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# VOICE OF REVOLUTION

Publication of the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization

December 2, 2016

USMLO 3942 N. Central Ave, Chicago, IL 60634



usmlo.org

*IN MEMORIAM*

## ¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre, Fidel!



see page • 3

*August 13, 1926 – November 25, 2016*

### CONFLICTS AMONG CONTENDING AUTHORITIES

### BLACK OPS ARE NOW THE NEW NORMAL

## Further Dividing the People in the Name of Protecting Them

During the election campaign and long before, governments at all levels have promoted divisions among the people on a racist and religious basis. Muslims have been broadly targeted and branded as “terrorists” and African Americans, especially young men, as threats and “super-predators.”

New York State, for example, is notorious for its spying on mosques, on Muslim student organizations, for its Stop and Frisk police actions, profiling, and police killings against mainly African American and Puerto Rican youth. Yet now, New York Governor Cuomo

**Dividing the People • 12**

## Obama Declares Entire World Open for Attacks by Special Operations Forces

In one of his last acts as president, Obama is expanding the powers of the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), responsible for largely secret, illegal raids and assassinations (Black Ops) worldwide. JSOC includes Navy SEALs and the

Army’s Delta Force. During his administration, Obama has also ensured JSOC has gotten increased use of drones, removing many of them from CIA operations.

Obama’s order puts in place  
**Black Ops New Normal • 10**

**SALUTE STANDING ROCK WATER PROTECTORS PAGE 16**

# December edition of ***Voice of Revolution***

## ***Editorials & Statements***

- *Obama Declares Entire World Open for Attacks  
by Special Operations Forces* ..... 1
- *Further Dividing the People in the Name of Protecting Them*..... 1
- *¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre, Fidel!*..... 3

## ***Fight for An Anti-War Government***

- *Message from Cuban President Raúl Castro* ..... 3
- *Decree on National Period of Mourning* ..... 3
- *Press Release Regarding Nationwide Tributes to Fidel*..... 3
- *From Here We Say: Hasta la Victoria Siempre* ..... 4
- *Fidel Castro Ruz, the Undefeated Comandante*.....5
- *National Lawyers Guild Statement on the Passing of Fidel Castro Ruz* ... 8
- *Denounce Trump’s Statement Against Fidel and the Cuban People*..... 9

## ***Fight for An Anti-War Government***

- *NO to Wars at Home and Abroad!*..... 11

## ***Step Up the Struggle for Political Empowerment***

- *With Trump Presidency Ruling Circles Resort to  
Government of Police Power*..... 13
- *Police Powers Needed When Rulers Have No Solutions*..... 14
- *Election Shows Failure of Existing Set-Up*..... 15

## ***Standing Rock: Our Security Lies in Our Fight for Rights***

- *Salute Standing Rock Water Protectors!* ..... 16
- *Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Issues Proclamation  
in Support of Oceti Sakowin Camp Safety*..... 17
- *The U.S. Army Cannot Evict Us From Treaty Lands*..... 18
- *From Smallpox-Tainted Blankets to the #NoDAPL Evacuation:  
The Lie of Colonial Concern*..... 19
- *Veterans for Standing Rock #NoDAPL*..... 20
- *Iraq Veterans Against the War #NoDAPL Statement of Solidarity* ..... 21
- *Standing Rock Resistance (photos)* ..... 22

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I • ¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre, Fidel!

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With deepest sorrow, the U.S. Marxist-Leninist Organization received the news of the death of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz on November 25, 2016. We extend our profound condolences to Comrade Raúl Castro and the entire Cuban leadership, to all the Cuban people and their Communist Party and to Comrade Fidel's family. We join in mourning this great loss to all those fighting for progress worldwide.

Comrade Fidel was the leader of the ever victorious Cuban Revolution, always standing firm on principle and acting with great internationalism. Leading the Cuban people and Party, he remained staunch and undaunted despite every effort by the U.S. to topple the revolution and bring Cuba to her knees. In the face of the decades-long U.S. blockade, despite unending efforts to impose regime change, including numerous assassination attempts, despite the U.S. terrorism and that of its anti-

Cuban forces, Fidel persisted in safeguarding and advancing the revolution and leading the Cuban people to do the same. Today they remain undaunted and filled with the revolutionary spirit so characteristic of Fidel.

Comrade Fidel lives on in our hearts, inspiring us to persist in defying U.S. imperialism and all the blocks to human and social progress. Like him, we will organize to break new ground and climb the heights in all our work. The profound contributions made toward uniting the peoples of the Americas and to the just struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Europe will serve us well as we carry forward on a revolutionary path. His spirit and fidelity to principle and the care for all those fighting for rights worldwide will imbue our thoughts and actions now, as we stand together with the Cuban people, and into the future.

*¡Hasta la Victoria Siempre! Ever Onward to Victory!*

## Message from Cuban President Raúl Castro

Message from the President of Cuba's Councils of State and Ministers, Army General Raúl Castro, notifying the Cuban people and world of the death of the late leader of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro.

\*\*\*

Dear people of Cuba:

It is with deep sorrow that I come before you to inform our people, and friends of Our America and the world, that today,

November 25, at 10.29 pm, Comandante en Jefe of the Cuban Revolution Fidel Castro Ruz passed away. In accordance with his express wishes Compañero Fidel's remains will be cremated. In the early hours of the morning of Saturday [November] 26, the funeral organizing commission will provide our people with detailed information regarding the posthumous tributes, which will be paid to the founder of the Cuban Revolution.

*¡Hasta la victoria siempre!*

## Decree on National Period of Mourning

### *Council of State of the Republic of Cuba*

On the occasion of the passing of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba declares nine days of National Mourning, from 06:00 on 26 November to 12:00 on 4 December 2016.

During the Period of National Mourning, all public activities

and performances will be suspended; the national standard will fly at half-mast at all public buildings and military establishments. Cuban Radio and Television will be airing informative, patriotic and historical programming.

*(CubaMinrex, November 26, 2016)*

## Press Release Regarding Nationwide Tributes to Fidel

### *Funeral Organizing Commission*

The Organizing Commission of the Central Committee of the Party, State and Government for the funeral rites of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, informs the populace that as of 28 November, from 09:00 until 22:00, at the José Martí Memorial, the population of the capital may present themselves to pay their respects in tribute to their leader. The hours will be extended until 29 November from 9:00 to 12:00.

On 28 and 29 November, from 09:00 to 22:00, at locations to be notified at the opportune time, in every city and town including the capital Havana, every Cuban will have the possibility of paying homage and signing the solemn oath to fulfill the Concept of Revolution expressed by our historical leader on the first of May of 2000, as expression of our will to continue his ideas and those of our Socialism.

On 29 November, at 19:00, a mass rally will be held in José Martí Revolution Square of Havana.

The following day, his ashes will be taken along the itinerary recalling The Caravan of Freedom of January 1959, to the province of Santiago de Cuba, to conclude on 3 December.

On 3 December, at 19:00, a mass rally will be held at Antonio Maceo Square.

Burial will take place at 07:00 on 4 December at the Santa Ifigenia Cemetery.

We also inform our people that the Military Review and the March of the Combative People for the 60th anniversary of the Landing of the Granma Expeditionaries, Revolutionary Armed Forces Day, will be postponed until 2 January of 2017.

*(CubaMinrex-Granma, November 26, 2016)*

# From Here We Say: Hasta la Victoria Siempre

*Raúl Castro Ruz, Granma, November 30, 2016*

*Remarks by Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and President of the Councils of State and Ministers, during the massive posthumous tribute to Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz, in Havana's Plaza de la Revolución, November 29, 2016.*

\* \* \*

Esteemed heads of state and government;  
Gentlemen, leaders of delegations; Outstanding figures; Friends all;  
Dear people of Cuba:

Although it will be my responsibility to present the final speech, this coming December 3, when we gather in Antonio Maceo Plaza de la Revolución in Santiago de Cuba, I wish to express, at this time, in the name of our people, Party, and government, as well as the family, our sincere gratitude for your presence here at this event, for the moving words you have expressed, and also for the extraordinary, innumerable demonstrations of solidarity, affection, and respect received from the entire planet, in this hour of pain and commitment.

Fidel dedicated his life to solidarity and led a socialist revolution “of the humble, by the humble, for the humble” that became a symbol of the anti-colonial, anti-apartheid, anti-imperialist struggle, for the emancipation and dignity of peoples.

His vibrant words resound in this Plaza today, as they did in the gathering of campesinos July 26, 1959, in support of the agrarian reform, which was like crossing the Rubicon and unleashed a possible death sentence for the Revolution. Here Fidel reaffirmed, “The agrarian reform is going ahead.” And we did it. Today, 57 years later, we are honoring the person who conceived it and led it.

In this place, we voted to approve, together with him, the First and Second Declarations of Havana, in 1960 and 1962, respectively. Faced with aggression by the Organization of American States (OAS), Fidel proclaimed that “behind the Homeland, behind the free flag, behind the redeeming Revolution, there is an honorable people,” ready to defend its independence and “the common destiny of a freed Latin America.”

I was with Fidel in the building now occupied by the MINFAR, that is, the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, (on one side of the Plaza) when we heard the explosion of the French ship *La Coubre*, which had brought the first and only weapons we were able to purchase in Europe, and we left for the docks to aid the victims, because we knew that that explosion could only have come from the ship that was unloading those weapons, when a few minutes after our arrival, as a lethal trap, a second explosion occurred. The two together caused 101 deaths and numerous injuries.

Here, with him, the Declaration of Cuba as an Illiteracy Free Territory, in December of 1961, was made, at the conclusion of the Literacy Campaign carried out by more than 250,000 teachers and students, which did not stop; while this same year, veterans of the Rebel Army and the nascent National Revolutionary Militias battled the mercenaries at Playa Girón, and in mountainous areas, armed bands infiltrated from abroad, which among many other vile



acts, murdered 10 young literacy teachers. A victory was won in Girón, and at the same time, the entire country learned to read and write to ensure that, as Fidel said at that time, “The young have a future in their hands.”

With great emotion, precisely here, we heard the Comandante en Jefe in this Plaza, during the solemn wake of October 1967, to pay tribute to the unforgettable Comandante Che Guevara, and returned here again, 30 years later, during the most difficult stage of the Special Period, to commit ourselves, before his remains, to follow his immortal example.

Moved and indignant, we attended the painful farewell to the 73 persons murdered by state terrorism in the bombing of the Cubana Airlines aircraft over Barbados, among them the young winners of all the gold medals in the 4th Central American and Caribbean Fencing Championships. On that occasion, we repeated with him, “When an energetic and virile people weeps “ (shouts of: Injustice trembles!) Exactly, “Injustice trembles!”

This is the Plaza of important May Day marches in the capital: in 1966, against the Helms-Burton Act, which is still in effect; the enormous march of 1999, and the open tribunal of youth, students, and workers of 2000, when Fidel presented his conception of Revolution, which millions of Cubans have made their own with their signature, over the last few days, in a sacred act of commitment.

This is the place where we have come to support the agreements reached at our Congresses of the Communist Party of Cuba.

In this same spirit, the people have come over these last few days, with much participation from youth, to render heartfelt tribute and swear loyalty to the ideas and work of the Comandante en Jefe of the Cuban Revolution.

Dear Fidel:

Alongside the monument to José Martí, national hero and intellectual author of the assault on the Moncada Garrison, where we have gathered for over half a century in moments of extraordinary pain - and to honor our martyrs, proclaim our ideals, revere our symbols, and consult the people regarding important decisions - precisely here, where we commemorate our victories, we say to you, alongside our self-sacrificing, combative, heroic people: *Hasta la victoria siempre! (Ever onward to victory!)*

WORLD LEADERS AFFIRM GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS LIFE AND WORK

# Fidel Castro Ruz, the Undefeated Comandante

*Granma, November 30, 2016*

The extraordinary significance of the life and work of Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz for Cuba and the world, was highlighted by various heads of state and dignitaries invited to attend the massive posthumous tribute to the leader of the Cuban Revolution, in Havana's historic José Martí Plaza de la Revolución, November 29. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans gathered, together with Army General Raúl Castro Ruz, to honor the indisputable world leader.

**President of Ecuador: We will continue fighting for these ideas in order to build a world of justice and peace**

During his remarks honoring the historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa Delgado stated, "Peoples of Our America and the world: Fidel is dead. He died undefeated. Only the inevitable passing of time could defeat him. He died on the same day as he and 82 other patriots departed from Mexico to make history. He died honoring his name. Fidel, worthy of faith. The faith bestowed in him by his people and all of the Greater Homeland. The faith that was never disappointed, and least of all betrayed."

After highlighting the importance of uniting the people of Our America, Correa said that with Fidel "with Camilo Cienfuegos, with Che, with Hugo Chávez Frías, we learned to believe in the new Latin American man, able to carry out, through organization and conscience, the constant struggle of liberationist ideas to build a world of justice and peace."

We will continue struggling for these ideas. We swear. Hasta la victoria siempre Comandante!" concluded the Ecuadorian leader.

**President of South Africa: Cuba changed history in Africa**

Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, stated that the passing of Fidel "is a painful loss for the South African people. He stood with us in solidarity, supporting our struggle including the international campaign to isolate the apartheid

regime. We knew that we could rely on Cuba, a trusted friend and ally of the oppressed.

"The deep and undying special relationship between Cuba and Africa was cemented by the blood of heroic Cuban soldiers who paid the supreme sacrifice for their belief in anti-imperialism, freedom and justice.

"Cuba deployed close to half a million soldiers and officers in Africa, to support the struggles for national independence or against foreign aggression, over 30 years. "Cuba was not looking for gold, diamonds, or oil in Africa.

The Cubans only wanted to see freedom, and an end to the treatment of Africa as a playground of powerful nations while people suffered."

**Prime Minister of Dominica: Cuba mourns the loss of a great leader, teacher and father**

Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of Dominica and President Pro Tempore of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) described Fidel as a true friend who reached out "to newly independent countries across Latin America and the Caribbean to assist in areas where Cuba was relatively strong. This was especially evident in the training of medical doctors and other health care workers, and the granting of scholarships in other disciplines.

"CARICOM will be forever grateful to Fidel and to you, the Cuban people for the great sacrifices you have made, against great adversity, in annually sustaining the training of our professionals for decades on both a bilateral and multilateral basis.

"Cuba now mourns the loss of a great leader, teacher and father; we share the pain and emptiness that you feel, for we have lost a faithful and valued friend. His memory lives on in our mission to provide for our people and to build a world in which justice, fairness and peace prevail."

**President of El Salvador: Fidel and his ideas live in the hearts of millions**

Salvador Sánchez Cerén, President of El Salvador noted that Fidel had a special appreciation and respect for the Salvadoran people. "Like thousands of Salvadoran youth, I came to know of Fidel through Radio Rebelde. For us, listening to him, signified the awakening of our political consciousness and the decision to change the sad reality of our country, the victim of a cruel military dictatorship.

"I remember that feeling of solidarity and support for the struggle in the Sierra Maestra and later with the triumph of the Revolution, a humanist project admired for its resistance and dignity in the face of constant U.S. aggression."

He went on to note that tributes by "the Cuban people and the entire world, this immense affection, shows us that Fidel and his ideas live in the hearts of millions of people following his



example of tireless struggle for the good of humanity.”

**Prime Minister of Greece: We bid farewell to an international symbol of struggle and resistance**

Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of the Republic of Greece stated in the Plaza de la Revolución, “As befits this great 20th century revolutionary, today we bid farewell to Comandante Fidel. We say goodbye to an international symbol of struggle and resistance who, through his example, inspired the struggles of peoples across the world for independence, liberty, justice and dignity.

“We bid farewell to the Fidel of the poor, the humble, the oppressed, and those who never give up, your Fidel, our Fidel, the Fidel that belongs to all corners of the world, the Fidel that belongs to history.

“It is a great honor to be participating in this historic moment on behalf of the people of Greece, a people that live in a corner of the planet very far away from you geographically, but close in regards to the values and ideals for which you have struggled and continue to struggle.”

**President of Algeria’s Council of the Nation: He will remain alive in our hearts and our memory**

Abdelkader Bensalah, president of the Council of the Nation of Algeria, Algeria’s upper house of parliament, expressed to the Cuban people and government “Our sincere condolences on the loss of one of the best sons of this land of kindness, the island of liberty, Cuba,” on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Algeria, Abdelaziz Buteflika, and the Algerian government and people.

At another point in his speech he emphasized, “The leader Fidel Castro lived like a giant, and will remain after his departure as a legend and a highly valuable legacy for generations that will be inspired by his thinking to erect solid foundations in the interest of building a world where justice, dignity and freedom prevail; while his struggle will enlighten them in the forging of virtues such as self-denial, sacrifice, honesty, loyalty to others, and adherence to principles at any cost.”

**Vice president of China: The Chinese people have also lost a dear comrade and sincere friend**

Li Yuanchao, vice president and member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, said that during his life, Fidel was devoted to the friendship between Cuba and China: “He followed very closely and highly valued the progress of our development. With his personal attention and support, Cuba became the first Latin American country to establish diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China. Fifty-six years have passed since then, and Chinese-Cuban relations are advancing considerably, providing fruitful results of practical cooperation in various fields.”

The Chinese leader added that the friendship between the two peoples grows every day and is inseparable from the commitment and concern of Fidel. He noted that the Chinese people would miss Fidel deeply, and that this was an enormous loss for Cuba and the Latin American peoples.



Thousands upon thousands line the streets in Havana for Fidel

Speaking to those gathered in Havana he stated, “It is not only you who lose a preeminent son, but the Chinese people also lose a dear comrade and sincere friend.”

**Vice-President for Legal Affairs of Iran: He dedicated his life to efforts to defend the rights of the oppressed**

During his tribute to the leader of the Cuban Revolution, Majid Ansari, Vice President for Legal Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, noted that what had united “this multitude of people and heads of state, special envoys from dozens of countries, and organizations from all over the world, is the tribute to one of the most outstanding revolutionaries of the day, the late Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz. Someone whose name is recognized across the world not only as a Cuban fighter and independentista, but as a revolutionary thinker and a liberator for all the peoples of Latin America and the oppressed of the world. A person who dedicated his life to the efforts to defend the rights of the oppressed and the fight against colonialism, for which his name, together with those of the great liberation leaders of history, will be eternally engraved in the memory of humanity.”

**Speaker of the Russian State Duma: His ideas and dreams are dear to many peoples, his cause will triumph**

Referring to the significance of the figure of Fidel Castro Ruz, Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the Russian State Duma, stressed that the Cuban leader dedicated his life to the struggle for the freedom and independence of his country: “He loved his country and his people infinitely; his life has been the example of a true patriot. They could not break his will, nor that of the Cuban people.”

Continuing his speech, he highlighted that Fidel Castro became a symbol of the Cuban struggle, a struggle that was crowned with successes. “We have a duty to remember that it is thanks to him that Cuba has managed to preserve the most valuable thing that any state can have: its independence. Even today his ideas and dreams are dear to many peoples, therefore his cause will triumph.”

### **Chairwoman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Fidel will live eternally in the just cause of the revolution of heroic Cuban people**

Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairwoman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, stated that with the departure of comrade Fidel Castro, the Party, the state and the Cuban people have lost their historic, legendary leader. “The international communist and revolutionary movements have lost a firm, audacious, and experienced leader. The Communist Party, the state and the people of Vietnam have lost a very dear, beloved comrade and brother combatant.”

She noted that the Vietnamese people “always have engraved in our hearts the immortal phrase that comrade Fidel dedicated to us: For Vietnam, we are ready to give even our own blood.

“We have full confidence that comrade Fidel will live forever in the just cause of the Revolution of the heroic Cuban people, and in the hearts of the brotherly peoples of the world.”

### **State of Qatar: A great leader, an exceptional revolutionary, a firm militant**

Speaking on behalf of the State of Qatar, HH the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, said, “We have today attended the memorial service of a great leader, an exceptional revolutionary, a firm militant, an inflexible fighter, a symbol of resistance, who reached every corner of the globe, and was present in the minds of all.

“Fidel Castro was a giant of the struggle for national liberation. He maintained an unshakable faith in the right of the peoples to self-determination, at a time when most of the world’s peoples were subjected to colonialism. He fought for the causes in which he had faith, inspired millions of human beings who lived under the yoke of colonialism in different parts of the planet. He occupied a crowning place among the great heroes of liberation movements in the twentieth century.”

He concluded by stating, “His legacy, his struggle, his steadfastness in the face of challenges will always be a source of inspiration for this generation and future generations.”

### **Republic of Belarus: His legacy will be a symbol of hope for a just and happy life among humble people**

Victor Sheiman, Special Envoy from the Republic of Belarus, explained that, in his country, highly valued is the enormous contribution of Fidel Castro to the development of friendly relations between countries.

“I am sure that the immortal work of Comandante Fidel will continue its victorious path. His legacy will be a symbol of hope for a more just and happy life among humble people. Over the decades, Belarus has been a loyal friend and trustworthy partner of our sister Cuba, and it will be so in the future.

“Fidel has not gone, Fidel remains. The clear image of the invincible Comandante, his political legacy, will be with us forever.”

### **President of Bolivia: Fidel is greater than his own life, he is installed forever in the history of humanity**

Evo Morales Ayma, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia,



emphasized his admiration for the unity and strength of the Cuban people, “A few hours ago, I heard the pro-imperialist bourgeois press say: And now, what will Cuba do without a leader? And we are seeing, the entire world is seeing the Cuban people more united, stronger than ever, to continue defeating imperialist domination.

“Fidel has been a true father to the excluded, to the marginalized, the discriminated, to the poor of the earth. Fidel teaches us that the only road of our peoples is that of unity and integration. Fidel is a true builder of peace with social justice.

“We would like to tell you, brothers and sisters, Fidel has not died, because the peoples don’t die, at least not those who struggle for their liberation; this is Fidel.” At another point in his remarks, Morales said, “Fidel is greater than his own life; he is installed forever in the history of humanity.”

### **President of Namibia: Fidel’s lessons will continue to guide our struggle for a new world order**

Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, after highlighting the Namibian people’s love for Fidel and the importance of Cuba’s internationalist missions in Africa, said, “Fidel sent thousands of troops to Angola and Namibia to free these countries from South African oppression. Cuito Cuanavale was a milestone in the history of Southern Africa. In particular, the battle made possible the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435, and that led to the independence of Namibia in 1990.

“We still have much to learn from a man who lived and died on his own terms.” The Namibian leader likewise emphasized that Fidel’s lessons will continue to be “a guide in our struggle for a new world order. We must remain united, despite colonialism, and always stay united until victory.”

### **President of Mexico: Fidel Castro constructed revolutionary Cuba**

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto evoked “the memory of a man who made history,” recalling that on November 25, 1956, the same date he died, Fidel and 82 brave compatriots departed from the banks of the River Tuxpan, on the coast of Veracruz, aboard the Granma. The mission they had charted was to construct a new government to be at the service of the Cuban people, guided by the

ideals of liberty, justice, and equality. Since then, the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban people have provided an “example of dignity and perseverance,” Peña Nieto said.

“No doubt, Fidel Castro was the constructor of revolutionary Cuba, but even more, he was an emblematic figure of the second half of the 20th century.

“Cuba and Mexico are friends and neighbors, our countries are joined by deep, irreplaceable ties. The waters of the Caribbean Sea have linked our history for centuries; the language and culture we share remind us that Cuban and Mexican hearts beat in solidarity and friendship.”

### **President of Nicaragua: Fidel is held more firmly than ever in the hearts of the people**

Daniel Ortega Saavedra, President of the Republic of Nicaragua, referred to the help the Cuban Revolution has provided the Nicaraguan people in difficult times, and added, “Just as Fidel is held more firmly than ever in the hearts of this people, he is firm in the hearts of Latin American and Caribbean peoples, in the hearts of the peoples of Asia, Africa, and in the hearts of a good part of the U.S. people, a good part of European peoples,” saying that Fidel had understood these new times, not any easy task, and was able to adapt to changes, while he held a conception that was repeated only once, in Nicaragua. Ortega said, “It was Fidel and Raúl, and this people, who entered Managua triumphantly on July 19, 1979. (Applause) That was the last victorious revolution of the 20th century.

### **President of Venezuela: He is not gone. He remains undefeated among us — absolved, absolutely absolved by history!**



Nicolás Maduro Moros, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela spoke to the huge crowd, emphasizing the strong ties between the Cuban and Bolivarian revolutions. Referring to Fidel’s lifelong devotion he said, “He went beyond fulfilling his mission on this earth, beyond the greatest expectations there could have been. Few lives have been so full, so luminous. He goes undefeated, this is better, as you say, he is not gone, he remains undefeated among us, absolved, absolutely absolved by the great history of the homeland.”

At another point, Maduro said, “It is up to us now; it is up to you, women; it is up to you, students, youth, workers, professionals, campesinos, patriotic soldiers; it is up to us, men and women, it is up to us today to raise the banners of dignity and freedom for the peoples.”

# National Lawyers Guild Statement on the Passing of Fidel Castro Ruz

*National Lawyers Guild, November 28, 2016*

On behalf of the members and leaders of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), we send our condolences and heartfelt thanks to the people of Cuba during this time of national mourning at the loss of Fidel Castro Ruz. Cuba under his leadership inspired generations worldwide to act in solidarity across national lines and against poverty, racism, disease and profit-inspired threats to the world’s environment. We remember Fidel’s encounters with leaders such as Malcolm X in Harlem to Nelson Mandela in South Africa with the solidarity and affection with which they took place. We see the lasting results of Cuba’s internationalism, including its medical solidarity and literacy programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America; its free medical education for U.S. students – particularly students of color; and in the liberation of southern Africa from white colonialism.

Since the first days of the U.S. blockade, the NLG has actively promoted friendship with the people of Cuba and defended the U.S. solidarity movement from government repression. NLG co-founder Victor Rabinowitz was the first President of the Fair

Play for Cuba Committee, the first group in defense of Cuba after the revolution triumphed in 1959, until 1960 when he and NLG member Leonard B. Boudin were personally retained by Che Guevara to represent the Cuban government with respect to engagement and relations with the United States. Boudin challenged the U.S. government’s attempts to prevent Americans from traveling to Cuba, including three times before the U.S. Supreme Court (in *Zemel v. Rusk*; *U.S. v. Laub*, and *Regan v. Wald*). The late Debra Evenson, past President of the NLG, assisted in the firm’s representation of Cuba and wrote the leading scholarly studies in English on the Cuban legal system.

From the outset, NLG members directly challenged the travel ban by civil disobedience as members of the Venceremos Brigade. Since 1970, the NLG has regionally and nationally sent delegations of members to Cuba. For the past 17 years, the NLG Labor and Employment Committee has sponsored annual study trips to Cuba and has hosted the head of the Cuban Labor Law Society at many NLG conventions.



It has been the NLG's great honor to organize legal support and assistance by our members for the Cuba solidarity movement in the U.S., including for the Antonio Maceo Brigade, the Venceremos Brigade, the Center for Cuban Studies, Casa de las Americas, the Committee for July 26th and the thousands of local solidarity activists who worked to build friendship with the people of Cuba and break the blockade for more than five decades.

The NLG has been instrumental in creating a "path" for Cubans to obtain visas to come to the U.S. in order to address U.S. audiences in professional conferences. The NLG's 40th Anniversary convention in Seattle in 1977 was the first time Cubans were given visas and were able to speak to a U.S. audience outside the United Nations since the beginning of the blockade. Many guests from Cuba followed in the 1980s and 1990s, including Ruben Remigio Ferro, the President of the Supreme Court of Cuba, making his only visit to the U.S. for the 1999 NLG convention in San Francisco.

NLG's Cuba solidarity work grew rapidly in the late 1970s and 1980s, during which several hundred Guild members visited Cuba on people-to-people Guild-sponsored groups, and formed the Cuba Subcommittee at the 1977 convention. The Cuba Subcommittee would later organize 200 NLG members and families to attend the 15th Congress of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers in Havana in 2000.

When the Reagan and George W. Bush administrations resumed policies of intense hostility toward Cuba, the NLG's legal support role became especially critical. The Cuba Subcommittee, along with the Center for Constitutional Rights, set up and trained a national network of over 50 lawyers to advise and represent U.S. travelers to Cuba during the travel crackdown from 2000-2006, including assistance at all of the dozens of "trials for travel" held in Washington D.C. Such counseling has continued

throughout the years, as well as providing current representation for renewed prosecutions and preparing for future challenges.

NLG lawyers, including the late Leonard Weinglass and Rafael Anglada

López, represented the Cuban political prisoners known as the "Cuban 5," and Guild lawyers prepared a series of amicus briefs, which the NLG and international lawyers associations filed on their behalf, including at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The NLG has continued to defend solidarity activists and organizations from attacks to this day. In the spirit of Joe Hill, the National Lawyers Guild and its Cuba Subcommittee pledge to honor the legacy of Cuba's fallen leader by renewing our efforts and by asking all who seek peace and justice to organize and demand: (1) an end to the U.S. economic blockade of Cuba, (2) the restoration of freedom of travel to Cuba, (3) the respect of Cuba's sovereignty as a nation, and (4) the restoration of the land in Guantánamo that is rightfully and legally Cuban soil.

*Fidel, ¡Presente!*

Natasha Lycia Ora Bannan, President, National Lawyers Guild

Art Heitzer Chair, NLG Cuba Subcommittee



The youth will not fail

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## Denounce Trump's Statement Against Fidel and the Cuban People

President-elect Donald Trump made a thoroughly uncouth and uncivilized statement concerning the death of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. Trump expressed no concern for the grief and social love expressed by the Cuban people in their hundreds of thousands, as they lined the streets to bid Fidel farewell and salute his life's work to safeguard the revolution. He did not acknowledge the affirmation and deep appreciation of world leaders for the many contributions of Fidel to the struggle for national and social liberation and human dignity. Instead Trump repeated all the worst of U.S. claims, striving to denigrate Fidel and present him as a "dictator" and Cuba as a "totalitarian island," without human rights. Fidel himself spoke clearly about the issue of dictators, saying, "I honestly believe that the President of the United States has much greater power and more capability of giving direct, unilateral orders. Since his power includes something as monstrously undemocratic as the ability to order a thermonuclear war, I ask you who, then, is more of a dictator, the President of the United States or I?"

Trump claimed it is Fidel that imposed "unimaginable suffering," completely ignoring both the achievements of the Cuban Revolution on such fronts as healthcare and education and the broad economic impact of the decades-long U.S. blockade. It is the U.S. that sought to impose poverty, saying it would starve the Cubans into submission and using the blockade to try and do so. It is the Cubans, led by Fidel, that eliminated illiteracy and homelessness, that built an economy capable of providing free education and healthcare for all, achieving, for example, lower infant mortality rates than many U.S. cities. It is Cuba that sends doctors worldwide, while the U.S. sends its troops and drones.

To honor the contributions of Fidel and the Cuban people to the fight for justice and progress, it is the U.S. that must end its efforts to dictate to the Cubans. Now is the time to End the Blockade! Now is the time to close Guantánamo, the U.S. fortress for torture, indefinite detention without charges and other denial of human rights. This is the broad demand of the people of the U.S. as they stand with the Cubans and their revolution.

### I • Black Ops the New Normal

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a new multi-agency intelligence and action force for JSOC, to be known as the “Counter-External Operations Task Force,” or Ex-Ops. It will be commanded by the U.S. Special Operations Command, or SOCOM, which JSOC comes under. According to SOCOM officials, JSOC has carried out actions of various kinds in 147 countries. Their field of operations also includes the U.S. — anywhere the government claims a terrorist threat exists. As Pentagon officials have put it, it is not limited to battlefields in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya, where numerous attacks have repeatedly occurred, but anywhere from “Boston to FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas in Pakistan].”

Up until now, JSOC operations also came under the command of regional military commanders, such as for Central Command (CENTCOM), which commands the Iraq war and operations in the Middle East more generally, and AFRICOM, SOUTHCOM for Latin American, NORTHCOM the U.S., Canada and Mexico, etc. According to U.S. military officials, the order by Obama puts in place a hybrid command system that can sidestep these regional commanders. This is being done in the name of speed and removing obstacles to Special Operations.

It also serves to put greater power in the hands of the President. Effectively, the head of SOCOM, currently Army General Raymond “Tony” Thomas, will be a decision-maker when it comes to going after “threats,” with White House approval. Support of the regional commands is not necessary, though it is said they will be consulted. As one Pentagon official put it “Layers have been stripped away.” He added, “There has never been an Ex-Ops command team that works trans-regionally to stop attacks.”

The defense official added that U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies will also support JSOC and offer recommendations on how to handle specific threats. This is a further indication that it will be used inside the U.S. as well as abroad.

In a situation where the presidency relies on police powers to govern, it also puts in place what could become a “presidential guard,” at the disposal of the presidency without interference from the Pentagon chain of command. And it is worldwide in scope, with no regard for international or U.S. law or laws of war — assassinations, raids, drone warfare, are all being expanded, with the power to carry out actions greatly streamlined.

#### **Open Disregard for Requirement of Threat to U.S.**

It is reported that the new JSOC task force will also offer intelligence, strike recommendations and advice directly to the militaries and security forces of allies, bypassing government officials. Already, for example, over the past decade JSOC has built strong relations with police agencies in Germany, Britain, France and



Turkey. The new task force will have even broader authority to act. Officials also said that in parts of the world where the U.S. claims there are “weak or no governments,” JSOC would act unilaterally, again with no regard for law or for there being an imminent threat to the U.S.

Obama has also authorized what his administration terms “collective self-defense” strikes in support of foreign partners, even where there is not threat to the U.S. and no U.S. forces or contractors at direct risk. This means U.S. military forces, including JSOC, are now permitted to provide close air support, drones, etc. against what the

U.S. brands the enemies of foreign ground forces, even if these people pose no threat to the U.S.

The authorization by Obama is to justify and further expand actions already occurring, such as in Somalia. On September 28, for example, a drone strike was conducted in Galcayo, Somalia, against what were said to be al-Shabab forces, on behalf of the local Puntland Security Forces (PSF). AFRICOM labeled this a “self-defense strike,” even though no U.S. advisors were present at the time. A subsequent, brief AFRICOM press release stated that the strike killed no al-Shabab members, but rather ten members of “local militia forces,” who themselves had worked with U.S. advisers in the past.

Under this broad concept of “collective self-defense,” U.S. military air strikes can be used anywhere the U.S. claims its “partners” are threatened, even though the U.S. and its forces are not threatened.

The Obama administration’s claim that any threat to foreign partner forces can be used to justify U.S. military action, in the name of “self-defense” serves to further open up the scope and intensity of air-strikes, and other military operations, such as those by JSOC.

As one military expert put it, the two actions together “leaves the Trump administration with tremendously expanded capabilities and authorities.”

It remains to be seen however, whether these actions will serve to unite the military bureaucracy, or further divide it. Trumps placement of two retired Marine Generals in his cabinet, including one as Secretary of Defense, are part of the efforts to unify the massive military bureaucracy. These actions by Obama, while serving to streamline increased global military actions, also further concentrates power in the hands of the Special Operations Forces and the president, and does so in a manner that weakens the power of the various regional commanders. While the actions are consistent with a government of police powers, where government of laws has been eliminated, they could also further exacerbate conflicts within the military and between the military and the presidency.

**NO TO TRUMP AND HIS RACISM**

**NO to Wars at Home and Abroad!**

*United National Antiwar Coalition, November 13, 2016*

We stand in solidarity with all oppressed people under attack at home and abroad!

We urge full participation in the anti-Trump demonstrations!

In reaction to Donald Trump's election victory, tens of thousands of people, most of them youth, have taken to the streets across the country in militant protests to condemn the racism, sexism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant bigotry that Trump represents. Many are fearful, especially immigrants, Muslims and LGBT people. Their rage and that of their supporters signify the movement that needs to be built to end racism, wars and the attacks on working people endemic in the U.S. today.

As thousands have protested, the corporate news media, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and other leading Democrats who expected their party to continue in office now tell us we must make friends with Trump, that maybe he is not so bad after all.

The United National Antiwar Coalition (UNAC) planned post-election protests regardless of who won the election. Our view has always been that all social progress – for labor's rights, civil and democratic rights, women's rights, immigrant rights and against all U.S. wars – has been the product of working people and their allies among the oppressed mobilizing in democratic, united and massive movements that challenge the institutional powers and parties. In these struggles everyone is needed and welcome.

It was clear from the start that the antiwar and general progressive movements could not win in this election.

On the one hand was the war hawk Hillary Clinton, who has aggressively supported all U.S. military actions during her entire political life. She promoted the mass bombing of Libya, cheered the lynching of its president, supported the right-wing coup in Honduras and called for a no-fly zone in Syria that would put the U.S. military in direct confrontation with a nuclear-armed Russia. Here at home, she supported the 1994 crime bill that led to mass incarceration of the people she called "super predators." She supported "welfare reform" that took food from the mouths of poor children. She has loyally served Wall Street, sat on the board of Walmart and supported globalization schemes that have cost millions their jobs.

On the other hand was Donald Trump, a racist, misogynist, crooked billionaire who spouted venom toward people of color,



undocumented workers, Muslims and women, has a history of supporting anti-labor policies and has raised the specter of the U.S. actually using nuclear weapons.

**The Wars Have Come Home**

For years, the 1 percent that runs this country has been ratcheting up its war

against working people here at home. Income inequality has never been greater. Wages have been stagnant for many years. Many of the unionized industrial jobs have been automated or moved overseas. Police killings of Black and other people of color has become endemic. The prisons are bursting with workers, most of them people of color, for whom this system no longer has any jobs.

There was no way for working people, youth, the Black community or antiwar activists to win in this election. Clinton represented the establishment. Trump was projected as anti-establishment, but he reserved his fiercest attacks for people victimized by that establishment. Too many were sucked in by his demagoguery showing deep divisions, much of it caused by racism. The antiwar movement and all fighters for justice must fight against this racism.

Both the Democratic and Republican parties have worked hard over the years to create an atmosphere in which Trump's racism, Islamophobia and immigrant bashing are acceptable. Under Obama, more undocumented workers have been deported than at any time in U.S. history. Under both Bush and Obama, mosques were infiltrated and Muslims framed in schemes wholly invented by the FBI to brand them as terrorists and justify their wars against Muslim countries. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, killer cops are left on the streets instead of being sent to prison.

If there is a silver lining, it is that the electoral system, as a whole, along with the corporate media have been exposed before millions. As tens of thousands have risen up in actions, we can see the future fight-back that UNAC along with many others will help to organize to end this system of exploitation and war.

*NO to the Wars at Home and Abroad!  
Come to Washington in January to protest  
Trump's inauguration!*

*Money for human needs, not war!  
Support our undocumented sisters and brothers in their  
fight against deportation and for human rights!*

## I • Dividing the People

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is coming forward to say he will protect people from racism and discrimination.

Since the election, the notion is being promoted that the problem of government organized racism lies solely with Trump, and state-level governments can be relied on to protect the people. Cuomo, as a representative example, is coming forward in the context of various individual acts of a racist nature that have occurred, particularly on campuses. While these acts are being promoted, the broad and united response against them by students across the state generally is not. Similarly, the various organizations taking actions, long before and since the Trump election, including those that bring Muslims and Jews together to defend rights, are not promoted. For every one act there are dozens and dozens of actions in support of the individuals or mosques targeted. That is, the stand of the people against racism is apparent. Instead of promoting this, the appearance is given that it is the people who are racist and the government that can be relied on to protect the people.

It is worth noting that the racist state, at both the federal and state level, is responsible for the broad racism and discrimination against the people, such as racist mass incarceration and segregated schools and neighborhoods. This is also apparent from the on-going police killings and brutality and continued government targeting of Muslims at home and abroad. The numerous Justice Department investigations of 17 police departments confirmed widespread discrimination and unjust use of force, but have done nothing to stop these injustices.

New York is among those most known for its government racism. Yet Cuomo is now attempting to paint the state as opposing discrimination. He is also doing so in a manner that directly challenges the federal government.

In an open letter to all students across the state, Cuomo said, "After the harsh and ugly rhetoric of the campaign, many of you are concerned about what might happen next. Let me be clear: This is the State of New York, not a state of fear. We will not tolerate hate or racism." He goes on "As long as you are here, you are New Yorkers. You are members of our community, and we will stand up for you." He emphasizes that New York has strict laws against "hate crimes" that will be enforced. A special hot line has been established to report incidents of discrimination. Cuomo again repeats, "Our responsibility is to protect all who are here, whether native-born or immigrant, whether documented or not."

Two things are particularly significant here. One is Cuomo's statement that "As long as you are here, you are New Yorkers." He does not say residents of New York, or that you are New Yorkers and Americans, but simply New Yorkers. Why such emphasis? Given that it is known that New York policing agencies are all used to enforce government racism and discrimination, it cannot be seen as a defense of rights. Rather, it is more an assertion that he may use these police forces against federal agencies. It is not rights that he will protect, as his many actions as Governor against rights indicate, but rather his authority as Governor in relation to the federal government.

Cuomo further indicates this when he says he will protect all who are here in New York, whether documented or not. This sounds like a direct challenge to Trump, with his calls to target undocumented

immigrants. It has the appearance of "protecting" the undocumented, when in reality it has more to do with asserting his powers as governor while also making it appear the government can be relied on to oppose discrimination. Cuomo, like the Mayor of New York City who made similar comments, is evidently prepared to use the substantial armed forces at his disposal in opposition to federal forces.

Such conflict among contending authorities at the state and federal level are increasing in the conditions where there is government of police power, and government of laws has essentially been eliminated. This is the dangerous context in which these statements are being made. And Cuomo is not alone in making them. Top government officials in California, as well as Mayors and police chiefs of numerous cities, like Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Chicago, Philadelphia and elsewhere, have said the same — they will stand against federal efforts to target undocumented immigrants. Such increasing conflict among contending authorities, all known for their brutal racism, creates much more of a civil war scenario, than one of defending the rights of immigrants.

Secondly, by emphasizing that "hate crime" legislation will be enforced, Cuomo is directing attention away from the racism and discrimination of the state and instead presenting the problem as one of individual actions. While such actions need to be opposed, as they have been wherever they have occurred, government enforcement of "hate crime" legislation has not done so. It has largely been directed against those defending rights, not state-backed organizations like the KKK and Nazis, who are not targeted.

For example, students defending Palestine have been targeted as organizing "hate crimes" against Israel. Indeed, Cuomo has issued a special order saying efforts by students to organize the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions (BDS) movement in support of Palestine face cuts to state funding of their schools and possible criminal actions.

Cuomo is using the broad sentiments of the people against racism and for rights, as expressed in the on-going demonstrations of tens of thousands across the country, and attempting to turn them against the people. Everyone is to target individual acts that may occur in an atmosphere where the government has long been promoting racist divisions. Instead of targeting the government, people are to rely on the government, using the hotline. And further, in a situation where conflicts between federal and state forces emerge, we are to line up not as a united people in defense of the rights of all, but as New Yorkers, or Californians, supporting the governor.

Many actions across the country are rejecting these efforts by government at all levels to present themselves as protectors of the people and uniting on the basis of defending rights. There is long experience with government refusal to end racism and its claims to oppose discrimination while everywhere enforcing it. In current conditions now where government of police power is being imposed, it is all the more important to target the government for racism and block efforts to divide and divert the people in the name of "hate crimes." The government racism of Cuomo and Trump alike must be opposed by further strengthening the organized efforts of the people relying on their own efforts to defend the rights of all.

**NOT OUR PRESIDENT, NOT OUR DEMOCRACY**

# **With Trump Presidency Ruling Circles Resort to Government of Police Power**

The election of Donald Trump as president indicates that imperialist rule by the oligopolies will be by unfettered police powers. It shows how completely the old arrangements of government of laws, with functioning political parties and a functioning political process are finished. It spells grave dangers for the peoples at home and abroad, as Trump embarks on a presidency to expand police powers and the impunity that goes with them.

U.S. rulers are facing a situation where their previous overwhelming economic power is in decline and where military might alone is not sufficient to maintain and extend their world empire. They are insistent on such empire though, and prepared to risk world war and civil war and potentially drag the world down with them. This campaign brought to the fore that they are not able to sustain a political process that provides legitimacy to their rule, as they reject the need to modernize democracy by empowering the people.

Obama came forward in part to unite the warring factions of the military bureaucracy, across all the various branches and various police forces and intelligence agencies. He was to overcome the humiliation and disrepute of the U.S. on the world stage generated by the Bush regime. Instead, with his drone warfare, torture, indefinite detention and other crimes against the people, he only succeeded in further lowering U.S. standing in the world. At home people openly spoke during this election of how eight years of Bush and eight years of Obama had done nothing to resolve the issues of poverty and inequality and aggressive wars while making people feel even more powerless and marginalized than before.

Governing institutions like Congress and legislatures more generally are dysfunctional and the political parties and political process that go with them are also dysfunctional. None of the actions of the political representatives of the oligopolies, which are endangering life on earth, contribute to the development of an aim for the polity consistent with the needs of humankind and life itself. Indeed the imperialist rulers are blocking such an aim and striving to keep the people from themselves being political and uniting with others to bring the economic, political and social structures into conformity with the modern reality of socialized conditions.

In a situation where a political process cannot be sustained and government of laws is being eliminated, the response of the rulers is to take the country further backward. A Trump government of police powers creates an even more dangerous situation for the peoples at home and abroad.

## **Extending Police Powers in the Name of Making America Great**

A main role of Trump is to further extend the police powers



utilized by Obama — such as his drone warfare, torture, mass detention of women and children refugees, militarization of police forces — and to eliminate any fetters that remain. To the degree that Congress still holds the purse strings is one such fetter Trump will strive to minimize, perhaps by using police powers against those who oppose him, as he has threatened. Further extending the impunity of the executive to act is another. Both of these however threaten to increase potential civil war scenarios, as contending authorities among the policing agencies, at state and local levels, and with the presidency, collide. This is something the rulers want to avoid. Trump will attempt to contend with this in part by using the anger among the people with the current process and with Congressional dysfunction to justify the need for more executive action. In his claim to represent a movement that is anti-establishment, he is seeking to bring the people in line with this direction of government of police power.

The content of Trump's plan to Make America Great Again can be seen by appointments for his cabinet. Alabama Senator Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, named after the president of the confederacy, Jefferson Davis and confederate General Beauregard, is to be Attorney General. His appointment represents an effort to unify forces among the rulers north and south in conditions where civil war scenarios are already evident. Trump's means to do this is to openly embrace those known to support the slave-power of the south. It remains to be seen if this will be successful.

Sessions has also voiced support for Trump's plans to quickly begin deporting immigrants and to do so even more rapidly than Obama has done. Immigration is one of the areas where the executive can act with broad impunity and take action without Congress.

On this front Trump is already facing contention from local and state authorities, including those in California and New

York, home to many undocumented immigrants he seeks to target. Los Angeles police, for example, have stated they will not cooperate with federal forces, as have New York City Mayor de Blasio and Chicago Mayor Emanuel. Various officials from other sanctuary cities, like Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle have said the same.

A main problem the rulers face in imposing a government of police power is precisely that of unifying the various policing agencies and bringing them under federal and military control. This is a main responsibility of the president, charged with preserving the U.S. state. Various recent police actions, including those at Standing Rock where many state police from different states and National Guard were brought together to repress resistance, are part of such efforts. The resistance from state and local forces that Trump is facing in regards to immigration indicate the difficulties the rulers confront in imposing their dictate. The various authorities are all contending for power and Trump may not be so successful in uniting them, especially considering the various mayors have huge police forces of their own.

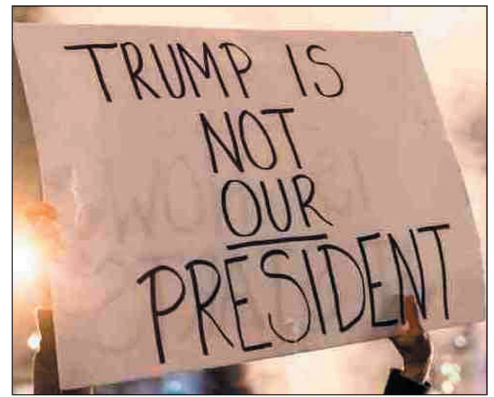
Trump and Sessions are also backing expansion of the previous government registry, known as the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS). It targeted non-citizens living legally in the U.S. as well as those entering legally, many with student visas, from 25 Asian and African countries, many mostly Muslim, including Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. It existed from 2002-2011, with portions of it still in place, including a giant biometric database of registrants, used by the many policing agencies at all levels.

The use of a special registry is not a Trump invention. It is part of the direction of governance towards one of police power that has been developing and that Trump seeks to build on and expand. It is also a means to bring the various agencies involved together, in the name of national security. Such registries and plans more broadly for biometric ID for immigrants, then all workers, are also means by which to criminalize the workforce and enable the imperialist rulers to more readily impose their government of police power. These are among the reasons that stepping up the broad resistance to all such measures are critical.

Internationally, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is a likely choice for Secretary of State. Giuliani is notorious for his use of police powers in New York City, including the racist Stop and Frisk police action directed primarily against African American and Puerto Rican youth. It is an example of police taking

action without cause and on an openly racist basis. This then is to be implemented on an international basis. However, just as Obama's actions along these lines served to further lower U.S. standing in the

world, Trumps effort to greatly expand the use of police powers could well do the same.



### **Not Our President, Not Our Democracy**

The many demonstrations across the country and those planned for Trump's inauguration indicate that government of police powers is not acceptable to the people. Signs read: Not My President, with many also expressing, not our democracy.

Those fighting against war and for rights are contending with the reality that the dysfunctional political process and rise of police powers also means that a civil society based on government of laws is being eliminated. The tactics based on these old arrangements, such as notions of pressuring politicians to meet the needs of the people and take their views into consideration are also coming to an end. New forms and tactics are needed in the situation. Resistance involving efforts to deprive the rulers of their ability to deprive the people of their rights are vital.

The struggle at Standing Rock is an important example of such efforts. It is an example too of focusing on using demonstrations as a means to strengthen the level of organization and consciousness and to raise the level of political discussion and politicization of the polity as a whole, all of which are needed.

Trump's presidency indicates that U.S. rulers can no longer sustain a political process with government of laws. They are instead compelled to impose a government of unfettered police powers, a dangerous and undemocratic direction. The times demand instead advancing the cause of democracy by organizing today, in our many actions and fighting organizations, to enable the people themselves to be the decision makers. The new direction needed is a pro-social, anti-war direction and bringing it about requires a democracy of our own making where we the people decide.

## **Police Powers Needed When Rulers Have No Solutions**

Police powers by their nature are arbitrary and implemented on the basis of broad impunity. It is not just a matter of police and military forces of various kinds taking action, but rather of a means of governance in a situation where the rulers have no solutions and where they are compelled to block the striving of the people to modernize and broaden democracy. Unlike a

government of laws, which must at least have the appearance of legitimacy and concern for social needs, a government of police powers does not.

In this vein, Trump voiced his disdain for social needs by emphasizing that he will treat government as a business. In his victory speech he said, "I've spent my entire life in business,

looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over the world” and “That is now what I want to do for our country.” Business is run on the basis of the “bottom line” and treating human beings as things, even products, to be disposed of. Responsibility to society and to meet the needs of society are not main considerations. Further, like a business, workers are to do as they are told, when they are told — to be good soldiers in meeting the needs of the corporations. Education, with its standardized testing and narrowed curriculum, similarly is already being organized to produce such good soldiers, to not thinking human beings.

Legitimacy of government is also not a main concern. Police powers are to punish, criminalize, destroy, even whole nations and the human productive powers they encompass. This election showed that the rulers are no longer concerned with maintaining even the appearance of a functioning political process, with

Trump the embodiment of this reality.

U.S. rulers are contending with a situation where, as Trump said, the U.S. is in decline as an economic power and has yet to impose its hegemony over all those who resist. It must contend with rivals and allies alike as it strives for world domination and does so by continually threatening and upping the ante. This brings on more violence and contention, as is already occurring at home and abroad.

Obama was seen as a more reluctant force, more on the sidelines in this striving for domination. Trump is seen as a deal-maker who can put and keep the U.S. in the game where everyone is threatening everyone else. He will on the one hand strike deals, likely behind closed doors and using his executive powers. On the other, brandish the full might of U.S. police powers without concern about legitimacy, abroad and at home. This is the necessity of U.S. rulers today and it is hoped that Trump can meet it.

## Election Shows Failure of Existing Set-Up

A huge cacophony has followed in the wake of the U.S. election that paints voters as racist. This serves as a means to ignore the many indications that people are rejecting the existing set up and demanding something different, including candidates that do actually represent them and not the imperialist rich.

Among these facts are the estimated 100 million who did not vote. Many, especially among the youth, said that they did not do so because they felt insulted by both candidates and were preparing for things to get worse whoever won. They were concerned with how to build up resistance, not voting for candidates they rejected.

Overall, Clinton got about 60.5 million votes, Trump about 60 million. Neither represents even close to half the electorate, with eligible voters now numbering about 232 million. The 100 million eligible voters who did not vote represent a far large number — but they are not to be counted when these generalizations about a racist electorate are made. Additionally, if one puts those who did not want to vote for either candidate, 6 in 10, of the estimated 132 million who voted, together with the 100 million eligible voters who did not vote, plus the estimated 6.1 million people convicted of felonies who are not permitted to vote, one gets a very large majority against Trump (and Clinton for that matter). And what this majority holds in common is that its decision does not count in the U.S. polity — it is disenfranchised — as well as the underlying repudiation of an electoral process that produced such unwanted pro-war, racist candidates.

The problem lies not with individuals, but with the Trump presidency, which is a representative of a racist state bent on unleashing even greater police powers against the peoples at

home and abroad. To advance the fight against racism and for equality, it is necessary to target the racist U.S. state and refuse to submit to its diversions and efforts to divide the people.

Numerous demonstrations, petitions, meetings, and more show the people want an end to war, want peaceful relations of mutual respect internationally and want the budget directed to defending rights, like education, housing and healthcare, not imperialist war. They want a different, new direction for the country. All this is to be denied and hidden. Everyone is to remain stuck in lining up for or against Clinton or Trump and targeting how people voted, even now when the elections are over. Everything is being done to divert discussion from development of an alternative political process that empowers the people and enables them to enforce their drive for an anti-racist, pro-social, anti-war direction for the country. By targeting the racist U.S. state and defending the rights of all abroad and at home the people can build up their fighting unity and provide for their own security.



Visit our website: [usmlo.org](http://usmlo.org)

2000 VETERANS JOIN THE RANKS

# Salute Standing Rock Water Protectors!

The Standing Rock Sioux along with 300 other tribes and many supporters continue to defy brutal government attacks, standing firm in upholding rights and blocking construction of the deadly Dakota Access Pipeline. Obama's Army Corps of Engineers has issued an eviction notice against the camps that sustain the Water Protectors for December 5, even though these camps are on unceded Sioux lands. The lands do not belong to the federal government, which is breaking treaties by claiming that they do and arbitrarily demanding that the Sioux leave their own lands.



The Governor of North Dakota, in the name of safety, also decreed that everyone must leave. Then, showing just how concerned about safety he really was, he issued an order to block supplies to the camps. This was later rescinded, but the eviction order, like that of the Army Corps, remains.

The camps are growing in size despite brutal repeated attacks by police forces. These have included use of water cannons drenching protectors in freezing weather, repeated use of sound grenades that have caused severe injuries, and the chemical weapon tear gas, of rubber bullets, armed checkpoints on the highways, and more.

Standing in defiance, the Water Protectors have refused to move and persist in defending the sovereign rights of the Sioux and all indigenous peoples, the rights of millions to safe water,

and the rights of Mother Earth. As they put it, "We will stand our ground for the water and the unborn generations. Our fight is not just about a pipeline project. It is about 500 years of colonization and oppression. This is our moment, a chance to demand a future for our people and all people."

As of December 4, more than 2000 veterans from all parts of the country will join them. The veterans raised more than \$1 million from small donations to organize the trip and provide for supplies to the camps. As they state, "Everyday it becomes more evident that the defenders of America must stand with the Water Protectors. Let us stop this savage injustice being committed right here at home."

The Water Protectors have refused the police category of protesters, to be told where they can protest, to be criminalized as things, not human beings standing for rights. The veterans too are taking the stand that their responsibility is not to the war and destruction of the military, but to the rights and interests of the peoples. The Water Protectors are depriving governments at all levels of their ability to deprive the people of their rights. They are refusing to accept the arbitrary police powers being exercised against them, not only through the direct police actions, but also through the actions of the Office of the President in trampling on treaty rights and the just demands of the people.

The camps are self-sustaining, have organized for the safety and well being of all, and persisted in their right to speak and organize and refused to submit to the dictate of the government. *Voice of Revolution* salutes this vibrant and just struggle providing a clear example to all of the firm, independent organizing defying the state and uniting the people needed at this time.





# Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Issues Proclamation in Support of Oceti Sakowin Camp Safety

*Sacred Stone Camp, November 30, 2016*

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II today issued a proclamation in support of water protectors who face continued civil rights abuses and excessive use of force by law enforcement.

“This week is the anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre. It’s time for the United States to end its legacy of abuses against Native Americans. We call on the United Nations and President Barack Obama to take immediate action to prohibit North Dakota from engaging in its retaliatory actions and practices,” Archambault said. “As a tribal nation, we call on the President to take all the appropriate steps to ensure water protectors are safe and that their rights to free speech and peaceful assembly are protected. Gov. Darlymple had a chance today to condemn the violence and unlawful acts of state and local governments, but failed to do so.”

## **Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Proclamation 2016**

Emergency Proclamation to Safeguard Peaceful Protests on Treaty Territory

**Whereas**, Water Protectors are currently engaged in peaceful and prayerful activities within the Oceti Sakowin Camp located on land managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers;

**Whereas**, the land being used by the Water Protectors is within the Tribe’s 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie Territory and the Tribe has supported the use of this Treaty territory for these peaceful activities to further the protection of the life-giving waters;

**Whereas**, Water Protectors at the Oceti Sakowin Camp are self-sufficient and have been preparing for harsh storms and severe winter conditions by constructing temporary structures

that contain safe heat sources;

**Whereas**, each individual is participating in the Oceti Sakowin Camp in the exercise of their First Amendment right guaranteed by the United States Constitution and is entitled to determine for themselves whether to remain at the Camp;

**Whereas**, the State of North Dakota and local law enforcement have engaged in unwarranted and excessive use of force against peaceful Water Protectors over the last two months and it is these actions alone that have created unsafe conditions at and around the Camp;

**Whereas**, the Executive Order 2016-08 issued by the Governor of North Dakota is another attempt to threaten and create fear notwithstanding the State’s announcement that it will not forcibly remove Water Protectors;

**Whereas**, State law enforcement have been directed to and are stopping vehicles headed to Oceti Sakowin Camp and imposing excessive fines up to \$1000 on those carrying supplies in attempt to block the supplies from reaching the Camp, thereby directly creating health and safety risks that endangers the lives of the Water Protectors;

**Therefore Be It Resolved**, that in the spirit of safety, the Tribe urges the State to withdraw Executive Order 2016-18 and allow supplies to be delivered to ensure no lives at the Camp are threatened;

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Tribe requests that the United Nations and President Barack Obama take immediate action to prohibit the State from engaging in its retaliatory actions and practices, to take all appropriate steps to ensure the protection and safety of the Water Protectors and to safeguard their rights to free speech and peaceable assembly.



VOA

# The U.S. Army Cannot Evict Us From Treaty Lands

*Coalition Statement, November 27, 2016*

On Friday, November 25, after the turkey was pardoned, the Obama Administration issued an eviction notice to the Oceti Sakowin encampments at Standing Rock. We are a coalition of grassroots groups living and working at the encampments, and we will not be moved. We stand united in defiance of the black snake and are committed to defense of water, our Mother Earth, and our rights as Indigenous people. We call on all people of conscience, from all Nations, to join the encampments and stand with us as we put our bodies on the line.

The eviction notice came in a letter from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, informing the tribe that on Dec. 5th, it will “close” all lands north of the Cannonball River, where the Oceti Sakowin encampment is located. It is no coincidence that the Army Corps of Engineers has chosen Dec 5th, General George Armstrong Custer’s birthday, as the date it plans to evict people from the Oceti Sakowin Camp. Custer broke the treaty to dig for gold, the Army Corps is breaking the treaty over oil.

The Corps says its decision to clear the area is necessary to protect people from violent confrontations with law enforcement and to uphold the Corps’s land leases to private individuals for grazing and haying uses. It has designated a ‘free speech zone’ south of the Cannonball River, and anyone outside that area will be considered trespassing and subject to forcible removal and prosecution. Anyone that chooses to remain at the encampment “does so at their own risk, and assumes any and all corresponding liabilities for their unlawful presence.”

The Army Corps has no authority to evict us from these lands. The Oceti Sakowin encampment is located on the ancestral homeland of the Lakota, Mandan, Arikara, and Northern Cheyenne — on territory never ceded to the U.S. government, and affirmed in the 1851 Treaty of Ft. Laramie as sovereign land belonging to the Great Sioux Nation. The encampment is, in many respects, a reclamation of this stolen territory and the right to self-determination guaranteed in the treaties. Our water protectors are not trespassers and can never be trespassers. The Army Corps also has no authority to diminish our right to free speech - where in the Constitution does it establish zones for the right to free speech? Do corporations now decide whether the Constitution applies? We are not moving, and we will not be silenced.



As the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe noted in its response to the Army Corps, this decision “continues the cycle of racism and oppression imposed on our people and our lands throughout history.” This is not the first time these lands have been destroyed at the behest of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The best of these lands were flooded by the Army Corps in the 1950s and 1960s - countless sacred sites were desecrated, the vast majority of the timber resources and wildlife destroyed, and thousands of people displaced. We will not stand by while the federal government continues this destructive narrative.

The Army Corps’s eviction notice is an aggressive threat to Indigenous peoples. It further empowers and emboldens a militarized police force that has already injured hundreds of unarmed, peaceful water protectors, and continues to escalate its tactics of brutality against us. It adds fuel to the fire of an ongoing human rights crisis.

The extreme escalation of violence by law enforcement in recent weeks demands immediate action from the Obama administration to de-escalate and demilitarize the law enforcement response, not to further criminalize us. As the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe pointed out in its response to the Army Corps, the only way to protect people is to deny the last outstanding easement required for the pipeline to cross the Missouri River.

We call on the White House to deny the easement now, revoke the permits, remove the DAPL construction workers, and order a full Environmental Impact Statement in formal consultation with impacted tribal governments. Put an end to the violence.

In the meantime, we will stand our ground for the water and the unborn generations. Our fight is not just about a pipeline project. It is about 500 years of colonization and oppression. This is our moment, a chance to demand a future for our people and all people. We ask you to join us.

# From Smallpox-Tainted Blankets to the #NoDAPL Evacuation: The Lie of Colonial Concern

*Kelly Hayes, November 29, Truthout*

On Monday, November 28, 2016, an evacuation order was issued by the governor of North Dakota, calling for the end of the largest convergence of Native resisters in modern times. That convergence, known on social media as #NoDAPL and often simply referred to as “Standing Rock” — a place whose history and legacy have now been permanently expanded to encompass this moment in time — has existed in defiance of colonial violence for months now. It is a convergence that has been assailed and slandered in news reports that take the word of law enforcement as gospel, despite the factual evidence that law enforcement has a chronic tendency to dehumanize and kill us. That tendency is the story of our existence since first contact. So is the resistance with which it has been met.

Now multiple levels of government are once again acting in concert to write their preferred ending to another chapter of that story. In essence, the “emergency evacuation” order from Governor Jack Dalrymple echoes the recently feigned concerns of the Army Corps of Engineers, stating that the area’s plunging temperatures and heavy snowfall pose an unacceptable safety hazard to the Water Protectors. (Such concerns for our people’s warmth were notably lacking when law enforcement blasted Protectors with water cannons in sub-zero temperatures.) [...]

These proclamations have nothing to do with Native safety or survival. Our well-being has never been a priority within these United States. If it were, we would not live as we live and die as we die. We would not be killed at a higher rate by police than any other group. We would not have been subjected to such violence on the frontlines of Standing Rock or any other site of Native resistance. Every rubber bullet that has struck Native flesh, every blast of freezing water that has battered Indigenous bodies at skin-ripping velocities and every cloud of tear gas — everything you have seen retells the story of how little they care about our survival.

Our people having been facing a brutal storm in Standing Rock for some time now. The notion that some threat of death and suffering is now officially relevant, now that it is posed by nature as opposed to law enforcement’s tools of torture and repression, is an insult to us all. The truth could not be plainer. The path of the pipeline, ... the repression and the constant threat of an all-out siege are more evidence than anyone should need, for they are merely part of a larger pattern of evidence.

The Army Corps made its recent statement as a PR maneuver. By issuing an eviction date, even without the threat of force, it has skirted any liability for whatever law enforcement does next. The Army Corps declared December 5 the day on which our people will be deemed intruders on the stolen land the Corps governs. Like the governor, the Corps was sure to couch its decision in feigned concern for our people. The position it made clear was as simple as it was spineless: If our people freeze, we will have no one to blame but ourselves, because we were warned. And if our people are further barbarized by law enforcement, it will have been by our

own choice, because we were given fair warning.

After a full day of public outcry, the Army Corps clarified that it had no specific plans for the removal of our Water Protectors. Its statement was more of a proclamation justifying any ugly consequences of resisting yet another displacement.

As Native people, we know this refrain. It is in fact the mechanism by which this government has always sought to manage the Indigenous peoples who its extermination efforts failed to wipe from the continent. After every mass murder and every geographical reshuffling, the same cycle has repeated itself. Our people are forced to accept false boundaries and containment, or assimilation, because we are offered no other choice. We are pushed into spaces that are not seen as limiting expansion — until those lands or waters are found to have significant value. When the prospect of wealth is detected, those lands and waters are also looted, leaving disease and devastation in the wake of still more violence against both land and human beings.

Oppressions replicate themselves, throughout history and throughout societies, until they consume targets well beyond those they were constructed to control or destroy. We see this in the gentrification that destroys both Black and Brown communities. We see this in the reshaping of slavery, which also consumes Native lives through the prison-industrial complex. [...]

The United States, is as diseased now as the smallpox-ridden blankets that were handed to us so many years ago. It is an irony not lost on us that this government once again masks its attacks as efforts to keep us from the cold — to preserve us with a false regard that reeks of death. But we see what lies ahead. In my own imagination, from so many miles away, I can see the barricades that could soon prevent firewood and life-giving food from reaching my people. I can see a government impatiently attempting to freeze and starve out our resisters, for their “own good.” I see them waiting until they believe that all those left standing are weak and ill-prepared for an onslaught. [...]

But I do not see us defeated. The truth is, this government has yet to defeat us. We have survived, battle to battle, from one patch of land to another. We are the blood of what could not be killed, and the heart of our resistance now beats in Standing Rock. And it will continue to strengthen us all.

*UPDATE, 11/30/16, 9:00am CT:* North Dakota officials announced that police will stop anyone attempting to bring camping supplies — including food and firewood -- to the Oceti Sakowin Camp, and they may be fined up to \$1,000.

*UPDATE, 11/30/16, 3:40pm CT:* The governor of North Dakota, Jack Dalrymple, has walked back — or “clarified” — plans to issue fines of up to \$1000 to anyone delivering supplies to the Water Protectors. “There was a misunderstanding on how we are going to use this executive order. We are not going to be stopping people,” claimed Dalrymple.

## Veterans for Standing Rock #NoDAPL

We are veterans of the United States Armed Forces, including the U.S. Army, United States Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard and we are calling for our fellow veterans to assemble as a peaceful, unarmed militia at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation on December 4-7 and defend the water protectors from assault and intimidation at the hands of the militarized police force and Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) security.

*2k Event Capacity Achieved:* Event capacity based on accommodations, travel logistics and supplies; given the time we have to coordinate, resources available and the shipping and weather conditions in the region has been set at 2,000 rostered participants. We currently have over 2,100 Veterans on the roster. Our goal now is to prioritize this list to Veterans and Civilian personnel involved with operations, planning and on-site execution. We will be collecting names for future missions on a new roster (<https://goo.gl/forms/37SEWGvbeMLpervY2>), next mission could be as early as the 2nd week of December. More to come

The funds we raise will go towards providing food, transportation and supplies for the brave patriots that come and stand with us, [more than \$1 million was raised in 22 days].

We will be standing alongside peaceful water protectors, who have endured violent attacks from the private security funded by DAPL and more brutality and arrests at the hands of militarized police and DAPL security. We have the full support of the Sioux tribe

elders and will be cooperating with them every step of the way.

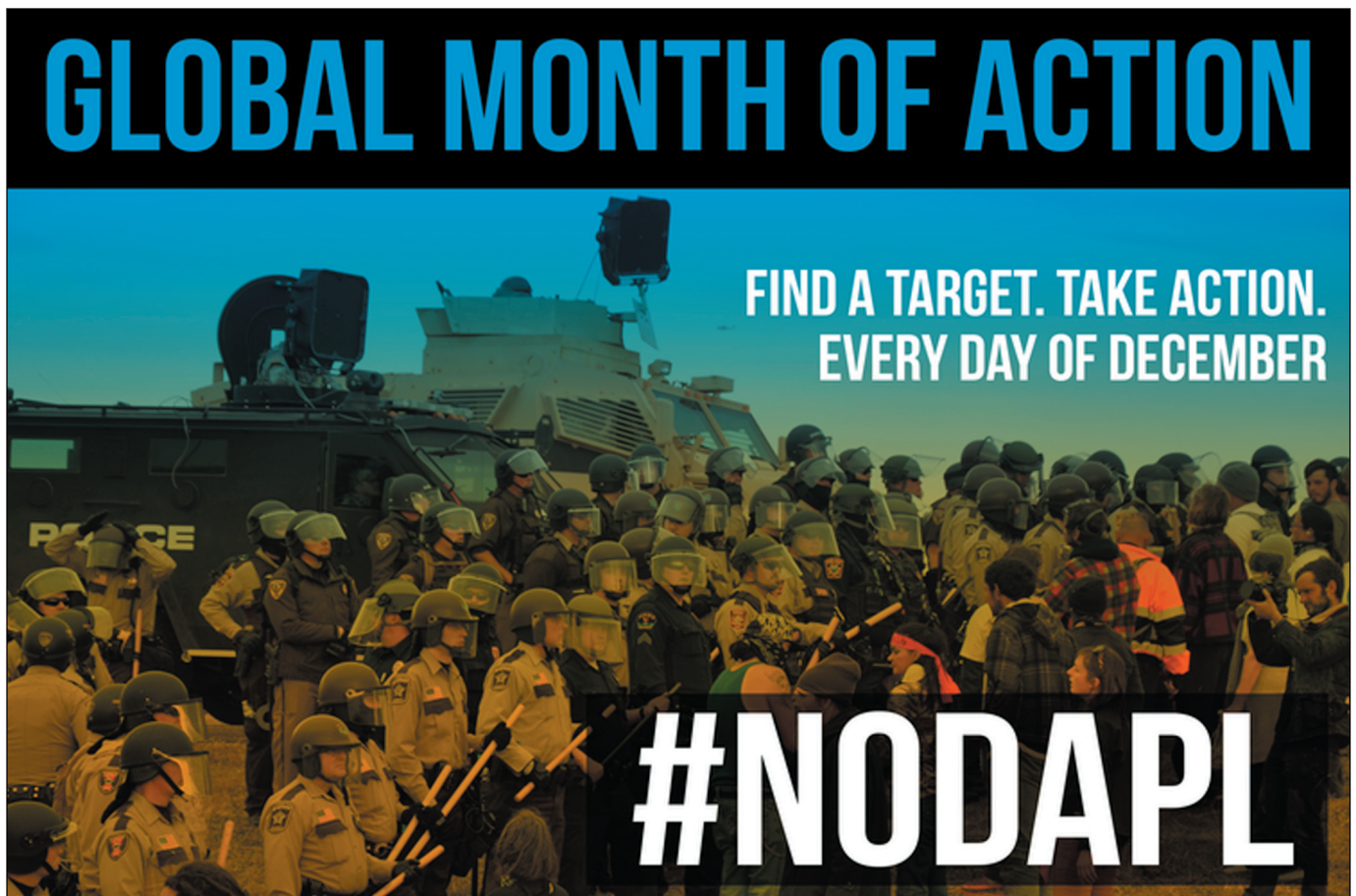
Here is some of what the protectors at Standing Rock have faced: Mace, sound cannons, sniper guns pointed at unarmed civilians, journalists being shot with rubber bullets, journalists being arrested for covering the protests, attack dogs unleashed on groups including children, elder Natives getting tased and violently arrest, protesters marked with numbers and kept in dog kennels after arrest...

On November 20, Morton County Sherrif Department forces attacked water protectors with water cannons in freezing temperatures and launched concussion grenades into a peaceful crowd. Several had to be treated for hypothermia and one protestor who was hit directly with a grenade has reportedly had her arm amputated as a result.

Everyday it becomes more evident that the defenders of America must stand with the Water Protectors. Let us stop this savage injustice being committed right here at home. If not us, who? If not now, when? Are you a hero? Are you honorable? Not if you allow this the be the United States.

Please donate and pass this page along to your friends, family, coworkers and community members.

It is time to display that honor, courage, and commitment we claim to represent. It is time for real Patriots. Now more than ever, it is time for everyone to lead.



# Iraq Veterans Against the War #NoDAPL Statement of Solidarity

*Iraq Veterans Against the War*

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) comes together in solidarity and resistance with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Oceti Sakowin (The Great Sioux Nation), and the thousands of water warriors defending their land and livelihood from the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). If construction is completed, the



DAPL will transport 450,000 barrels of fracked and highly volatile crude oil per day from the Bakken fields of North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. As U.S. Military Veterans and Service members, many of whom have witnessed first hand the degradation and pollution caused by war, we denounce this corporate environmental catastrophe in the making.

The proposed 1,172-mile pipeline threatens the health of 17 million people who rely upon the Missouri River for water. IVAW supports The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Oceti Sakowin in their opposition to the pipeline, which trespasses their territory as defined by the 1851 and 1868 Fort Laramie treaties, and their demand that these treaties be obeyed as law.

The Army Corps Of Engineers are violating the rights se-



cured to all human beings by the Charter of the United Nations and specifically to Indigenous peoples under the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. By Article VI, Clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution, that we as veterans swore to uphold, these have become part of the Supreme Law of the U.S.

The violation of the Fort Laramie treaties is an affront to Native sovereignty, and we recognize that upholding Native treaties is essential to the fight against climate change. We decry the violence being used against innocent and unarmed protectors and believe it to be a heinous act being committed by our government.

We recognize the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Indigenous peoples from all over the world who are gathering, fighting, and protecting their land and resources against all threats, foreign and domestic. The DAPL threatens the health, welfare, and dignity of sovereign Indigenous nations and autonomous Indigenous communities here and abroad.

As veterans against illegal occupations by the U.S. military, we know the Army Corp of Engineers is part of an apparatus of imperial violence that displaces Indigenous peoples across the world in order to appropriate natural resources. The U.S. Military is implicated in the global pollution and privatization of land, water, and air for profit. We will not stand aside and allow corporate greed to continue to exploit Indigenous territory for dangerous resource extraction plans that jeopardizes the health of all people and the planet.

IVAW joins the call for the Army Corps of Engineers to reject the permit for the Dakota Access Pipeline to drill under Lake Oahe. IVAW stands in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Oceti Sakowin to protect the water and future of generations to come.

#NoDAPL #RespectOurWater #WaterIsLife

OUR SECURITY LIES IN OUR FIGHT FOR RIGHTS

