The Relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Current anti-imperialist Struggle

Socorro Gomes, President World Peace Council

In October 2019, the World Peace Council (WPC) participated in the 11th Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (MENAR) in Baku, Azerbaijan. As always, we expressed our commitment with the very current Bandung Principles, translated in our full engagement in the anti-imperialist struggle for peace, guiding our action through these 70 years of WPC existence.

The MENAR counts on 120 member countries, besides 17 countries and 10 international organizations with observer status such as the African Union and Arab League, the UN and the WPC. It demonstrates its contemporaneity by strengthening agreements for the defense of the UN Charter and of principles that should rule international relations: the nations’ sovereignty, self-determination, non-interference, rejection of offensive actions of military blocs, aggressions and the threat of the use of force, and the promotion of the conflicts’ peaceful solution, coordination and respect for international law.

In the 2019 Summit, we emphasized the two MENAR founding moments, the 1955 Bandung Conference and the 1961 Belgrade Conference, as expressions of the struggle for a new economic and political order order unimpeded in the protracted struggle for national liberation of peoples under the powers’ domination after World War II. This new wave shows how important it is for us to march together to overcome underdevelopment and face powers that get their strengths from the exploitation of others, and to defeat the grave imperialist threats, with the US and its NATO allies as the main engine, putting humanity at the brink of annihilation by nuclear weapons. Even nowadays there remain around 14,000 nuclear weapons on the planet. Furthermore, the United States and Russia each maintain roughly 900 nuclear weapons on prompt-launch status — high alert or hair-trigger alert — so they can be launched in minutes. According to the scientific research, a small portion, around 100 nuclear detonations, would cause global climate change by generated black carbon.[1]

The proud anti-imperialist history of the WPC is well known to all serious peace activists throughout the world. But, unfortunately, the WPC family does not include, and naturally could not include, all of the forces who are fighting against US/NATO imperialist aggression in every corner of the world every day. Yet, unified and coordinated action of all these forces has always been the fundamental requirement for a successful struggle to put an end to the military, economic, and environmental war that is being waged against all of humanity. The Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism is a response to this challenge. It was the first significant step toward creating a broad, unified international front against imperialism.

At the time of this writing, close to one hundred delegates from about forty countries have registered to attend the Conference and, the list is growing. It is indeed a significant achievement that twenty-seven of the forty participating countries (close to 70 percent) are from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East — all, one way or another, primary victims of imperialist aggression. It is for the first time that such a large number of peace organizations from every oppressed region of the world are participating in an international conference specifically organized to address the issue of imperialism. This is an unprecedented historical achievement that we need to value and build on.

Yet, this achievement has not come easily. Rather, it has been the result of years of dedicated but difficult struggle by the World Peace Council at the global level, and the US Peace Council and its anti-imperialist allied organizations in the United States. As a result, a significant part of the peace movement around the world is under the influence of social democratic parties and governments of Europe, which are close allies of the United States in NATO and other similar aggressive treaties. In addition, many of the social democratic forces in the peace movement are receiving financial support from numerous foundations affiliated with these parties and states. This NATO-friendly influence and the financial support accompanying it have had a negative impact on the peace movement globally. Most of these forces, concerned about losing the political and financial support to these parties, funds, parties and states, have for decades refused to take an anti-imperialist position. And this has created a deep division between the social democratic wing and the anti-imperialist wing of the global peace movement over the very issue of imperialism.

With the help of massive political and financial support they received, these forces have managed to ignore and even in some cases isolate the anti-imperialist wing of the peace movement in almost every country, especially in the United States. And it was not easy for the anti-imperialist forces, with their limited resources and access, to overcome these negative influences to build unity within the movement.

However, the new wave of U.S. and NATO attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and many other countries has for the first time while clearly expressed the true nature of imperialism to many sincere peace forces who were under the influence of social democrats. They began to consider working with the anti-imperialist peace forces on various issues related to war and aggression. And this, for us, was the beginning of the long process of collective work that has now culminated in the convening of the Cyprus Conference.

In the U.S., our collective work began on Syria with a small number of anti-imperialist peace organizations. For this reason, we expanded our anti-imperialist coalition by organizing a national movement against U.S. foreign military bases. This led to the creation of the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases consisting of close to twenty anti-imperialist organizations in the United States, which was joined by the World Peace Council immediately.

This new coalition organized the First National Conference Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases in Baltimore, Maryland, in January of 2011, in which the WPC played a key role. However, for us, the focus on military bases was just a step toward our ultimate goal of uniting and elevating the global peace movement to the level of direct struggle against imperialism as the main threat to peace. The Baltimore Conference called for an international conference against US/NATO bases, which was held in November of the same year, in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by our sister organization, PANA.

In both cases, we faced fierce resistance of the social democratic wing of the peace movement.
Delivered by Iraklis Tsavdaridis
WPC Executive Secretary

The WPC family is fulfilling today together with AIPSO a special task by honoring the historical leader of the WPC and son of the Indian people, late comrade Romesh Chandra, who passed away on 4th July 2016 in the age of 97.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the WPC, we are paying once more our tribute to the outstanding figure of the World Peace Movement in his centenary of birth. By remembering Romesh Chandra for his lifetime contribution to the WPC, we carry on his legacy and commitment for a world without imperialist wars and exploitation, for a world of peace and social justice where all the people of the planet will live in equality and as masters of their destiny.

Romesh Chandra was born on March 30th, 1919, in Lyallpur, India. He received degrees from a university in Lahore and from Cambridge University. From 1934 to 1941 he was chairman of the Student League. He became a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in 1939; of the Central Committee of the CPI in 1952; of the National Council of the CPI in 1958; and of the Central Executive Committee in 1956. From 1963 to 1967, he was a member of the Central Secretariat of the National Council of the CPI. And from 1963 to 1966, Chandra was editor of the central organ of the CPI, New Age.

He served as General Secretary of All-India Peace Council from 1952 to 1963. In 1953, he joined the World Peace Council, and in 1966 he became the WPC’s General Secretary and a member of its presidium. In 1977 he was elected President of the WPC. During the Assembly of WPC in 1988, Romesh Chandra contributed decisively to the preservation of the anti-imperialist character of the WPC, and got elected as Honorary President. In more than half the time of the 70 years of history and struggle of the WPC, our Romesh Chandra was present on the front line of this prestigious international organisation. Romesh Chandra experienced the times of highest level of international recognition for the WPC, as well as the difficult times of the 1990s, when friends and enemies thought there might not be any future for the WPC. In the year 2000, his advice and opinion was decisive in “re-directing” things towards the historical mission and role of the WPC. Romesh Chandra, along with other WPC leaders, was troubled with the stand of things in the WPC towards the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999. He could not accept and tolerate the ambiguous position that was actually justifying the crimes of the NATO imperialists.

Romesh Chandra was awarded the F. Joliot-Curie Gold Peace Medal in 1964. He received the International Lenin Prize for Strengthening Peace among Nations in 1968, and was awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples in 1975 from the USSR.

Romesh Chandra was a genuine son and figure of the Indian working-class movement and one of the leaders of the world peace movement. He was an example of an internationalist who never compromised his revolutionary identity and values. He championed the support for the liberation struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Middle East, and the struggles against dictatorial regimes around the world.

Until today, we meet people around the world who identify the WPC with its historical leader Romesh Chandra. For us, who had the privilege to meet and work with Romesh Chandra personally it constitutes an important part of our struggle. With his deepest understanding of the world culture and history, of the world peace movement, of the independence of the developing countries, Romesh Chandra’s statements voiced fluently in English and French in the name of peace and the progressive people of the world on all people’s international forums for peace, solidarity and friendship spread all over the world, including at the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Forum or in the Non Aligned Movement (NAM). His speeches attracted and encouraged people of all generations to engage in the peace, friendship and solidarity activities and the struggle for a peaceful world of justice and social progress.

We are very proud that we took the initiative to visit Romesh Chandra at his place of origin in November 2014 in Mumbai, right after the Goa Executive Committee of the WPC with a ten member delegation. The visit took place one year after I had the pleasure of visiting Romesh Chandra alone in September 2013, in order to prepare the collective visit for 2014. In our meeting with Romesh, his son Feroze and daughter in law Sandra, we felt that the WPC was really his second family.

Romesh Chandra is lying, and will lie, remembered by the future generations in the WPC as a genuine Indian Patriot and Internationalist, a tireless anti-imperialist peace fighter, a leader of the global peace movement. We will be always in our hearts and minds!

Message of Condolences About the Demise of Comrade Fanis Christodoulou

The Secretariat of the WPC
Athens 7th February 2020

President:
Socorro Gomes
Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CERPAZ)

General Secretary:
Thanassis Pafilis
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (KEDYE)

Executive Secretary:
Iraklis Tsavdaridis
Greek Committee for International Détente and Peace (KEDYE)

The World Peace Council (WPC) is in grief about the loss of our comrade Fanis Christodoulou, General Secretary of the Cyprus Peace Council on 6th February 2020 at the age of 67.

Comrade Fanis, an outstanding son of the working class of Cyprus, a longstanding member of the leadership of AKEL, and a committed anti-imperialist fighter for peace, championed throughout his life the struggle for the benefit of the Cypriot people, for the re-unification of his divided fatherland and the struggle of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to an end of the occupation of the island.

Fanis Christodoulou made an important contribution in the three years of his responsibility as General Secretary of the Cyprus Peace Council, to the strengthening of the WPC, and to the internationalist missions and the trilateral meetings of the peace movements of Cyprus, Turkey and Greece.

His anti-imperialist commitment was of decisive importance for the ongoing plans of the WPC to hold in March 2020 the Anti-imperialist Conference in Cyprus, for which he was working day and night.

Comrade Fanis was an example for his deeply rooted understanding of the nature of the counter-revolutionary times, with deep appreciation of the role and service of the socialist countries and of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria in particular, where he had the chance to study and graduate. As a genuine patriot and internationalist, he served as an example to the younger generations, which shall continue his legacy.

The peace movement of Cyprus and the World Peace Council have lost an outstanding figure from their ranks. We express our deep sorrow and condolences to the family of comrade Fanis, to the Cyprus Peace Council, and to his party AKEL.

Comrade Fanis will be remembered by the WPC in our future struggles.

The WPC will be present in the funeral of Fanis Christodoulou by its General Secretary, Comrade Thanassis Pafilis, in Larnaca on 7th February.

Organizational Members of the Secretariat:
• All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO)
• Brazilian Center for the Solidarity with the Peoples and the Struggle for Peace (CERPAZ)
• Congo Peace Conference (CPC)
• Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOPAZ)
• Cyprus Peace Council (CPC)
• Palestinian Committee for Peace and Solidarity (CPPC)
• Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC)
• South African Peace Initiative (SAPI)
• Syrian National Peace Council (SNPC)
• US Peace Council (USPC)
COSI — Venezuela

Recently, Venezuela has continued to be at the heart of imperialist warfare, the defence of peace, sovereignty, human rights and the use of unilateral coercive measures as a tool for the profitability of US imperialism. In recent years, Venezuela has faced severe economic sanctions, but it has not been able to maintain its defense of peace, sovereignty, and solidarity. The US government has imposed sanctions on Venezuela since 2019, and it is evident that this has not been enough to stop the defense of peace, sovereignty, and solidarity in Venezuela.

Peace Committee of Turkey

The crisis that the imperial system has been going through for a long time, has undermined the leading position of the USA within the imperialist system. This fact has led other powers, namely Russia and China and the prominent European powers, to seek new approaches. This process is deepening and the nature of this very process is pushing our world to a war atmosphere, which can lead to extremely dangerous dimensions.

Turkey is situated in one of the most important geographic regions, from which a more extensive war can be ignited and promote the sedition of the forces that support the processes within the framework of military civic unity. This plan incorporates increasing numbers of mercenaries and terrorists, as well as demobilized paramilitaries from Colombia.

As part of the attack initiated by the US Presidential Decree signed by Barack Obama in 2015 which declared Venezuela an unusual and extraordinary threat, at least 300 unilateral coercive measures, better known as sanctions, have been passed. These measures have impacted all strategic sectors of the national economy, including the financial and oil sectors, and have generated large losses totalling US $120 billion, resources that directly affect the importing of medicines and food to meet the needs of the people.

In the context of these actions against the country, it has been essential to have the solidarity of peace organisations in the world, with the determination of action of the World Peace Council. The WPC declared its solidarity with the initiatives of Venezuela in 2019, the first from the US Peace Council in March, and the second in coordination with the World Federation of Democratic Youth in April. Similarly, the WPC participated in the World Gathering against Imperialism, for Peace, Life and Sovereignty in January this year.

From the COSI, we reaffirm our inescapable commitment to struggle for peace and international solidarity alongside all the just causes in the world that defend the sovereignty, independence and right to self-determination of the people. The defence of peace is an urgent task that brings us together and which we must strengthen to make decisive progress in this struggle.

Escalating tensions in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean

This hostility has political and ideological (Islamist reaction) roots; on the other hand, it is clear that Turkey's economic and strategic interests are also involved, besides giving it new grounds, and all this, to stay in power. This opportunistic policy is a reflection of despair.

To sum up, regional powers are implementing their opportunistic policies, which sometimes do not fall in line with imperialist interventions of the USA and European powers. The alliances made by these powers, who try to legitimise their policies on national and regional levels, reveal their class character. Just like the other powers are doing, Neo-Ottomanism is paving the way for the expansion of Turkish monopolies' influence in Africa.

Along with the recent developments first in Libya and more seriously in Syria, the imperialist pressures appear clearly becoming warmer. In Syria, Turkish armed forces are currently fighting in cooperation with reactionary groups, against the Syrian armed forces. This is nothing more than disrespecting another country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. After flaring up with Russia for sanctuary, the Turkish government is calling for USA's and NATO's support. Of course, using the opportunity, Israel is also intervening against Syria. It seems that the Turkish government is trying to expand the war and even try to pave the way for a confrontation between the USA and Russia.

In spite of the fact that this is possible, we have to emphasise that in today's world, where imperialism prevails, the tensions have escalated to such a level that they may get out of control with the smallest of miscalculations.

To sum up, all forces that work for peace should struggle to eliminate this danger and put forth the demand for peace, Wars that take place between capitalist forces, are nothing but imperialist wars of the capitalist classes. It only brings destruction to the working classes. With wars, capitalist classes will enforce nationalistic and chauvinistic sentiments. The only result for the working classes will be destruction. What we need is peace.
The Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of the World Peace Council was successfully in Vientiane Lao PDR on 24th November 2019, hosted by the Lao Committee for Peace and Solidarity (LCPS) and co-organized with the WPC Secretariat meeting on 25th and 26th November and in total participated by the 29th WPC. The region comprises 18 countries (Laos, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, DPR Korea, Philippines, Australia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam from the Asia region; Greece, USA, Portugal, Cyprus, Palestine, Syria, Cuba and South Africa).

The meeting was warmly welcomed by the President of LCPS Somphane Phengkhamboun with the presence of the WPC Secretariat and in particular of the WPC President Socrates Gomes, the General Secretary Thanassis Pafilis, the Executive Secretary Iraklis Tsavaldis and other prominent leaders of the WPC.

We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realize lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula by all concerned parties and the complete demilitarization of the Peninsula. We urged the US and South Korean authorities to take a concrete and lasting step in the end of the US foreign army into the North of Korea and its army, the situation has not been solved despite the withdrawal of the US foreign army and the big front of the peoples against imperialism. We expressed our deep concern about the more than one million refugees thrown from Syria and the brutal occupation of their homeland and their territories which forced them exile. We demand the withdrawal of all foreign occupiers from Syria along with their mercenaries.

We demand the appropriate compensation and measures to end the cause to this problem by the ones who have created it. We demand to the municipalities to end all their above efforts to instrumentalize the crisis for political, social and religious purpose and geo-strategic aims by the superpowers.

The WPC is following with concern the developments in the South China Sea, particularly about the territorial and maritime disputes between various parties, with the participation of many international players. We are extremely concerned about the more than 3 million refugees who are defending their achievements and rights of peaceful coexistence working towards the realization of lasting peace stability and security on the Korean Peninsula.

We welcomed, although being cautious, the initiatives among Syria and Turkey towards the realization of peace and stability. We demand the immediate withdrawal from the war zones and the international community involvement in order to reach a peace accord in replacement of the Armistice agreement of 1953.

We support the Korean people in their just cause for peaceful and independent reunification of their fatherland. The participants of the meeting stated clearly their demand for the end of the military exercises of USA and its allies on and around the peninsula and for the withdrawal of the US-troop and their weapons from Korean soil.

The participants of the meeting expressed their deep concern about the growing religious fundamentalisms, extremism and all kinds of terrorism in the region. These dangerous developments are influenced by sectarian and fundamentalist ideologies which are weakening and undermining the unity of the people and thereby hindering the united struggle of the peoples against imperialism.

(LCPS) underlined its strong concern about the more than one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, which constitute a humanitarian crisis which has spread to the whole internal community and the UN with adequate humanitarian help and with respect to their rights to decent life and repatriation to their homes with civil and political rights. At the same time we observe any efforts to instrumentize the crisis for religious purpose and geo-strategic aims by the superpowers.

In these opportunities the WPC witnessed the convergence created to speed the process of change within the UN, to broaden its systems of decision, the support to new alliances such as the BRICS group; and efforts to fulfill the 2030 Agenda’s goals, with emphasis to peace and the eradication of extreme poverty as a basis for sustainable development.

In globalization process dominated by superpowers and of violent offensive against the workers and peoples, solidarity, cooperation and a joint quest for national development with social justice and full implementation of human rights are even more necessary.

Despite the apparent world convergence around these commitments, reality shows that dangers to peace, the peoples’ rights and national sovereignty are greater, with countless developments speaking less of peaceful coexistence or dialogue solutions of conflicts and more of “regime change”, coup d’état, economic, commercial and financial sanctions, nuclear threats, military bases and offensive alliances, aggressions, and other really grave violations of international law. Conflicts of diverse forms develop world-wide, all linked to economic exploitation and chronic social oppression.

However, the peoples resist. In this trend towards a world in which there are fundamental roles for peace in the struggle for peace, development and national emancipation. The WPC joins the Movement in promoting these goals and commits to a broad convergence to strengthen solidarity among the peoples, facing these great challenges.
The Brazilian People Fight the Extreme Right-Wing Regime

José Reinaldo Carvalho* CEBRAPAZ — Brazil

Brazil lives a period of political tensions, social crisis and the threat of the imposition of a dictatorial regime.

The country has been governed since 2019 by an extreme-right regime, the result of the 2016 coup d’état against President Dilma Rousseff and elections held under unfair conditions.

During the 2018 electoral campaign, reactionary forces were coordinated and arrested former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a popular leader supported by the masses and recognized all over Latin America, preventing him from running for office. The democratic system was shattered, and the country drowned in instability.

The Brazilian dominant classes and their international imperialist allies sponsored Jair Bolsonaro’s election to impose their international imperialist allies’ program, which destroyed the nation’s political system. In 2019, by imposing their international imperialist allies’ program, Brazil became the spearhead of that superpower’s military, economic and environmental war machine. The imperialist peace movement will have to sink the colonialist peace movement. The Brazilian patriotic forces, while supporting the populaces’ revolt and the patriots’ indignation. Political forces and popular movements are ever broader and numerous, rising against this anti-democratic, anti-people and anti-national government. Therefore, the Brazilian people’s possibilities of resistance and struggle are growing.

The pushes against democracy, attacks against the workers’ and the Brazilian people’s rights, and submission to US imperialism. Jair Bolsonaro regards the US President Donald Trump a world leader to be followed unconditionally.

Brazil must be capable to preserve the Amazon Forest and the environment and feel part of the humanity’s common destiny, but this will not be accomplished by imposition and interference from colonialist powers.

The Brazilian patriotic forces, while supporting the populaces’ revolt and the patriots’ indignation. Political forces and popular movements are ever broader and numerous, rising against this anti-democratic, anti-people and anti-national government. Therefore, the Brazilian people’s possibilities of resistance and struggle are growing.

Portugal: Broad Action for Peace, Disarmament and International Solidarity

CPPC — Portugal

The last few months continued to be marked by a wide and intense activity of Portuguese Council for Peace and Cooperation (CPPC), in Portugal, in favour of peace, disarmament and solidarity with the peoples that resist the aggression, blockades, interference and blackmail of imperialism; the edition of communiqués and statements, the regular publication and distribution of the Noticias da Paz bulletin, the holding of conferences and debates in schools, social clubs and various public spaces and the promotion of street gatherings, art exhibitions and concerts. The CPPC has some of the forms that this activity took.

The CPPC was the main driver of all this action, but it integrated in its preparation and realization many other organizations, entities and personalities: union structures, local collectives and associations, schools, municipalities, artists and musicians, among others.

The various Concerts for Peace carried out, in which some of the most renowned Portuguese and international musicians participate generously, reach large numbers of people. The exhibitions of Artists for Peace also assume particular importance.

Highlights of that period include the convergence of wills for peace is the Meeting for Peace, which after the success of 2019(with dozens of entities involved in its realization and the presence of hundreds of people), will be held again this year on May 30.

Many Causes for Peace

In addition, CPPC, by itself or in partnership with other organizations, has promoted in recent months several initiatives on specific topics.

Public concentrations against the visit of the American Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, guaranteeing that “they were not welcome in Portugal”. That was also a moment to reaffirm the rejection of the Israeli illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, the US threats against Iran, militarism, foreign military bases, the arms race, the increase in military expenditure. An occasion to reaffirm the solidarity with the peoples of the Middle East, and also of Latin America, in their struggle against imperialism aggression and for peace and sovereignty, and to denounce the Portuguese Government’s active complicity with imperialism.

Days before, in public events, the CPPC continues to reaffirm its commitment to act side by side with all those who, in Portugal and in the world, intervene for a world of freedom, sovereignty, democracy, social justice and progress, solidarity and Peace.

The Amazon region is at the center of state proceedings and military intervention in Latin America. Sided with the also extreme-right regime of Colombia, they lead the campaign for the overthrow of the anti-imperialist government of Nicolás Maduro and to liquidate the Venezuelan Bolivarian Revolution. Some sectors of the Brazilian regime even support a military intervention against Venezuela.

Bolsonaro also aligned Brazil to the Zionist Israeli regime and conducts an active policy against the interests of the Palestinian and Iranian peoples. One of the most salient aspects of Brazil’s extreme-right government is the devastation of the Amazon, an immense region of about five million square kilometers where the largest tropical forest is, one of the planet’s biggest reserves of biodiversity. The Amazon region is at the center of the result of a conception of government that does not address the issue of imperialism directly.

And herein lies the historical significance of the Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism. This Conference is the latest step in our long and difficult struggle toward creation of a unified global front against imperialism, a front that includes not only the members of our WPC and No Bases Coalition anti-imperialist family, but the broadest possible array of peace forces from around the world.

We are proud of what we have achieved so far. But there is still a long and difficult struggle ahead of us.

The peace movement is still too weak and too divided to be able to defeat the imperialists’ military, economic and environmental war machine. The imperialist states are acting globally in a united way in support to the imperialists’ aggression against the peoples of all nations of the world. Only a globally unified, well-coordinated anti-imperialist peace movement will have the strength to push to an end the present madness that is pushing our world to the brink of total destruction.

It is our hope that the Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism will enable the global peace forces to respond to this historical necessity.
Bolivia: The Struggle for Democracy Is Not Over

U.S. Peace Council

In early January 2020, the Trump Administration’s assassination of a top Iranian general in Baghdad, Iraq brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis shoved many other crises to the sidelines. A major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understa...
that should govern international relations of the peoples and principles of international law, that define principles of the United Nations Charter and are responsible for the disrespect for the principles of anti-fascism.

The recurrence of anti-fascism, the most violent expression of capitalism, was responsible for crimes such as the mass extermination of populations and of prisoners in concentration camps, the imposition of forced labour, the systematic destruction of economic and social infrastructure and cultural heritage. But no matter how strong this destructive beast it was faced and defeated by those who resisted and fought for their freedom and for anti-fascism. It is necessary to underline the enormous and decisive contribution of the Soviet Union and its people for the Victory, paying the price of more than 20 million.

Triggered by Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and militaristic Japan, with the collusion of the USA, UK and France, Second World War had as its central causes the dispute between the great imperialist powers and the desire for fascism. The nazi-fascist war machine to destroy the USSR.

Recalling the Second World War and its lessons is necessary, so that the barbarism caused by Nazifascism may never be repeated. This is especially important when the current international situation is marked by huge risks to world peace and security, by the growing global aggressiveness of imperialism.

When the Western powers, particularly the United States of America, try to safeguard its hegemonic domination at the world level, by the escalation of militarism, in pursuit of the race for new, more sophisticated and destructive weapons, including nuclear, the installation of new military forces and equipment around the world. A time marked by interference and violent operations of destabilization, war, sanctions, interventions, economic and financial blockades, imposed by USA, NATO, EU and their allies against countries and their peoples. The West’s militarism and interventionism is not just a problem for the West, but a problem for the whole world. This is why, we must fight for peace and security at the international level.

The memory and lessons from the Second World War must be kept alive to document the continuity of imperialist fascism’s responsibilities and the role of imperialist powers in triggering the greatest conflict imposed on Humanity, as well as the inhumane falsification of History, trying to hide the determining role of the USSR and the resistance of communists and other anti-fascists in the Victory over fascism – as a resolution adopted in the European Parliament does.

The memory and lessons of the Second World War are especially important when USA, NATO, EU and their allies are responsible for the disrespect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law, that define important rights of the peoples and principles that should govern international relations – rights and principles conquered after the Victory over fascism, as a result of the correlation of forces that was favourable to anti-fascism, peace, national self-determination and social progress forces.

Also from the horror of fascism and anti-fascism, the most violent expression of capitalism, was responsible for crimes such as the mass extermination of populations and of prisoners in concentration camps, in brutal massacres. 75 years past we must not forget the war in which for the first and only time nuclear weapons were used by the USA, against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Liz Payne, Convener British Peace Assembly

The prime minister recently described the UK’s commitment to NATO as “rock solid.” This is alarming given NATO’s strategy, confirmed at its late 2019 London Summit, of responding to any threat, at any time, from any direction, with even space declared an operational domain for the war-alliance. And Britain really means it. It puts its money where its mouth is, already exceeding NATO’s target of 2% GDP and pledging to increase this by at least 0.5% above inflation year on year.

Another “rock solid” commitment is the government’s dedication to its long-standing “special relationship” with Washington. This manifests itself not only in the mass-media spectacle of Trump and Johnson as ‘best friends’ but in virtually every aspect of the UK’s foreign policy.

The British strategically invested in the US as a major shareholder of the US, support on which the latter is absolutely dependent in fulfilling its ‘facilitating’ role in global stability.

Britain continues as an Imperialist ‘Pillar of Strength’ for the US-led War-Mongering Allies

The 75th anniversary of the victory over World War II is a reminder of the importance of peace and the need for international cooperation. The victory was achieved through the collective efforts of the Allies, particularly the United States of America, the Soviet Union, and the UK, which played a crucial role in defeating the Axis powers.

The ongoing challenges of today, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and the threat of war, highlight the importance of maintaining a strong and unified international community. The memory of the sacrifices made during the Second World War serves as a reminder of the dangers of conflict and the need for peace.

The United Nations, established after the war, continues to play a critical role in maintaining international peace and security. It is important that the principles of the United Nations Charter are upheld and that the world works together to address the challenges of today.

The 75th anniversary of the victory over World War II serves as a reminder of the importance of remembering the sacrifices made and the need for continued cooperation to ensure peace and security for future generations.
Committee Against War
Milan, Italy

The current Italy’s geopolitical position as well as other European countries is due to the balance following the Second World War. US$ paid the greatest cost of war against Hitler with more than 26 million dead. Such was the main contribution to Free Europe from Nazi-Fascism, though USA achieved hegemony over Western Europe shortly after and then created the Marshall Plan linked to World Bank and International Monetary Fund in order to oblige the Western European “supported” countries to bow to the US capital system. This began an interference in the internal affairs of each country, limiting its sovereignty, which contributed to the creation of European Union’s ideal. The real matter is that the EU never was an alternative to the US. Indeed USA pushed to form the CECA, whose real aim was to produce weapons for NATO during the cold war, and consequently supported pro-EU lobbies. Such was the building of the EU. In any case NATO and the ideal of EU were always working together for subordinating the European allies to the US and guaranteeing capitalism the world hegemony. Since its birth the ideal of EU was a justification for NATO’s mission. Since the fall of USSR, EU has become a tool for letting NATO spread to Eastern Europe. The first step was entering the EU and the next, entering NATO.

Despite all this, during the cold war Italy was able to maintain enough autonomy in economic, political and international affairs to play an important mediating role in the Mediterranean area through good connections with the Arab world, and even to cooperate with US$ without really going against the donation to the US and dependence from Franco-German axis, which reduced its autonomy.

Many important political and economic influencers, such as Joseph Stiglitz, were very critical of EU’s architecture because, since the start, there did not exist a common ground to avoid creating disparities and inequities between the member countries. In the 1980s, the CEE directions pushed the Italian member from the CEE to the CEE+ with the separating the Bank of Italy from the European Central Bank (ECB). The process of privatization of strategic “assets” with their productive capacity, as well as other European countries, were very critical of EU’s architecture because, since the start, there did not exist a common ground to avoid creating disparities and inequities between the member countries. In the 1980s, the CEE directions pushed the Italian member from the CEE to the CEE+ with the separating the Bank of Italy from the European Central Bank (ECB).

With International Solidarity Our Path to Freedom Will Be Shorter, Says Saharawi Diplomat*

Almost six decades after the UN listed Western Sahara for decolonization, self-determination remains elusive. In 1975, Spain, the “Administrative Power”, or colonizer, ultimately surrendered Western Sahara to Morocco, since then the occupier, and Mauritania, which withdrew in 1979. The Saharawi POLISARIO Front recovered part of the territory through armed struggle until the 1991 cease-fire for a referendum never held. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) was declared in 1976 but invasion of its territory and dispersion of its population resulted in unspeakable crimes. Today thousands still live in refugee camps in Algeria. Saharawis have not just waited for the UN to fulfill the promise, though. They resist the brutal Moroccan occupation and demand the world’s accountability with campaigns against the plundering of Saharawi resources sold by Morocco in international markets, for the protection of their human rights, and for the referendum, while consolidating SADR institutions and drawing international solidarity. We spoke to Omaima Abdelslam, the POLISARIO representative to the UN in Geneva, about her people’s struggle.

Moara Grivelente: Dear Omaima, thank you for sharing your views on the Saharawi cause’s current stage.

Omaima Abdelslam: Thank you Moara, for the opportunity to speak about our struggle. Unfortunately, my people’s situation is very sad and uncertain, due to global changes impacting international order and to the United Nations’ weakness. The Saharawi people are dispersed in three geographical areas; 173,000 refugees live in exile in camps in Algeria; totally dependent on international cooperation; 20% of our territory is liberated and is under the SADR’s control, and 80% is under illegal Moroccan occupation. There are around 50 Saharawi political prisoners and more than 600 cases of enforced disappearance. The illegal plunder of our natural resources is ongoing, and the Moroccan regime has built a berm/wall of more than 2,700km in our territory, with millions of land mines that jeopardize social and economic development in Western Sahara.

Moara Grivelente: What are the main international campaigns?

Omaima Abdelslam: Currently, the campaigns for the liberation of all political prisoners; for dismantling the wall of occupation; for the boycott of Moroccan products produced in or illegally plundered from Western Sahara; for the boycott and judicial process against companies involved in the plunder of our natural resources in all countries; and for implementing the Saharawi people’s right to establish strong interaction with international organizations and UN mechanisms, including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It has strengthened the Saharawi’s voice in different platforms world-wide.

Moara Grivelente: With countries over-taken by undemocratic/putchist governments and some having “suspended” or denied recognition of SADR, what is the Republic’s stance today?

Omaima Abdelslam: The SADR is an irreversible reality, an African Union full member. Recognition is a just way to show solidarity and the legitimacy of the Saharawi people’s struggle. For their inalienable right to get their independent state. Unfortunately, with the earthquake in international politics, and populism and extremism emerging in different countries, with widespread international corruption, we face more difficulties to have states recognize our nation. But we have confidence in principle nations and that with their support we can achieve more recognition.

Moara Grivelente: With justified disappoinment and calls for changes in strategy, what is the way forward?

Omaima Abdelslam: After 45 years of struggle, 16 of war and 29 of peace process, we have demonstrated the Saharawi people’s determination to achieve independence. The Saharawi’s patience has limits and what we see now is frustration and lack of confidence in the UN. So, naturally, we hear more voices calling for a return to armed struggle, due to lack of progress in the peace process mediated by the UN.

Moara Grivelente: How do you think international solidarity matters?

Omaima Abdelslam: International solidarity makes a difference in making freedom movements around the world, like the fight against apartheid. It can make policymakers move towards a solution, utilize oppression, and step back. So, with international solidarity our path to freedom and independence will be shorter.

*Interviews by Moara Grivelente, Director of the Brazilian Centre for Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (CEBRA-PAZ). February 23, 2020
Delivered by Iraklis Tsavardis
Executive Secretary WPC

Dear Comrades and Friends of the World Federation of Democratic Youth!

Dear Comrades of EDON, host of the WFDY Assembly for one more time!

It is with extraordinary pleasure to salute your XX. Assembly today in Nicosia, Cyprus, on behalf of the World Peace Council, the international anti-imperialist organisation.

Our special greetings go first of all to all the members and friends of EDON, who performed a great and special role all these years in the WFDY presidency and today, are hosting in excellent way this Assembly. We salute all the members of the collective WFDY leadership of this country and other respective countries who continue the legacy of WFDY for almost 75 years.

The fraternal bonds between WPC and WFDY are as long and deep rooted in the common comprehensive analysis and understanding for the root causes of the wars, misery and exploitation in the world, for the injustices and underdevelopment in this world. And this is no other than Imperialism, its alliances and mechanisms. Both our international organisations understand difficulties in the beginning of the 90s, where friends and enemies thought that we would not make it, because of the counter-revolutionary changes taking place in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Life has proved for WFDY that the need for its existence and contribution to the Youth and Students movement in the world was a demand from millions of young people and their revolutionary progressive youth organisations gathered in WFDY. And the WPC is glad and congratulates WFDY for this success. We congratulate you for the World Festivals of Youth and Students where WFDY is the leading force and despite the contradictions it has managed to maintain the anti-imperialist content of the biggest political youth gathering in history in the world.

Dear Comrades,

The situation in the world is growing of imperialist aggressiveness. The imperialist aggressions and threats have increased, while the US, NATO and the EU governments are increasing their military budgets in order to realise their plans in all corners of the world.

Without underestimating other cases allows me to refer to some only areas and countries, where we have escalating negative developments.

The general situation in the Middle East continues being explosive. The situation in Syria, despite the significant victories of the Syrian people and army, remains under tension, with the recent military invasion of Turkey in the North-eastern part of the country and their plans for the annexation of the Turkish Cypriot region.

The extension of the settlements and land robbing, which continue along with the Judaization of Jerusalem and the deprivation of political rights for Non-Jewish citizens in Israel.

As WPC we reiterate our full support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to end the occupation and for their right to establish an independent and viable State within the borders of pre 4th June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. We call upon and struggle for the recognition of such State by governments and the UN and reject the imperialist maneuvers and hypocrisy towards Palestine by equalizing victims and aggressors. We demand the release of all Palestinian political prisoners from Israeli jails and the right for the return of the Palestinians to their lands, according to the UN Resolution 194.

The situation in Latin America is of great concern.

The most recent Coup d’État in Bolivia (10th November) against the legitimately re-elected President Evo Morales and the recent military intervention of the US, its loyal mechanism of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the EU, well coordinated with the coup d’état in Chile and demand and demand the respect to the expressed will of the Bolivian people. They remind us of the darkest days in the recent history of Latin America (dictatorships, militar interve
Palestinian Committee for Peace & Solidarity (PCPS)

Within the framework of its plans to liquidate the Palestinian cause and regain the lost influence in the region, the United States, in alliance with its ally Israel are rushing to achieve what they have not been able to achieve during the past decades, and to liquidate the Palestinian issue, based on the support of some Arab countries subject to American domination and to the arrogance of the power pursued by successive governments in Israel.

Donald Trump and Netanyahu announced the so-called deal of the century, or his Peace plan, for the solution of the Israeli-Palestine problem, January 28th in Washington as the political part, following the meetings, and rallies were a significant economic one which was held earlier in Bahrain under the title “prosperity for peace.” In fact there was nothing much new in this announcement from a political terms because Trump had already made many practical steps toward this plan by recognizing Jerusalem, the capital of Israel and moving the US embassy there. He had also recognized the Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In addition, that the US had stopped all aid to the Palestinian authority and UNRWA and had closed PLO office in Washington.

T and had closed PLO office in Washington to the Palestinian authority and UNRWA soverignty over the Golan Heights. In addition, that the US had stopped all aid to the Palestinian authority and UNRWA and had closed PLO office in Washington indicating the direction of its political position. The plan also supported Israel occupation and annexation of Jordan valley and the settlements in the West Bank to Israel sovereignty, and the US support for Israel’s “nationality law” and recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, with all dangers it carries for the non-Jewish minority in Israel (more than 20%).

What the US and Israel want from this plan is complete liquidation of the Palestinian issue, and this extends to all law and legitimacy, especially on the basis of the two state solution, serving the interests of the world imperialism and its plans in the region by creating new coalitions between Israel and other Arab reactionary regimes against countries that are not subject to American will — in the first place is Iran, Syria and other countries in the region and worldwide rejected this plan from the beginning, showing the willingness to confront this Trump-Netanyahu war plan.

But there are prerequisites for our success. Ending the internal Palestinian division; continuation of the popular resistance and the struggle for ending блокады, using the Hague Tribunal.

We will continue our firm, militant struggle in the coming period against the dangerous imperialist plans; to dissolve the country from the imperialist structures; to close down all Euro-Atlantic bases and infrastructures; and to leave NATO and the EU. We express our solidarity with the neighboring peoples, and our support for the refugees in the common struggle against the common enemy. Let’s put an end to the imperialist policies in our own land; and to pave the way for truly mutual and beneficial relations between states.

No subordination to Imperialism — and yes to peace. Nothing less will do.

Palestine: It Is Not A “Peace Plan”

Huge Massive Protests and Rallies in Athens and Several Greek Cities Against the “Mutual Defense Agreement of Greece-USA” for the Expansion of Foreign Military Bases

EEDYE — Greece

The mass rallies of 30th January and the work that preceded with tens of thousands of signatures, meetings, and rallies, carried on this Saturday a significant step towards strengthening the anti-imperialist struggle of our people that will continue in the future.

The ever-deepening involvement in military planning, the transformation of our country through the Greece-US agreement into a vast military base, but also turning the country into a magnet for attacks on the name of so-called “strategic upgrading of Greece,” is the other aspect of the exploitation of our people.

The deterioration of popular family’s life, the cut of wages and pensions, the abolishment of labor and social security rights, increasingly raise barriers to people’s access to education, health, etc. It is based on the hunt for capitalist profit, the increase in the profitability of large foreign and local economic groups serving the interests of the US-NATO-EU in their confrontation with Russia, China and the peoples of the world.

The New Democracy (ND) government, the SYRIZA, KINAL (PASOK) parties and other bourgeois parties are criminally deceiving the people and their country by presenting the US-NATO-EU as the ultimate guarantors of peace, security and prosperity.

The false quarrels that were also expressed in the debate in the Parliament on the “ratification” of the agreement aim to divert the public from the main essence of the agreement and obscure the increasing depth of our country’s involvement in the tangle of imperialist rivalries and wars.

The “national consensus” they are talking about means subordinating the people to the “beneficial” — as they call it “national” — capital projects, while competing on who can safeguard them more effectively and confirming how “predictable” they are for the implementation of the US-NATO-EU plans and the country’s involvement in imperialist interventions and wars.

SYRIZA, after all, was passing the way and implementing this agreement as a government by upgrading the base of Soula, establishing US bases in Larisa, Sterea-Evia (near Volos) and Alexandroupolis (North East). Now ND, with KINAL, are carrying on the job with their votes.

Working people need to draw conclusions from both the hypocritical attitude of SYRIZA, who voted in the parliament “present” (blues), and the attitude of the other parties (“Mega 25” – “Greek Solution”), who voted against, not because they disagree with the substance of the agreement but because in the context of the “exchanges” they seek to extract even greater “guarantees” from the US for the interests of the Greek bourgeoisie in the region.

Our people must not legalize this agreement in their conscience. We call upon them not to tolerate, and condemn any attempt at deploying nuclear weapons in our country, to send the Armed Forces in missions to the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabia (along with Patriot missiles) and Libya.

We call upon all to reject the pseudo-dilemma of “compromise – submission or war” in the framework of the Greek-Turkish relations, linked directly with the US-NATO plans for bargains and compromises between the Greek and Turkish bourgeoisie, which will open up new wounds, using the Hague Tribunal.

But there are prerequisites for our success. Ending the internal Palestinian division; continuation of the popular resistance and the struggle for ending blockades, using the Hague Tribunal.

We will continue our firm, militant struggle in the coming period against the dangerous imperialist plans; to dissolve the country from the imperialist structures; to close down all Euro-Atlantic bases and infrastructures; and to leave NATO and the EU. We express our solidarity with the neighboring peoples, and our support for the refugees in the common struggle against the common enemy. Let’s put an end to the imperialist policies in our own land; and to pave the way for truly mutual and beneficial relations between states.

No subordination to Imperialism — and yes to peace. Nothing less will do.

But there are prerequisites for our success. Ending the internal Palestinian division; continuation of the popular resistance and the struggle for ending blockades, using the Hague Tribunal.

We will continue our firm, militant struggle in the coming period against the dangerous imperialist plans; to dissolve the country from the imperialist structures; to close down all Euro-Atlantic bases and infrastructures; and to leave NATO and the EU. We express our solidarity with the neighboring peoples, and our support for the refugees in the common struggle against the common enemy. Let’s put an end to the imperialist policies in our own land; and to pave the way for truly mutual and beneficial relations between states.

No subordination to Imperialism — and yes to peace. Nothing less will do.
Trump Prosecutors Make Move to Ensure that Embassy Protectors are Convicted

Ajamu Baraka and Rahaman Azad, Co-Chairs of the Embassy Protectors Defense Committee

The trial has continued, the lawyers for the Trump Administration’s prosecution of the four Venezuelan Embassy Protectors who were arrested last May are using every trick in the book to make the court believe that the defendants are guilty of every crime invented by the imagination of the prosecution. It is important for the people to understand what is happening in this court.

The defendants are not guilty. They are the protectors of the Constitution of Venezuela and the Chavista government, they are the defenders of the people’s movement, they are the defenders of the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The Trump Administration and its sympathizers are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy. They are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy and to make them go to jail.

The defendants are not guilty. They are the protectors of the Constitution of Venezuela and the Chavista government, they are the defenders of the people’s movement, they are the defenders of the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The Trump Administration and its sympathizers are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy. They are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy and to make them go to jail.

The defendants are not guilty. They are the protectors of the Constitution of Venezuela and the Chavista government, they are the defenders of the people’s movement, they are the defenders of the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The Trump Administration and its sympathizers are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy. They are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy and to make them go to jail.

The defendants are not guilty. They are the protectors of the Constitution of Venezuela and the Chavista government, they are the defenders of the people’s movement, they are the defenders of the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The Trump Administration and its sympathizers are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy. They are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy and to make them go to jail.

The defendants are not guilty. They are the protectors of the Constitution of Venezuela and the Chavista government, they are the defenders of the people’s movement, they are the defenders of the rights of the people of Venezuela.

The Trump Administration and its sympathizers are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy. They are using every legal and illegal means to try to force the defendants to leave the embassy and to make them go to jail.
Iran: Our Campaign for Peace Is the Only Sure Way to Secure a Democratic Future!

Payam Solhtalab, Convenor
Coordinating Council
ADPSD – Iran

The Middle East remains a region targeted by the US for continuation of its unrivalled hegemony there. Militarily, the US cannot tolerate any upstart to its wider global ambitions, through the challenge to its dominance in the Middle East. Its strategy of control depends on balancing out regional powers in order to concentrate its main force against the emerging counterbalance posed by the People’s Republic of China. As a consequence of this policy, the region has been plunged into instability with the increasing danger of a military confrontation with Iran.

US Imperialism’s drive to maintain it hegemony in the Middle East has become significantly more brazen and dangerous in recent months. The threat of military conflict in this resource-rich region has massively increased since the illegal killing of Qassem Soleimani by the US military while in Iraq. There is also the threat of a further escalation in tension should Trump’s strategists consider this necessary in order to gain advantage in the course of his 2020 presidential election campaign.

The fast deteriorating situation in the Middle East, particularly with regard to Iran, one which could spell disastrous consequences for the people of our country, should be a point of strategic consideration and of the utmost concern for the global peace movement. Over recent months, top officials in the US administration have clearly upped the military option and the threat of regime change in their plans regarding Iran unless the regime accommodates the US hegemonic plans in relation to the region.

The US has engineered a significant first-ever treaty to illegalize nuclear weapons. Despite the opposition and pressure from nuclear superpowers, 81 countries have signed and 35 of them ratified the treaty. Though the forces clinging to “nuclear deterrence” are persistent in continuing to buttress their monopsony over nuclear weapons as a pillar of their military strategy, this reactionary trend is being cornered by global public opinion for a world without nuclear weapons.

Thus, the people of Iran are struggling on two fronts: the oppressive and corrupt Imperialist regime on the one-side, and against US-led Imperialism on the other. It is important to note that both shamelessly disregard the welfare, urgent demands and interests of the working people of Iran. The theocratic regime in Iran, which through advancing an ill-advised and provocative foreign policy in the Middle East region, strives for its own survival at all costs - including, but not limited to, driving the nation into a disastrous war with the US and/or its regional allies. The intensification of the back-breaking US/UK sanctions on Iran, which hurt the people of Iran more than anyone, escalates the tensions in the Middle East to the very brink.

While the mobilisation of US public opinion against the disastrous war on Iraq did not stop the war itself, it did help expose the falsity of the West’s reasons for the invasion and showed the true strategic aim of the US/UK interests in the Middle East, which itself rests heavily on its alliance with Saudi Arabia and the Israeli apartheid regime.

If and when the US launches an attack on Iran, an even greater mobilisation of public opinion will be necessary if a confrontation with the US and/or its regional allies is considered. If and when the US launches an attack on Iran, an even greater mobilisation of public opinion will be necessary if a confrontation with the US and/or its regional allies is considered.

The World is Moving

Nuclear superpowers are neglecting treaty obligations and a number of agreements achieved, including the Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) on the commitment for nuclear disarmament, the “unprovo- cational underwriting” to eliminate nuclear weapons adopted in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, as well as “efforts to establish a framework to realize and maintain a world without nuclear weapons” agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

So far, a major global trend for the elimination of nuclear weapons can no longer be reversed. In 2017, the UN adopted the Treaty on the prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), a potential for conflict in the region. The hawks in the US administration, including Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, are only too aware and welcoming of this.

Japanese Government in Defiance of Anti-Nuclear Opinion

The government of Japan, under the US-Japan military alliance, is getting Japan more involved in the war strategy of the Trump Administration, and for this purpose it aims at removing peaceful provisions of the Constitution of Japan. Furthermore, Japanese Government supports the nuclear strategy of the United States, thus betraying the aspiration of its people.

However, as seen in the 10 million plus people and 70% of local mayors who have already signed the “International Hibakusha Appeal,”[3] and 65.9% of respondents in the poll who answered that Japan should join the TPNW, the majority of the citizens of Japan want their government to accede to the treaty.

Promoting united actions between civil movements and opposition parties, we will do our best to substitute the present government with one appropriate to the only atomic-bombed country, which will take the mobilisation of public opinion into force of the TPNW, thus contributing to a world without nuclear weapons.

This Year’s Plan of Japanese Anti-Nuclear Movement

From August 2 to 9 of this year, the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs will be held with the main theme: “Together with the Hibakusha — For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World.” In the coming April, on the eve of the NPT Review Conference, with the cooperation of anti-nuclear peace movements and a broad range of movements for other causes, the World Conference against A and H Bombs in New York will be convened with the theme: “Abolish Nuclear Weapons: Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice.” It is of historical significance for three Japanese anti-nuclear organizations[2] to join in the international call for the event. It is the first time for them to do something in unity since the movement was spitted in 1960’s.

2. Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, Japan Congress against A and H Bomb, Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Japan Peace Committee is its member)
3. https://hibakusha-appeal.net/languages/