

About 20% of the barrels of oil transported by sea pass through the Strait of Hormuz every day. In other words, 14.6 million barrels of crude oil, 1.4 million barrels of refined oil, and nearly 60 million tons of liquefied natural gas (one-fifth of global trade) move through this chokepoint daily. When traffic through this route stops or is disrupted, industrial and electrical tensions also escalate, leading to inflation in products, supplies, and services globally.

Faced with Iran's resistance to the U.S.-Israeli attacks, Trump found himself trapped in a position where he had no choice but to escalate further to resolve the conflict and sought a 15-day ceasefire. But he took advantage of the lull in the war to impose an illegal naval blockade against the Strait and Iranian ports and dispatched a powerful naval fleet.



*The closure of the Strait as a result of the Trump/Israeli war on Iran has limited fertilizer shipping, with higher food & fuel costs and shortages, especially in Asia.*

As a warning, Tehran declared that the security of the ports in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is for everyone or for no one, and made clear that the Arab nations in the region would be affected.

While the United States continues to enforce its policy of force in the Strait of Hormuz, the Yemeni Ansarullah movement, known as the Houthis, has declared that if Washington's aggression continues, they would close the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb, which would be a tremendous blow to global trade. This is the shortest route between Asia and Europe, allowing access to the Red Sea from the Indian Ocean to traverse the Suez Canal toward the Mediterranean.

Such is the tense situation in the Middle East, caused by the unjustified aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran since February 28, which threatens to drag on with disastrous consequences not only for that region but also for the entire world.

*Hedelberto López Blanch* is a Cuban journalist who writes for the daily newspaper *Juventud Rebelde* and the weekly *Opciones*. He is the author of “Cuban Emigration to the United States,” “Secret Stories of Cuban Doctors in Africa,” and “Miami, Dirty Money,” among others. Source: Cuba en Resumen

## Straight from the Horse's Ass: DJ Trump on the War On Iran

<https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/21/cnn-transcript-president-donald-trump-speaks-with-cnbc-squawk-box-today-.html>

I would have won Vietnam very quickly. I would have, if I were president, I would have won Iraq in the same amount of time that we won [Iran], because essentially, we won here. Okay?

I mean, people can play games. The Democrats can say, well, we should have done better. No matter what. If I did it in one week, they should have said – they'd say we should have done better.

Look at Venezuela. I took it over in 45 minutes. It was basically a 45 minute – by the way, a very strong military country, and we took it over in a day. But let's be nice. But we basically took it over in 45 minutes. We took it over during the attack in 45 minutes....

But we can't let traitors, we can't let traitors [\*/] like Schumer put pressure on you where they say, we want out. How – think how bad that is. I'm negotiating with these people, and they're telling us, we have to get out now. We have to get out now. We have to get out now. And they were in a war for 18 years. They were in a war for – think of that. Vietnam, 19 years. Iraq, eight years.

## The Bipartisan Imperial War

by Caitlin Johnstone <https://caitlinjohnstone.com.au/2026/04/21/biden-official-biden-was-preparing-to-bomb-iran-if-re-elected/> [Excerpts]

Former senior Biden advisor Amos Hochstein said during an interview [in April] that the Biden administration had been preparing to bomb Iran if they had won re-election in 2024. Hochstein was asked by *Face the Nation's* Margaret Brennan, “In July 2024 Secretary Blinken claimed Iran was one or two weeks away from having enough fissile material .. capacity to ...make a weapon if Iran had decided to do so. ... So when President Trump argues that he did what no other president would, is it just simply that the bill was coming due and it fell on his watch?”

[Hochstein replied:] “I do think there's a certain element to that, and that's why I was supportive of President Trump joining in, in June, to take the strikes that we had thought internally in the Biden administration, we may have to take if there was a second term. We thought that the spring, summer of 2025 was probably, we may have to be there in the same place. And we did, we did war games. We did some practice runs on what it would look like, to look into it, because that may have had to happen under our watch as well.”

Hochstein, for the record, is an Israel-born IDF veteran who reportedly played a major role in the Biden administration encouraging Israel's horrific bombardment of Lebanon in September 2024. And his [claim] that an attack on Iranian nuclear facilities “...had to happen” under a theoretical second Biden term is false. In March of last year, US intelligence chief Tulsi Gabbard testified before Congress that the intelligence community “continues to assess that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and supreme leader Khomeini [sic] has not authorized the nuclear weapons program that he suspended in 2003,” contradicting both the claims of President Trump and of Antony Blinken the year before [that Iran posed an immediate nuclear threat].

There was nothing stopping the Biden administration from simply restarting the nuclear deal that the Obama administration secured with Tehran in 2015. The JCPOA was working fine while it was in place; anyone who says otherwise is a lying warmonger. Trump and his handlers

So I want to – I want to make a good deal. I'm not going to be rushed. I have all the time in the world. I want to make – not a good deal, I want to make a great deal. I don't want to do this, go through this, and you know, we have – I mean, if you look at this, what we've suffered in terms of losses, we lost 13 men, and that's terrible. I wish we didn't lose one.

But if somebody would have said, we've done this and obliterated that country – obliterated it – and we lost 13 men, people would have said that's not possible to have done that. It's not possible.

So we've done a great job, and I don't want to be rushed by people that are really treasonous as far as I'm concerned – we're there – and it's just, you know, I watch this low IQ guy, Hakeem Jeffries is a totally low IQ person, and he's always ranting and raving, oh, this war is so terrible. They shouldn't be saying that when we're in the midst of a negotiation, because it does hurt us somewhat. It gives the other side some hope, and I don't want them to have hope.

*\* TTT Note: The CNBC transcript says “traders”, which makes no sense. Since later in the next paragraph, Trump calls Hakeem Jeffries “treasonous”, it's safe to assume that he is calling Schumer a traitor, not a “trader”. ‘Low IQ’ is Trump's regular racist assertion about Black people.*

torched the JCPOA in 2018 because it was the primary obstacle preventing them from getting to war with Iran, and the Biden administration refused to reverse this move because they wanted war too.

The Democrats were beating the drums of war for Iran well ahead of the 2024 election. The 2024 Democratic Party platform attacked Trump for not going to war with Iran in his first term: “This stands in sharp contrast to Trump's weakness in the face of Iranian aggression during his presidency. ...In June 2019, when Iran shot down a U.S. surveillance aircraft operating in international airspace above the Straits of Hormuz, Trump responded by tweet and then called off any actual retaliation.... In September 2019, when Iranian-backed groups threatened global energy markets by attacking Saudi oil infrastructure, Trump failed to respond against Iran or its proxies. In January 2020, when Iran launched ballistic missiles against U.S. troops in western Iraq, Trump mocked the resulting Traumatic Brain Injuries suffered by servicemembers —and took no action.” Kamala Harris labeled Iran the number one enemy of the US. Harris slammed Trump for being too soft on America's enemies and announced that she “will always give Israel the ability to defend itself, in particular as it relates to Iran and any threat that Iran and its proxies pose to Israel.” I've seen a lot of people trying to argue that Trump's depravity in Iran proves everyone should support Democrats, but it's clear the Democratic Party is just the more polite-looking face on the same evil power structure.

The war with Iran was always planned. Analysts like Brian Berletic and Richard Medhurst have been laying out solid arguments that this [US] war is more about attacking the economic and energy interests of Russia and China in a last-ditch effort to retain planetary hegemony than it is about assisting Israel. This places the United States on a dangerous trajectory toward increasingly hostile escalations between nuclear-armed powers. These moves were planned years in advance, and would have been rolled out regardless of what impotent meat puppet happened to be wheeled into office in January 2025.

You don't get to vote out an empire. Whether or not the US will continue working to dominate the planet will never be on the ballot.

# Southern Poverty Law Center Indicted by the Feds

Shortly after the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) announced that its prior paid informant program that infiltrated the KKK and other white supremacist groups was the subject of a criminal probe by the federal Dept. of Justice, DOJ head Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche announced the indictment of the SPLC on federal fraud charges. He alleged it defrauded donors by spending millions of dollars it raised to secretly pay leaders of the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups for inside information.

The SPLC said the program, which is no longer in effect, was used to monitor threats of violence and that the information was often shared with local and federal law enforcement. "Taking on violent hate and extremist groups is among the most dangerous work there is, and we believe it is also among the most important work we do," SPLC's interim CEO and president Bryan Fair said in a statement. "The actions by the DOJ will not shake our resolve to fight for justice and ensure the promise of the Civil Rights Movement becomes a reality for all."

The indictment, which was immediately denounced by other civil rights groups such as CAIR and the African American Policy Forum, alleges that the group defrauded donors by using their money to fund the very extremism it claimed to be fighting. Prosecutors allege some of the money was used by extremists to carry out other crimes, but court papers did not include specific examples. Acting AG Blanche (who Trump named to replace Pam Bondi) claimed that "the SPLC was not dismantling these groups. It was instead manufacturing the extremism it purports to oppose by paying sources to stoke racial hatred." The prosecution is in line with Trump's attacks on DEI, and the Project 2025 targeting of non-profit organizations it sees as an obstacle to the goals of a conservative administration. In addition to its work exposing racist and fascist violence, the SPLC has been involved in lawsuits to defend civil rights, especially voting rights in the south, and is currently litigating a suit, along with CAIR, against the state of Florida.

The Justice Department alleges the SPLC made false statements to banks in order to set up accounts used to funnel money to informants. The group created bank accounts for fictitious entities such as "Fox Photography" and "Rare Books Warehouse" that were then used to send money to informants. Prosecutors claim the group never disclosed details of the informant program to its donors.

"They're required to under the laws associated with a nonprofit to have certain transparency and honesty in what

they're telling donors they're going to spend money on and what their mission statement is and what they're raising money doing," Blanche said, making it clear that the SPLC may be "the canary in the coal mine" of a larger assault against non-profits the administration sees as hostile to its policies. Trump's recent presidential national security memorandum identifies groups that promote supposedly anti-American, anti-Christian and anti-capitalist ideology as domestic terrorists, and directs the entire federal apparatus to target them. Taking on the SPLC, which has had a close relationship with law enforcement until Kash Patel ended the FBI's collaboration with them last year, is a signal that the effort will be far more sweeping, since the SPLC is by no stretch of the imagination anti-Christian, anti-capitalist or anti-American.

Within the SPLC, the paid informants were known as field sources or "the Fs," according to the indictment. The SPLC said the program was kept quiet to protect the safety of informants. "When we began working with informants, we were living in the shadow of the height of the Civil Rights Movement, which had seen bombings at churches, state-sponsored violence against demonstrators, and the murders of activists that went unanswered by the justice system," Fair said. "There is no question that what we learned from informants saved lives."

One informant was paid more than \$1 million between



The indictment of the SPLC should be a clear signal to "mainstream" anti-racist & anti-fascist groups that they cannot protect themselves by denouncing or distancing themselves from radicals or 'antifa.'

2014 and 2023 while affiliated with the neo-Nazi National Alliance, according to the indictment. Prosecutors said another was a member of the "online leadership chat group" that planned the 2017 white nationalist "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA. The informant attended the rally and helped coordinate transportation for others. That person was allegedly paid more than \$270,000.

The need for such infiltration and penetration of violence-prone groups to remain secret to protect the sources seems obvious, and the use of paid confidential informants dovetails with the standard practices of the police agencies that the SPLC worked with. But the SPLC has become a target of Republicans who see it as leftist and partisan. Conservative politicians have accused it of unfairly maligning right-wing organizations as extremist groups or racist. The Center in fact regularly condemns Trump's rhetoric and policies around voting rights, immigration and other issues.

After the assassination of Charlie Kirk, the SPLC's characterization of Turning Point USA, as "hard right" in a report titled "The Year in Hate and Extremism 2024" was denounced as contributing to Kirk's death, even though there was no evidence that the alleged killer had any involvement with the left or civil rights causes. House Republicans hosted a hearing centered on the SPLC in December, saying it coordinated efforts with Biden's administration "to target Christian and conservative Americans and deprive them of their constitutional rights to free speech and free association." Trump's FBI Director Kash Patel described the SPLC as "a partisan smear machine."

ARA-LA/PART has had its differences with the SPLC, particularly over their characterization of Black militants and the NOI as violence-prone extremists or hate groups, and over their close collaboration with law enforcement. The SPLC, along with other mainstream civil rights groups, characterized the ambush murder of two members of Anti-Racist Action Las Vegas by nazi boneheads as "intercine gang violence," rather than recognizing it as the political assassination of human and civil rights activists which it was. Nevertheless, we denounce the criminal indictment of the SPLC; hopefully it will be a wake-up call to them and other more establishment civil rights and anti-racist or anti-fascist groups that collaboration with law enforcement and avoidance of anti-capitalist analysis will not protect them.

There is nothing about the indictment on the SPLC's website as we go to press, but you can learn more about the group and some of their exposes and litigation there: <https://splcenter.org>

## BOB LAW - MASTER GRIOT

© by Mumia Abu-Jamal

<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/bob-law/>

The name Bob Law truly needs no introduction, yet, I'll try. Tall, outspoken, and well-opinioned, he was a star of talk radio. Notably, Black talk radio.

As such, he took up issues great and small, and listened, as legions of Black callers flooded his lines. And, he met all comers with wit and wisdom -- and Black compassion.

His show often sent radio waves into the dark ether of night, offering interviews and insight to callers [and listeners] around the nation. His show was called "Night Talk".

Rennie Bishop, former program director of famed NY radio station WWRL, produced Law's show, and he called Bob Law a "lighthouse standing in the storm" -- kind of like a bright, unblinking light in the darkness, giving voice to the Black freedom struggle.



Dave Zirin, Mumia Abu-Jamal & Noelle Hanrahan

He [Law] was, according to scholar Todd Steven Burroughs, who paired him with other famed talk show hosts, like Imhotep Gary Byrd, and the late Gil Noble, [part of] a powerful threesome of Black talk on TV and radio.

Bob Law was an icon, who began as a community organizer before he took to the mic, to give voice to Black minds at night.

On March 30, 2026, after eighty-six summers, Bob Law joined the ancestors.

With love, not fear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

**Send the brother some love and light:**

Smart Communications/PA DOC

Mumia Abu-Jamal #AM 8335, SCI-Mahanoy,

P.O. Box 33028

St Petersburg, FL 33733

## 100X100 Campaign to Increase Publication Frequency of *Turning the Tide*

Over its 37+ year publishing history, *TTT* has been published in magazine format, as a 24-page tabloid, and from time to time on a bi-monthly basis, six issues a year. For the last few years, economic necessity has dictated that we guarantee four 8-page issues a year. To restore bi-monthly publication, we launched a fund-raising campaign we've dubbed "100X100."

We are still looking for one hundred people who will donate \$100 a year, or \$10/mo, to make it possible for *TTT* to resume publishing six issues a year, and continue mailing about 1700 copies of each issue into the prisons. You can donate at [http://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](http://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la). Help it go viral!

*Turning the Tide* doesn't print itself, or mail itself. Some prisoners who get the paper contribute a few stamps.. Often, they pass the copy of *TTT* that they received from hand to hand, cell to cell, or they send in the names and addresses of half-a-dozen or more other prisoners. **Prisoners, if you can find donors or subscribers outside prison to subsidize your sub, that would help a lot!**

If you'd like to see *Turning the Tide* more frequently, if you want to contribute to breaking down the walls of isolation and separation imposed by the prison system, please contribute. If you can't manage \$100 all at once, you could donate \$10 a month. But any donation you make can help. Postage costs for a single issue of *TTT* are \$1000 and climbing. If you can't donate yourself, please help spread the campaign via your social media, to your Facebook friends, X or Bluesky followers, and email contacts. Everything helps. Nobody makes a dime from working on *TTT*.

If the campaign is successful, we will continue publishing every other month in 2026. Postage is our biggest expense AND IS GOING UP AGAIN by the time you read this. Nobody gets paid at *TTT*. We have a handful of people who are sustainers, making a monthly donation, a larger number of people who subscribe once a year or so. Right now, we are at a fraction of our goal. LA area supporters could set up house meetings, where the editor will pitch to your friends for support. The future of *Turning the Tide* is in your hands. Please, right now, go to:

[https://ko-fi.com/anti\\_racist\\_action\\_la](https://ko-fi.com/anti_racist_action_la)

and donate, or use paypal to [antiracistaction\\_la@yahoo.com](mailto:antiracistaction_la@yahoo.com) if you prefer. Then share it with your contacts. With your help, *Turning the Tide* can step up to the "urgency of now" -- the necessity for radical organizing, educating and analyzing to respond to the growing crisis of the Empire -- endless war, police terror with impunity, mass incarceration, colonialism, ecological devastation that will shortly become irreversible.

If you think *TTT* is a useful tool in the struggle for people's power and a new world, please donate today. If you wish, you can also just send cash, check or money order to

**Anti-Racist Action, PO Box 1055, Culver City CA 90232.**

# FIFA: Move the World Cup Games From the U.S.

by the Black Alliance for Peace

<https://blackallianceforpeace.com/bapstatements/2026/3/4/100-days-from-the-world-cup-an-international-coalition-is-calling-on-fifa-to-move-the-games-from-the-us-the-us-is-unsafe-for-non-europeans-and-is-operating-as-a-rogue-state>

With the FIFA World Cup 2026 now [weeks] away, an international coalition has launched a coordinated boycott campaign demanding that FIFA move matches from the United States. The Coalition warns that US thuggery is creating a humanitarian crisis, both domestic and international. International sport is not neutral. Mega-sporting events function as instruments of political legitimation. To host global sporting events is not merely a logistical privilege — it is a declaration of belonging within the international community.

“The coalition believes that with the siege of Cuba, the kidnapping of the president of Venezuela, unprovoked and illegal war on Iran, and the fact that the United States has become an increasingly unsafe and hostile environment for peoples of the world — particularly for Black, Brown, Indigenous, migrant, and non-European peoples - the U.S. has excluded itself from the community of civilized nations and should not be allowed to normalize its violence and international gangsterism,” says Ajamu Baraka of the Black Alliance for Peace’s North-South Project for People(s)centered human rights, one of the conveners of the coalition

In the US, violent immigration crackdowns, illegal detentions, and discriminatory travel measures endanger communities, fans, players and tournament personnel all while the US soaks its hands in foreign blood across the globe.

Nowhere is this more evident than in West Asia and Africa. There, the US continues its violent campaigns against nations whose players and fans will soon set foot on American soil for 78 world cup matches beginning June 11th. Many will arrive as victims of US-sponsored carnage. We demand: the games cannot go forward as if these lives do not matter-whether it is in graves or cages. We refuse to let the United States hide its transgressions against sovereign peoples. The blood of women and children will not be washed away on the pitch to fertilize its grass, and its seats must remain empty for every person ICE has disappeared.

Mireille Fanon Mendes-France, chair of the Frantz Fanon Foundation, declares that “it is morally obscene and politically backward that the United States, a country that has persistently defied international law and stands implicated in grave human rights violations—including

wars of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and active support for Israel’s genocide in Gaza—should be entrusted with hosting a global event meant to celebrate dignity, collective humanity and unity like the World Cup.”

At this historical juncture, permitting the United States to host international sporting events such as the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics with the participation of Israel, represents a profound moral and political contradiction for the international community of nations.

As we face [under] 100 days before the World Cup, we say: Reject the normalization of war, repression and genocide! Demand that FIFA move the games and boycott the U.S. until it has demonstrated that it is prepared to operate in the world as a normal state committed to equality, peace and people(s)-centered human rights.



**ARA Note:** Sign the petition to move the 2026 World Cup games and the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics games from the US: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/no-world-cup-or-olympics-in-us/>

Learn more about and **join the effort to stop the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**, third in a string of repressive “National Security Special Events” in the city, starting with the World Cup this year and the Super Bowl next year, guaranteed to bring more ICE and other federal police, military and surveillance forces to the city. See: <https://nolympicsla.com/> or email the coalition at [no@nolympicsla.com](mailto:no@nolympicsla.com)

**Read more about the repressive impact** of the 1984 LA Olympics and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics on the TTT website here: <https://antiracist.org/stop-the-olympics-police-state-1984-l-a/> and here: <https://antiracist.org/stop-the-olympic-police-state/>

## MR. FISH ON GIVING A SHIT IN THE FACE OF GENOCIDE AND CENSORSHIP

When in February of 2024 I was publicly attacked by the rightwing media and then by my own employer, more specifically the interim president of the University of Pennsylvania, for publishing artwork critical of the genocide unfolding in Gaza—Israel, after all, being just one of the more rapacious tentacles of the same oligarchic octopus to which UPenn and all elite institutions of higher education belong, an Ivy League being less a savagely gregarious appendage and more an extended pinky one could point to when looking for reasons to pretend that the violent subjugation of disempowered populations had a refined and principled quality to it—I decided that my only recourse was to stonewall the attempts of my critics to shut me up and delegitimize my commentary by amplifying my resentment and articulating my concerns surrounding occupation, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing and what I saw as one’s moral duty to speak out against it.

Not only did this mean an increase in the number of cartoons and illustrations I published about Zionism and US funded terrorism in the Middle East, but it also involved my doing interviews and public lectures celebrating the virtues of resistance against the pro-Israel lobby and warning against the impulse to demonstrate willful indifference to the suffering of the Palestinian people by succumbing to the progressively degenerative disease of self-censorship, the penalties for opposing state-sponsored mass murder having been touted openly by the proprietors of mega-wealth in government and private industry since October 2023—or, more precisely, since May 1948.

### DEATHS EXPOSE CIA AGENTS OPERATING IN MEXICO

Two US officials were killed in a car crash in northern Mexico in April while returning from a counter-cartel operation. They were identified as officers of the Central Intelligence Agency, according to people familiar with the episode, the NY Times reported. This raises questions about the agency’s role in Mexico’s war against drug cartels. The two C.I.A. officers, along with two Mexican officials, were killed when their vehicle crashed while returning from an operation led by Mexico’s armed forces to dismantle clandestine methamphetamine labs in the mountains, according to the authorities in the state of Chihuahua, where the accident occurred. Chihuahua borders on the US, mainly Texas.

The people confirming the Americans’ identity spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details of the episode. Again according to the NY Times, the C.I.A. declined to comment.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said her cabinet had had no prior knowledge of the activities involving US agents in Chihuahua and would investigate whether their involvement in the operation violated Mexico’s national security laws.

**ARA note:** Pretty serious problem if they were traveling with Mexican officials and involved with a Mexican military operation, and the president of Mexico was unaware of their presence or role. Other possibilities are equally as disconcerting. See Richard Wolfe on US efforts to destabilize Mexico in our last issue.



Excerpt and graphic from Mr. Fish’s substack

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**Postage alone for this issue comes to \$1000. We would like to increase the size and frequency of Turning the Tide, but we can only do it with your support. If you’re a prisoner and can send stamps or get someone outside the walls to subsidize your subscription, please do so. If you work with an info shop or other zine or record distro, please consider ordering a**

# Popular Participation and Socialist Renewal in Cuba in a Time of Crisis

By Isaac Saney and James Counts Early - April 2, 2026

While Western democracies exclude working people from economic decision-making, Cuba is expanding participatory governance to navigate its deepest crisis since the Revolution.

Amid one of the most severe economic moments since the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, and under the weight of a suffocating, ever-expanding U.S. imperial siege, Cuba is attempting something that remains almost unthinkable in the so-called advanced capitalist democracies: it is consciously and systematically expanding and deepening citizen involvement in deciding the country's economic and political future. While political systems in wealthy Western nations increasingly marginalize working populations from meaningful participation in economic decision-making, Cuba insists that resolving the current crisis must be a collective, participatory, and profoundly democratic undertaking.

Cuban President Díaz-Canel frames the political direction by emphasizing “that democracy is not an abstract concept, but a daily practice that is strengthened with the active participation of all and for the good of all, with transparency in management and with shared responsibility.” Progressives and socialists internationally should therefore pay careful attention to the debates over internal governance unfolding in Cuba—debates that involve Cuban citizens, the citizen members of the Communist Party of Cuba, and the country's elected institutions of popular power. These discussions focus on how best to reorganize and mobilize Cuba's human and material resources in the face of extraordinary external pressures, including adjustments in party structures, government administration, and the deployment of national capacities.

Such deliberations are not new. They are part of a long-standing and evolving tradition in Cuban political culture, in which major domestic policy shifts are preceded by extensive public discussion and institutional debate. Yet critics of Cuban socialism—and even some rigid sectors of the international left—are likely to misinterpret these developments. Many will hastily claim that the Cuban government is capitulating to pressure from the administration of Donald Trump and the aggressive anti-Cuba policies associated with figures such as Marco Rubio. Such claims ignore the reality that the current policy discussions are rooted in Cuba's own internal political processes and reflect an ongoing effort to expand and deepen democratic participation in national decision-making, particularly at provincial and municipal levels of citizen representation.

## A National Program for Economic Recovery

On October 26, 2025, the Cuban government released a comprehensive ninety-two-page programmatic document outlining a far-reaching roadmap for confronting the country's current economic challenges. This blueprint articulates a coordinated effort built around ten general objectives, 106 specific objectives, 342 concrete actions, and 264 indicators and targets—a straightforward internal policy making and policy implementation review resulting in a level of detail that underscores both the gravity of the issues of governance and economic stability that Cubans are tackling, and the seriousness of the proposed response.

The overarching goal is clear: to advance the gradual recovery of the economy, improve state management, and overcome the complex and multifaceted crisis facing the nation—and to do so through more timely and efficient direct citizen governance. The current crisis has been exacerbated by external pressures, structural vulnerabilities, the intensification of the U.S. blockade, and brutal economic warfare designed to overthrow the Cuban government. In response to internal imperatives and external threats, the Cuban government, through improved statecraft, seeks to mobilize institutions, enterprises, territorial bodies, and the general population in a unified effort to stabilize and revitalize the country's economic life. Far from treating the population as passive spectators to centralized technocratic decision-making, Cuba has embarked on an expansive national process of consultation, debate, and popular input tied to the Government Program to correct distortions and revitalize the economy.

Contrary to propaganda from anti-Cuban government critics, the U.S.-legislated economic war against the people of Cuba and their government does not deter the Cuban government from serious self-evaluation. Like his predecessors, President Díaz-Canel has been clear and consistent with the public, the government, and Communist Party that, “We can't look at the road traveled without questioning our shadows. We suffer greatly from the consequences of formalism and improvisation that very often distorts and thwarts strategic planning. And centralism still slows us down too much, that is, the excess of centralization that curbs the creative initiative of individuals, collectives, and municipalities. To recognize it is not to weaken ourselves; it is to strengthen ourselves. The real revolution is the one that lives criticizing itself so as not to grow old.”

The program—structured around ten general objectives and 106 interconnected goals—has become the framework through which the state seeks to address the crisis with the people, not over their heads.



Tens of thousands of Cubans rally in Havana against US imperialist attacks.

## Popular Consultation as Governance

During a session of the Council of State, chaired by Esteban Lazo Hernández and attended by President Miguel Díaz Canel and Prime Minister Manuel Marrero Cruz, Cuba's leadership underscored the centrality of a nationwide consultation process held between November 15 and December 30. Díaz-Canel described the exercise as a “participatory and contributory process of collective construction.” Its purpose is not only to strengthen the Government Program through the population's proposals but also to deepen public understanding of the economic challenges and mobilize society for their resolution.

This is not democracy understood merely as periodic elections or focus-grouped political messaging. It is democracy as substantive, critical engagement—a process through which citizens deliberate, critique, and contribute to the shaping of national policy. In a context defined by extreme scarcity, intensified blockade pressure, and deep structural constraints, Cuba insists that the people must remain protagonists of the country's political policy making and economic reconstruction.

By contrast, in Western capitalist societies—whose political systems claim democratic superiority—working people are largely excluded from meaningful economic decision-making. Policies shaping austerity, taxation, labour markets, monetary policy, and social programs are routinely determined by technocrats, corporate executives, and unaccountable financial institutions. Elections change little; citizens are treated as consumers of political brands rather than participants in shaping a collective future. The result is widespread alienation and cynicism. Cuba's socialist approach stands as a profound rebuke to this corporate capitalist oligarch-led model, now under severe critique in the United States.

## Crisis Management Through Collective Input

Central to Cuba's strategy is the recognition that economic stabilization cannot be imposed from above. Deputy Prime Minister Oscar Pérez Oliva Fraga emphasized that the Program operates through continuous monitoring, debate, and public discussion. This reflects the realities of Cuba's economic situation. As a small and trade-dependent economy, the country faces enormous distortions caused by the U.S. blockade and by its forced exclusion from the international financial system. The economic war's intensification—including Cuba's placement on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism—severely obstructs banking operations, investment flows, and basic trade.

Given these hostile conditions, the Program seeks to strengthen internal capacities: expanding domestic food production, incentivizing national industry, reducing import dependency, and fostering the development and autonomy of socialist enterprises and territorial governments. The aim is not merely economic adjustment but the transformation of the economic system in ways that preserve social equity and socialist principles.

## Stabilization Without Sacrificing the People

Minister of Economy and Planning Joaquín Alonso Vázquez has acknowledged that while progress has been made in reducing the fiscal deficit, it remains high and continues to generate inflationary pressures. Crucially, the Cuban leadership insists that stabilization must occur “without anyone being left behind.” Workers, pensioners, and vulnerable populations must not bear the cost of adjustment. This approach contrasts sharply with the neoliberal practices common in capitalist economies, where stabilization policies—often framed as fiscal discipline—frequently translate into austerity measures imposed on the poor and working class.

Despite enormous constraints, Cuba has maintained a surplus in the current account of the state budget while containing monetary issuance. At the same time, the government is strengthening the National Tax Administration Office, combating price violations—over one million have been detected—and restructuring foreign currency management. These measures aim not at dismantling social protections but at restoring economic order while safeguarding the social fabric.

## Revitalizing the Socialist Enterprise

A central pillar of the Program is the revitalization of the socialist state enterprise and the empowerment of territorial governments as drivers of development. Cuba must expand production in sectors such as sugar, honey, charcoal, and agricultural goods—areas that remain underutilized despite their potential. Import substitution is therefore not a narrow economic dogma but a strategic priority aimed at preserving scarce foreign currency and strengthening national sovereignty.

To accomplish this, enterprises must achieve greater autonomy and responsiveness within a stable macroeconomic framework. The goal is to create conditions where economic actors can function effectively within a regulated exchange market and improved access to wholesale inputs—while maintaining the socialist commitment to equity and universal rights.

## Social Protection and Revolutionary Governance

Even amid crisis, Cuba continues to prioritize social justice. Deputy Prime Minister Eduardo Martínez Díaz highlighted that more than thirty social programs across thirteen major policy areas are currently being implemented nationwide. These initiatives strengthen healthcare, education, and the implementation of the Code for Children, Adolescents, and Youth. At the grassroots level, cadres play a vital role in explaining policies, organizing debate, and mobilizing communities. Far from the stereotype of a rigid bureaucratic state, this reflects a model of socialist democracy grounded in political education, communication, and collective responsibility. As Jorge Luis Broche Lorenzo has emphasized, the Government Program functions as a tactical instrument aligned with Cuba's long-term socialist model. Its success depends on the synergy between economic policy and political mobilization.

## Resilience and Revolutionary Continuity

This context is essential for understanding recent remarks by President Miguel Díaz Canel, who invoked the enduring spirit of resistance that has defined Cuba since 1959. Addressing national institutions, he delivered a message that resonated widely across the country: “¡La rendición nunca ha sido alternativa!”: “Surrender has never been an option!”

The phrase captures a central theme of Cuban political culture: resilience in the face of decades of economic warfare, diplomatic hostility, and the ongoing U.S. blockade. Díaz-Canel described the Cuban people as “unbreakable,” emphasizing their collective capacity to confront immense hardship. At the same time, he insisted that resilience cannot mean stagnation. The debates unfolding within Cuban institutions, he explained, are marked not by pessimism but by frank evaluation and proposals for transformation: “There was no pessimism,” he noted, “only honest assessments and proposals for change.”

Central to this process is renewed civic engagement. Díaz-Canel has repeatedly called on citizens to remain actively involved in shaping the country's future. “Only

... Continued on next page

# ORBAN OUSTED AS HUNGARY PM; NO VICTORY FOR THE LEFT

Despite vocal support from DJ Trump and his VP JD Vance, Viktor Orbán was defeated for a fifth consecutive term as Hungary's Prime Minister in a record voter turnout last month. However it was far from a victory for the left. Fueled by concerns about entrenched government corruption, voters chose Péter Magyar, a 45-year-old lawyer and politician who until several years ago was a staunch Orbán loyalist.

Magyar left Orbán's Fidesz Party to become the leader of the center-right Tisza Party and campaigned as a support of NATO. His party won a resounding two-thirds majority in the parliamentary election. Orbán conceded and congratulated Magyar less than three hours after polls closed.

In a victory speech to supporters on the banks of the Danube, Magyar promised to rebuild Hungary's ties with the European Union and NATO, root out corruption and cronyism, and "restore the system of checks and balances." Since 2022, the EU has frozen billions of dollars' worth of subsidies for the country because it said Orbán was violating key democratic values. Magyar said the country will "never again allow anyone to hold free Hungary captive or to abandon it."

Abel Bojar, research director at the polling platform Europion, told the press that Magyar's victory was unprecedented. "If you think about the kind of political headwinds that ... Magyar had to sail against, such as the funding asymmetry that his party had against the state apparatus of Orbán, [lack of] media access, the novelty of the party — I mean, he built up a whole machine at extreme levels of professionalism in two years," Bojar told NPR.

Magyar has made a lot of promises to re-democratize the country, and his party now has the parliamentary majority needed to make constitutional changes to that end. But Bojar says critics — and even cautious observers — question whether he will follow through. "I'm not in a position right now to give you a yes or no answer, but it's certainly a political risk that he will abuse this opportunity," he added. Orbán's party had a parliamentary majority large enough to make changes to the country's constitution, which Orbán used to create what he called "illiberal democracy." It's not clear how much those changes, or of state control of the media, that Magyar will reverse.

Magyar called on Hungary's president to convene parliament to form a new government as soon as May 5. Magyar, who began his career as a judge and lawyer, spent much of his professional life as half of a now-fractured political power couple. He and his then-wife, Judit Varga, spent years living with their children in Brussels, where she was a policy adviser to Hungarian members of the European Parliament and he worked as a diplomat. Politico described Magyar as a "key but discreet insider" during that time.

In 2019, Varga was named minister of justice by Orbán. She and her husband returned to Hungary, where

Magyar's jobs included running the state-owned Student Loan Centre and the legal department of the Hungarian Development Bank. Both institutions were implicated in Orbán's efforts to use state power to quash dissent and to enrich his cronies and family. The couple divorced in 2023.

Magyar had been a longtime supporter of Orbán, whose poster he kept on his bedroom wall during his childhood in Budapest. He joined Orbán's Fidesz party in college. But things changed in early 2024, when Fidesz was rocked by scandal. Hungary's then-president, Katalin Novák, pardoned a former official convicted of covering up abuse of underage boys at a state-run children's home.

The incident had widespread repercussions for a party that always campaigned on protecting family values. Novák resigned — as did Varga, who had also signed the pardon in her role as justice minister. At that point, Magyar, leveraging his perspective as a former insider, started publicly criticizing Orbán's government. In an viral video interview with the Hungarian outlet Partizán in 2024, he accused the government of corruption and of scape-goating female leaders like his ex-wife, saying he didn't want to be part of a system where the "real culprits hide behind women's skirts." Months before the European Parliament election in June 2024, he revived



Trump fingering Orbán in happier times for both autocrats.

the inactive Tisza Party (whose full name translates to the Respect and Freedom Party). The party won 30% of the vote, and Magyar became a member of the European Parliament.

Varga has accused Magyar of verbal and physical abuse, including locking her in a room at one point during their marriage. She described his secret recording of her complaining about political interference with a corruption prosecution, which he then released publicly, as an act of "betrayal." Magyar has denied the allegations. He accused the government of trying to undermine his campaign with what he called a "honey trap" operation. He filed a police report in February after photos of a bedroom circulated online hinting at the existence of a sex tape. Magyar said they were from a 2024 incident in which he says a then-girlfriend lured him to a Budapest apartment after a party and secretly recorded their consensual encounter using illegal "secret service means."

Magyar comes from a family of prominent conservatives in Hungary, according to Euronews. His grandfather was the well-known lawyer and TV personality Pál Erőss, and his godfather, Ferenc Mádl, was the president of Hungary from 2000 to 2005. His surname "Magyar" means "Hungarian" in English.

## Nick Fuentes Has Raised Nearly \$1 Million Peddling Racism On-Line

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2026/04/20/nick-fuentes-stream-donors-funding/>

### Excerpt:

Since the start of last year through the end of last month, roughly 11,000 donors have sent Fuentes nearly \$900,000 in superchats, a Washington Post analysis found. The Post analyzed more than 1,400 hours of Fuentes's streams, using artificial intelligence to tally the donations, which flicker on screen in real time.

**ARA Note:** The paid "super-chats" are probably only one of Fuentes's revenue streams, just the easiest one for WaPo to track, since the amounts of the donations appear on his live-stream as they come in. Presumably he is also monetizing his streaming in other ways; the public "super-chats" create a 'bandwagon' effect for his fans.

## Socialist Renewal in Cuba

...Continued from prior page

ogether can we overcome these challenges and build a prosperous and just nation," he stated—an appeal consistent with the principles of socialist democracy embedded in the Constitution of Cuba.

### Democracy Under Pressure

In this sense, the current debates reflect a broader effort to decentralize decision-making, strengthen grassroots participation, and reinvigorate national institutions. Cuba's attempt to confront its economic crisis through mass consultation and participatory governance offers a powerful lesson in a world increasingly dominated by oligarchic capitalism. Under extraordinary external pressure—blockade, sanctions, financial exclusion, and global inequality—Cuba chooses not to contract democracy but to expand it.

This is not an aberration or a temporary crisis response. It is a defining feature of the revolutionary project. The nationwide debates surrounding the 2019 Constitution and the recent Family Code stand among the most extensive democratic consultations in the contemporary world. Earlier precedents—most notably the Workers' Parliaments of 1994, when millions of workers met in tens of thousands of assemblies during the Special Period—demonstrate the depth of this tradition.

Time and again, Cuba has turned to its people as the ultimate source of legitimacy, creativity, and political strength. In contrast, the advanced capitalist states—wealthy and powerful yet plagued by political alienation—systematically exclude their populations from meaningful participation in economic governance. Their crisis is not scarcity but democracy itself: a crisis of representation, disconnection, and oligarchic domination.

Cuba, facing far greater obstacles, insists on another path. It is a path where the people, through struggle, debate, and collective will, chart the course of their society. A path where socialism is not merely an economic system but a form of popular power—and where even under siege, the people remain the authors and protagonists of their nation's future.

*Isaac Saney is a Black Studies and Cuba specialist at Dalhousie University and coordinator of the Black and African Diaspora Studies program. He is the author of several books, including Cuba, Africa and Apartheid's End: Africa's Children Return!*

*James Count Early is former Smithsonian Institution Assistant Secretary for Education and Public Service and Director of the Cultural Heritage Policy Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. His scholarship encompasses Afro-Latin politics, history, and cultural democracy.*

## Just in time for May Day: Trump's Secretary of Labor Forced Out over Scandals

Apparently interest in young women is not restricted to discredited former Florida Congressmen that Trump tried to appoint to his cabinet, or to Jeffrey Epstein, whom Trump appeared to be resurrecting from the dead in his graphic posting of himself as Jesus.

Lori Chavez-De Remer just quit as head of Trump's Dept. of Labor. The one-term GOP congress-member had been named to the post with the backing of Teamster chief Sean O'Brien, who had endorsed Trump. She was facing probes by both one of the few remaining inspector-generals in the federal administration, as well as by a Congressional committee led by GOP Senator Charles Grassley, over charges of a hostile work environment, fraudulent travel expenses, and possible sexual harassment of young staffers.

According to press reports, the evidence gathered in the inspector general's investigation, along with the related police report and civil rights complaints, painted a picture of an executive office in which younger female staff members often fielded inappropriate requests and messages from Ms. Chavez-DeRemer, her family and her close aides. Young women in the executive office were also instructed to "pay attention" to the secretary's husband and father.

## DOJ Blaming Polymarket Bets on Venezuela on low-level soldier

A U.S. Army special forces soldier who helped capture Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela has been charged with using classified information to bet on the mission on Polymarket, a prediction marketplace.

The soldier, Master Sgt. Gannon Ken Van Dyke, who was stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, made more than \$400,000 by betting on different outcomes related to Venezuela after learning of the operation, federal prosecutors and the F.B.I. said.

**ARA Note:** Like the stock-shorting on American & United Airlines just before 9-11, this raises more questions than this indictment answers. Sounds like a fall guy.

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# TURNING THE TIDE

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## UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES:

- ★ May 1 - International Workers Day General Strike - No War but Class War
- ★ May 5 - Cinco de Mayo marks Mexico's victory vs. French Imperialism
- ★ May 19 - Birthday of Malcolm, Ho, Yuri Kochiyama & Lorraine Hansberry
- ★ Jun 19 - Juneteenth anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation in TX
- ★ Jun 28 - Anniversary of LGBTQ+ Stonewall Rebellion vs. police abuse
- ★ July 4 - National Mobilization Against Genocides, Atlanta GA tinyurl.com/July4-form  
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- MUMIA ABU JAMAL

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PO Box 1055

Culver City, CA 90232

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