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PAZ Y SOBERANÍA

The COVID 19 Pandemic and the Threats to Peace

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Dear readers:

*The Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ) is pleased to deliver the special magazine Paz y Soberanía (Peace and Sovereignty): **The COVID 19 Pandemic and the Threats to Peace.***

This issue is a compilation of valuable speeches delivered by representatives of peace organizations at the virtual meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean of the CMP, whose main objective was to evaluate and exchange the impacts of COVID-19 on the defense and maintenance of peace in our continent.

It was a call to end imperialist wars, blockades, and threats, in favor of Peace.

Editorial Council

OPENING WORDS OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING

The effects of the COVID 19 pandemic impose upon us the need to celebrate the meeting online to evaluate and exchange its impacts on the defense and maintenance of peace in our continent, at a moment when it is scourging all humankind and particularly our continent, which has the sad merit of being the epicenter of the pandemic at global level.

The imperialist aggressiveness led by the United States and the ultraconservative administration that rules in Washington ignores the situation and multiplies its meddling actions, threats and sanctions against nations in several latitudes, particularly in our continent against the revolutionary processes of Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua.

Our region of the Americas has become the most visible scenario of the damaging effects of the neoliberal policies established by the governments of an important number of countries in the hemisphere to face COVID 19, which is daily evidenced when quantifying the number of infected and deceased in nations such as the United States, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, and Ecuador, just to mention those that show the most impressive figures of victims.

With this Meeting we also intend to follow up somehow on the agreements of our latest Ordinary Continental Meeting, held in the Dominican Republic in September, 2018, and the Extraordinary Meeting held in Caracas last year.

Therefore, when welcoming you I am also inviting you to carry out a fruitful exchange of experiences and ideas that will enable us to continue consolidating our main task of defending peace, in correspondence with the postulates of the Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean as Peace Zone, agreed on by all the States and Governments of the region in January, 2014.

*By: Socorro Gomes Coelho
President of the WPC*



Dear fellows in the WPC,
Friends in the Cuban Movement for Peace and the Peoples' Sovereignty, and its President Silvio Platero, America Regional Coordinator,

I wish to salute you for the commitment you are showing by adopting this virtual alternative in order to keep our dialogue and our struggle alive. I also want to express my wishes that you are all well, in health, and with the same disposition to fight, as always, for us to meet, together the challenge of contributing to the achievement of a better world for all humankind.

Friends, this extremely grave situation, making it impossible for us to meet fraternally, makes it unavoidable to begin our conversation by mentioning the impacts of the new coronavirus pandemic, aggravated by the criminal policies implemented by many of our countries' governments, not only regarding the health challenge, serious in itself, but also due to the conditions and threats on the peoples, which are now reinforced.

We therefore tackle the economic crisis catalyzed and worsened by the pandemic, the massive impoverishment, with the increase of misery and unemployment in many countries. About 115 million people may find themselves in extreme poverty due to this crisis. In 2020 extreme poverty in the world may increase for the first time in the last 20 years as a result of the disturbances brought with the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the World Bank. In its report "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020", the entity warns that this increase is especially caused by the serious challenges —conflicts, global warming, and the pandemic— that all countries are facing, but which affect particularly those with a large impoverished population. According to the report, extreme poverty rates would rise from 3.9% in 2017 to 4.4% by the end of this year, reaching 28.6 million people. This means that, if estimates become reality, the crisis would have pushed 4.7 million Latin-Americans to extreme poverty in 2020.

In this context, anti-people governments implement exceptional policies and, under the pretext of fighting the pandemic's effects, oppress the peoples and worsen conditions of precarity and the super-exploitation of the workers. Moreover, the retrograde trend of denying science shocks us, at a time when we so need all the knowledge and capacities available to protect life. Likewise, the lies and cynicism displayed by some leaders in the United Nations General Assembly have again showed which kind of persisting challenges we face. In the organization's 75th anniversary, the promotion of "peace and security" and of international law based on the principles of self-determination, equality of sovereignty, non-interference and cooperation remain far from reality thanks to the supremacist policies of imperialism and its allies.

Despite the gravity of this period, the war machine does not stop.

US imperialism implements policies that affect peoples' sovereignty and rights, either through the confrontation that the White House occupant promotes against China, with its attempt to characterize the ill that we face as the "Chinese virus" —while the government of the People's Republic offers its technical and economic support to those in need— or the persistent promotion of coups and attacks against the nations' sovereignty, supporting putschist forces in Venezuela and Bolivia, trying to defeat the Cuban Revolution and the government of the People's Korea with its blockade, and aligning with proto-fascist governments such as Brazil's, warmongers and colonizers such as Israel's, reactionaries and brutal such as Saudi Arabia's.

In Our America, we continue to follow, committedly, the struggles of the Venezuelan people in defense of their sovereignty and self-determination; of Bolivia, for the return to democracy after the coup against Evo Morales; of Ecuador, for the end of the judicial manipulation by the current government against former President Rafael Correa to prevent his political comeback and attempt to arrest him; and the same in Argentina, where the right-wing opposition attempts to criminalize vice-President Cristina Fernández. Likewise, in Brazil, the tactic is deployed against former President Lula and the democratic and progressive forces.

The US imperialist and hybrid wars have for long involved the elites in our countries, which perform its dirty job and, also serving their own interests, overthrow popular and progressive projects. Means change, but the strategy is the same.

We also follow with concern the developments in Nagorno-Karabakh, where the return to direct confrontation can provoke a war of greater dimensions; in Syria, where the brave people continue to resist after almost a decade of imperialist and terrorist war; in Palestine, where the United States, sponsoring the Zionist colonization, does everything it can to deteriorate the situation and push the resistant people to the edge; in Western Sahara, where the unresolved colonial issue, international negligence and the worsening practices of the Moroccan occupation continue to lead the Saharawis to frustration; and Belarus, where, once again, empire provokes instability and incites conflict.

These are times in which the urgency of humanism and solidarity is more evident. Wars killing peoples and the threats subduing nations to the empire's interests should have already done that, but the pandemic is now affecting everyone —although surely in unequal forms.

Therefore, it was an honor for the World Peace Council to have joined the international campaign for the Nobel Peace Prize to be given to the Cuban medical brigades of the Henry Reeve contingent, by sending its nomination to the Norwegian Committee. Their internationalist work and commitment with life also contribute to elevate the peoples' consciousness.

As we know, the brave health professionals in the contingent created by Comandante Fidel offer care to victims of catastrophes and serious epidemics in all continents, dedicating to

save lives while the empire dedicates to save itself, attacking whomever to safeguard its interests. Not even its own population is protected: the United States has a high and rising number of people infected and fatal victims of Trump's criminal policy. For that, we express our solidarity with the US people, as with the other peoples victimized by similar policies, such as in Brazil and India, the second and third most affected globally, and so many more where the dimensions of suffering and impoverishment so starkly contrast with the increase of the fortunes of the wealthiest.

For all that, comrades, it is greatly important that we remain active, in close cooperation between the continent's associations and committees, and with those of other continents, contributing to the struggle of which the World Peace Council is part.

The challenges that we have faced over these 70 years of the WPC's existence are ongoing and aggravating in this period of crisis, especially when humankind persistently and now more generally confronts the urgency of protecting life itself.

Therefore, we salute the great examples of resistance and humanism, solidarity and fraternity, which we must value and contrast with the imperialist policies of threats, supremacism, aggressive hegemonism and domination.

We continue struggling for a world of peace, a democratic and equitable international order, the nations' and peoples' sovereignty, cooperation and friendship, which are the only ways to overcome these pandemic and civilizational crises which the imperialist forces impose on us.

For the end of imperialist wars, blockades and threats,
For Peace,
Together, we will win!



*By: Iraklis Tsavdaridis
Executive Secretary of the WPC*

Dear comrades and friends

Allow me to salute warmly all participants in this on-line gathering of the Americas & Caribbean region of the WPC and congratulate our regional coordinator MOVPAZ and comrade Silvio Platero for the timely and useful initiative.

I want to congratulate the Cuban people and their government for the efforts and excellent results in the battle of the global pandemic, a fact that shows not only the highest level of the Cuban health system but also the organization of the state and people, their determination to defend life of each Cuban as the maximum human value.

I want to inform you in this context that recently the World Peace Council has formally registered its proposal to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, to award the Cuban medical contingent "Henry Reeve" the next Nobel Peace Prize. Our proposal was accepted and we work to spread the campaign and mobilize forces and institutions / organizations around the world to strengthen this campaign. We know well that the mechanisms of lobbying and manipulation are strong and powerful. In our opinion, the Prize has already been awarded to Cuba by the peoples of the world!

In these challenging times for all of us, the WPC may has to adjust its work and functioning nevertheless we have never given up our vigilance and alert regarding both the problems of the health crisis due to the global Pandemic but also regarding the threats to peace and security of the peoples of the world.

The "enemies" of peace have not stopped in these 7 months to elaborate and to implement their plans in many corners of the world. The US imperialism, the European Union, NATO and all kind of alliances of willing states are defending on the one hand the interests and profits of the powerful monopolies and enterprises by aiming to secure natural resources and roads of transport while interfering fiercely in the domestic affairs of nations, organizing coups d' Etat, intervening militarily or threatening with the use of force whoever opposes their plans.

The American continent is such case whereas the USA and its allies are trying in multiple fronts to influence the developments by all means, including the threat of military force and the "violent regime change". They openly target the socialist Cuba, the Bolivarian Venezuela and the brave Nicaragua using their "South Command" and the 4th Fleet and various forms of subversive actions in order to contain the will of the peoples of the region. Willing allies are available at the "Lima Group", the European Union in its ambiguous role or even the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the UN in Geneva.

The region is of high importance for the US for economical, geostrategical reasons but also for ideological-political reasons since the peoples of the area has proven despite the setbacks and the contradictions, that the anti-imperialist sentiments are deeply rooted here. The local oligarchies and bourgeoisies are manipulating the peoples and taking advantage also of mistakes and shortcomings of the other side. Altogether, it is clear that the reactionary forces and mechanisms are afraid of the peoples' power. That is why the deployment of military bases in South America and the deployment of US troops (e.g. in Colombia) is increasing and why the heavy sanctions and the blockade are stronger than ever against countries like Cuba or Venezuela. The imperialists want to strangle and asphyxiate the peoples and lead them to protest against their governments.

The World Peace Council, by principle, is on the side of the peoples who are fighting for their just causes, for the right to freely define their future and decide on their wealth. We express our solidarity to the peoples of Latin America, the Caribbean, but also to the peoples and workers, the peace-loving forces in Canada and the United States, who are fighting in very difficult conditions but always committed to the struggle of the peoples and against the imperialist plans regardless of who resides in the White House.

The region of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East is one of the "hottest" spots in the world. On the one hand it is a cross road for three continents, full of Oil and gas reserves with the respective pipelines, on the other hand the area constitutes a theater of military operations for many regional and global players in fierce competition to secure political, geostrategical hegemony, control of markets and resources. A key issue in the whole region is the Palestinian issue whereas the heroic people of Palestine are suffering for more than 70 years from the Israeli occupation which openly supported by the USA and indirectly also by the European Union.

The recent bilateral agreements of Israel with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain for the normalization of their relations, under the auspices of the USA are of great concern since they coincide with the further offensive of the Israeli regime in its plans to annex Palestinian territories in the West Bank, the Judaization of East Jerusalem, while in 26 years from the Oslo agreement and the many concessions from Palestinian side, Israel has not implemented basic elements. The famous "century plan" of the Trump administration is only legitimizing and perpetuating the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The WPC reaffirms its solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to end the occupation and to establish a free, independent and viable State in the borders of pre 4th June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. Any plan or bilateral/trilateral agreement which does not respect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people will fail and does not serve the peace in the region.

We express our deep concern over the latest dangerous developments in relations between Greece and Turkey and denounce any action aimed at escalation and military conflict. The situation is further aggravated by NATO's role where Greece and Turkey participate in the imperialist organization of NATO, as well as by their involvement in the dangerous activities of the United States and the EU.

The peoples of Turkey and Greece cannot expect anything positive regarding the developments of the involvement of the powerful imperialist states, which in fact take place in conditions where the international capitalist crisis and the tendency to regroup of power among the most powerful capitalist states are intensifying. We declare once again that the peoples of Turkey and Greece have nothing to divide them.

They have an interest in demanding to live in peace and fight for their own future, against imperialist plans and tensions including military conflicts.

As the Prime Minister of Greece stated in his visit to the White House, Greece is a "reliable and predictable" ally, saying that "yes, we are ready to take orders." In continuation of the previous government, Greece becomes a huge military base with 3 old and 4 new US military bases for helicopters, airplanes, aircraft carriers and a "mutual defense&cooperation agreement" recently ratified by the parliament.

Cyprus, which is a small country and 37% under Turkish occupation, is signing agreements with the US and France giving its ports and bases for military use. So they think (the Cypriot bourgeoisie) that they can stop the provocations of Turkey, which already has troops in Syria, Iraq, Libya and now in Nagorno Karabakh. All that if they are not ILLUSIONS by the governments of Greece and Cyprus, they are dangerous games that cannot guarantee sovereign rights; they are objectively helping imperialism and its plans.

Before concluding I want to share with all comrades and friends that the WPC maintains its plans to hold its activities next year in Cyprus (Executive Committee and a Conference) and the idea of holding the 22nd World Assembly of the WPC in Vietnam tentatively at the end of 2021, as have informed us the comrades of the Vietnam Peace Committee who are still ready to host the WPC in their country.

By: Gabriel Aguirre

General Secretary of the International Committee of Solidarity and Struggle for Peace (COSI), Venezuela



Dear comrades:

On behalf of the Committee of International Solidarity and Struggle for Peace, we wish to send brotherly greetings to all the peace and solidarity organizations, as well as thank the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples for the organization of this meeting that enables us to exchange opinions in a quite special movement of the anti-imperialist struggle and in favor of peace for our peoples.

Last year, the World Peace Council arrived at the seventh decade of its foundation. During the celebration, a huge effort was made to highlight the validity of this instrument of struggle of the peoples for peace, whose concept is not restricted to the absence of conflicts but also corresponds to the peoples' material living conditions. For that reason we state that as long as imperialism and capitalism exist, it will not be possible to conquer a steady and lasting peace.

This meeting is being held in midst of the pandemic being fought in all corners of the world, whose main characteristic is having evidenced the injustices of the present capitalist order, which has not succeeded in solving the great problems of humankind, among them poverty, hunger, access to services, and more clearly health. It has been precisely this universal right of the peoples that has been denied, and its consequences are expressed in the tragic figures of infected and deceased.

While we face the serious world health emergency with the peoples struggling to preserve their most precious gift, their lives, the imperialist powers lose no time in further deepening the war of prey for the control of the strategic resources, trade routes, and labor force, and with that purpose they display their military forces in the four cardinal points, increasing militarism, promoting the expansion of mass destruction weapons, and deploying their troops to preserve the geopolitical control and reinforce their military positions and containment of the emerging powers.

We must recall the dramatic situation faced at the beginning of the pandemic by Italy and Spain, both NATO members, when the Secretary General of this imperialist instrument pointed out that they would not admit the use of resources of the organization to combat the emergency caused by COVID-19. This action once more evidenced the interests to which this imperialist alliance responds, and shows us that we must maintain the struggle for the dissolution of what we understand as the finger in the trigger of imperialism.

Likewise we must refer to the impact caused by the pandemic in the United States, a country that became the world center of infection in a short period as consequence of the actions of Donald Trump's government to preserve the health of the monopolies and companies, regardless of the fact that this decision involved exposing its population to the infection and deaths that today we sadly read about in the press. We must point out that it has been mainly the poor sectors of the US population, with a great majority of workers of African descent, who have been the victims of the negligent and accomplice attitude of the Trump administration.

Dear comrades:

While the world thought that the context of the COVID-19 pandemic could be a moment to stop the imperialist aggressions against the peoples, among them Venezuela, the truth is that imperialism responded with more meddling actions against our country. In Venezuela, the quarantine was established at an early date. Only 12 days after these actions, the US imperialism added the name of the President of the Republic and other high officials of the nation to its list of drug dealers, offering a reward for their capture and threatening to include Venezuela in the list of states that patronize terrorism.

This action made it clear that it was starting a new wave of aggressions and threats against Venezuela. On behalf of COSI and of the Venezuelan people, we must thank the position assumed and the declaration of solidarity issued by the World Peace Council condemning that action and convoking to reinforce the solidarity with Venezuela.

For that reason, the WPC and COSI decidedly advanced in the organization of the activities of April 19, established as Day of World Action and Solidarity with Venezuela. Three video conferences were celebrated as central activities that day, with the participation of the WPC President and Executive Secretary, as well as different organizations, mainly from the region of the Americas and the Caribbean. A resolution of solidarity was likewise approved, which was widely disseminated as example of the consequent position of the organizations that make up the WPC. In addition, different organizations in the world carried out activities such as declarations and mobilizations even in midst of the difficulties caused by the pandemic.

Other aggressive actions were developed in the months of March and April, among them the training of mercenaries on Colombian territory with participation of dissident Venezuelan military to advance in their plans to enter the territory and promote terrorist actions to set up at the head of the nation a puppet government that would serve the interests of the Yankee imperialism.

In May we learned of the frustrated Operation Gedeon, which was the marine penetration attempt of a group of USA, Colombian, and Venezuelan mercenaries in complicity with the Colombian government of Iván Duque. In this action, USA military contractors publicly showed the evidence that involved the puppet Juan Guaidó in the action, which failed thanks to the timely action of the security bodies together with the organized people that made it possible to neutralize this action.

Added to this was the reinforcement of the military presence of the United States in the Caribbean. The State Department announced the deployment of special troops in Colombia and the mobilization of US Marine vessels to the coasts of the Caribbean, with the alleged argument of the struggle against drugtrafficking. This excuse was the central argument to justify the mobilization of these military forces to surround the country, and repeated violations to the Venezuelan air and marine space have taken place since then.

Together with the increase of the political, military, and diplomatic aggressions, the USA and European imperialism did not support the calls of the United Nations Secretary General to lift the coercive unilateral measures known as sanctions against the countries that today are victims of repeated violations of the Human Rights, which, in the case of Venezuela have caused the death of nearly 40,000 Venezuelans.

The context of the pandemic should serve as a more than justified cause to lift the sanctions for humanitarian reasons. On the contrary, new sanctions against the country during the months of June, July, and August are to be expected, thus reinforcing the criminal blockade. From COSI we will continue demanding the unconditional lifting of these unilateral coercive measures that strangle our economy and generate greater precariousness of the material conditions of existence of the Venezuelan people.

Comrades:

In COSI we consider that today the increased risks to peace, the contradictions among the imperialists, the earnest crisis of the system, and the visible consequences of the pandemic create favorable conditions to place us at the doorstep of a new world war. For this reason, our main task and responsibility is to increase the leading role of the World Peace Council, and the struggle for the defense of the sovereignty, and the right to the self-determination of our people must be central issues in the struggle programs and action plans.

We call upon all progressive, democratic and peace-defender forces to reinforce the struggle and increase internationalist solidarity, and thus advance in the construction of a world of justice for humankind.

By: Juan Pablo Acosta

President of the Dominican Union of Journalists for Peace, Inc. (UDPP)

Vice-President of the World Peace Council



Good morning, comrade Socorro Gomes, President of the WPC

Good morning, Silvio Platero Yrola, WPC Coordinator for America

Good morning, comrade Iraklis, WPC Executive Secretary

Good morning to all the comrades of the continent who are connected to this meeting.

On behalf of the Dominican Union of Journalists for Peace of the Dominican Republic and in my own name, I welcome the initiative of celebrating this meeting via digital platform, not just because it is an economic and effective means, but also because it reminds me of Livia, from the Cuban Movement, who always said it was necessary to use electronic means for our work, an idea I still share after more than 25 years. In those days she scarcely referred to the facsimile and to the newly born massive use of internet. We workers of peace must take advantage of the threat produced by the pandemic and turn it into an opportunity to confirm our commitment with the World Peace Council and all peace fighter organizations throughout the world, since, as we know, imperialism does not miss one single instant to attack humankind. We must emerge stronger and united from this world crisis, because you know that once the epidemic phenomenon is over, the planet will possibly be scourged by a famine that could kill even more human beings than the pandemic itself. The planet will have an economic setback and that will be translated into lesser capacity in the population to purchase goods and services, which in the end could derive in a serious economic-social crisis at world scale.

Imperialism is always on guard, even in midst of the planetary crisis in which we are immerse. Its irrational aggression against Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and other peoples of the world that refuse to become part of the sinister sheepfold covered by the black blanket of wild capitalism will not stop. The politically reactionary ideas have become stronger in America with the governments of Donald Trump, Bolsonaro, Lenin Moreno and other specimens that make the Bolivarian America feel shame. The cruel coup d'état against President Evo Morales, the Group of Lima, and other political scenarios are a true threat to world peace.

It is necessary to redouble the efforts to promote the solidarity with Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and all peoples of the world submitted to the imperialist yoke, using these media more effectively.

We propose to celebrate a meeting similar to this one every six months at least during the pandemic, as a mechanism to maintain alive the ardent spark of the struggle and unity against USA and European imperialism, since the Corona virus will not be over even in 2021.

Our institution, the Dominican Union of Journalists for Peace, Inc. (UDPP) has focused its efforts in maintaining the unity of the entity even using the electronic system, and we have discovered that in spite of the lack of the personal contact and human warmth that has always characterized our organization, life is possible and must continue ahead, regardless of whether the pandemic extends beyond next year.

The news of the phenomenon that scourges us has overshadowed those of the imperial aggression against our peoples, at least in countries such as ours, with a concentration of the mass media in the hands of three or four large corporations. That is why, profiting from this experience, we propose that a continental operative plan be designed in support of the peoples suffering aggressions in America and the world.

Thank you very much.





*By: Rolando Brito
President of the Mexican Movement for Peace and
Development (MOMPADE)*

The fourth transformation in Mexico and its peace

First of all, on behalf of the Mexican Movement for Peace and Development we send brotherly greetings to all peace movements of our continent that are members of the World Peace Council (WPC).

Since Andrés López Obrador became president of Mexico on December 1, 2018, he has been implementing his government plan, which he had announced during his political campaign. It has been called the 4th Transformation, considering that Independence, Reform, and Revolution were the three former profound transformations that have taken place in our country.

The theme of PEACE holds an outstanding place in the program of the 4th Transformation, since one of its main objectives is to achieve peace in the country in order to eliminate the extreme violence in which the previous neoliberal governments left it. Thus, a strategy has been established in several fronts to address the “First the Poor” social and economic policy to the majority of the population, supporting all young people with scholarships and work, and extending the educational coverage in order to ensure that no one misses the opportunity to attend a school.

Precisely in the field of education, the “New Mexican School” program, with a humanist approach and a culture of peace attempts to reintroduce values such as the love for the fatherland and the solidarity with matters such as Healthy Life, Civic Behavior, Ethics, and Philosophy. There is an intensive campaign against drug consumption and in favor of physical activation and sports.

The National Guard has been created to combat the criminal groups and protect the population with particular respect to Human Rights. Never again use the police and the army to suppress the people, as did the previous governments.

This year, in spite of the health and economic crises in which the world was involved because of the H-19 virus, our country is recovering without indebtedness, as suggested by the IMF and the World Bank, applying an austere financial policy and forcing the large enterprises to pay their taxes, which previously had been cancelled.

In foreign policy, the principle of non-intervention and self-determination of the peoples have been reintroduced, as called for by President Benito Juárez and the Estrada Doctrine.

An example was the solidary support to President Evo Morales, victim of a coup d'état given by the ultra-rightist in Bolivia, as well as the respect shown to the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela and the good relations and cooperation in health matters with the governments of Argentina and Cuba.

All these actions have originated the virulent reaction of the sectors whose economic interests have been damaged; those who control the majority of the commercial mass media, newspapers, radio and television, and who can pay thousands of bots in the social networks and use them day and night to disseminate lies, rumors, fake news and messages of hatred against the president.

We are in midst of a low intensity war, if we can call it that way, where the rightists psychologically have been bombarding this government from the very first day with a specific plan to perform a “soft coup”, or otherwise choose the “hard coup”, which they have perfectly rehearsed along history against progressive governments.

The rightists, the ultra-rightists, and the ultra-leftists (the ends meet) attempt in several ways to stop the changes being implemented by the 4T to turn Mexico into a country of justice and freedom through peaceful means, where the participative democracy may be fully practiced.

Mexico is being observed by the world as a beacon of PEACE and hope for the construction of the just society of the 21st century; that explains why it was elected to the UN Security Council. In this regard, MOMPADE will continue supporting the president in his legal struggle against corruption and his social, economic and health policies as part of the 4T Program, and we call upon all peace movements to closely follow the events that are taking place in our country.

Finally, we wish the greatest success to this online meeting organized by the Cuban Movement for Peace and Solidarity of the Peoples, which because of the pandemic is being celebrated in this way, hoping to soon meet again in person.

By: Jamil Murad

President of the Brazilian Center of Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (Cebrapaz)



Dear comrades:

It is with great joy that the Brazilian Center of Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (Cebrapaz) participates in this online meeting, in brotherhood with the entities that carry on the anti-imperialist struggle in our continent in defense of world peace. Therefore, we send our greetings to MovPaz from Cuba for the timely summoning.

Comrades: the world has been living the global reactionary and neo-Fascist wave for some years now.

To make a digression on the causes and characteristics of this offensive and its distinctive aspects in Brazil would be to draw away from the theme proposed for this meeting, but it is necessary to point out that the coup d'état against former President Dilma Rousseff in 2016 and the arbitrary incarceration of former President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva in 2018 (intended to keep him away from the elections in which he was the favorite candidate) have further deepened the earnest institutional crisis in Brazil, paving the way for the extreme rightist forces to seize power through Jair Bolsonaro, up to that moment a character of the political underworld, voting him president of the Republic in 2018.

Jair Bolsonaro, admirer of the military dictatorship and its methods, including torture, sees the world as follows: on one side are the United States of America, leading a coalition of countries in defense of the Jewish-Christian West, and on the other side, the enemies, defined as all those that do not join this new crusade or do not share this primary and schematic form of understanding geopolitics.

Bolsonaro openly proclaims that the relationship with the United States and its politics is "of total alignment". That is why, since the beginning of his mandate, Bolsonaro has been taking measures that obey the Washington command, with which he signed military agreements in exchange for the status of "preferential ally outside NATO."

To correspond to this doubtful privilege, Bolsonaro spares no efforts. Since the beginning of his mandate he promoted the attack against Venezuela's sovereignty, meddling in the internal affairs of the neighboring country and even granting recognition to the illegitimate self-proclaimed President Juan Guaidó.

Following his teacher Donald Trump, Bolsonaro also announced the transfer of the Brazilian embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, which he still has not been able to achieve.

For the first time in more than two decades, Brazil broke its diplomatic tradition and voted against the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly that condemns the illegal blockade against Cuba.

Also in themes related to the defense of women's rights, customs, and the environment, the Brazilian external policy, under the extreme rightist command began to follow the line of the religious fundamentalism in its actions in multilateral organizations, causing fright among the international community.

Bolsonaro removed the country from the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and reduces its activity in MERCOSUR and the BRICS, while supports reactionary and pro-imperialistic articulations such as the Group of Lima.

Recently, the Brazilian government descended to the point of authorizing the celebration on Brazilian territory of a provocative show by Mike Pompeo against the Venezuelan people. Such shameless servility provoked a wide protest, even from conservative sectors. The reason for it is that the principles of Brazil's external policy are established in the Constitution of the Republic, among them the people's self-determination, the non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign nations, the equality among the States, the defense of peace, and the search of political solutions to the conflicts between nations.

It is precisely those constitutional principles that are violated by Bolsonaro, including a paragraph that explicitly states that "the Federative Republic of Brazil will seek the economic, political, social, and cultural integration of the peoples of Latin America, with the purpose of forming a Latin American community of nations." I repeat: it is included in the Brazilian Constitution, approved in 1988 and in full force.

Comrades:

During the pandemic, Bolsonaro once more followed the pattern of his idol, Donald Trump, denying the earnestness of the pandemic, boycotting governors of the federal states and municipal prefects who tried to take preventive measures, and in fact refusing to make a nationally coordinated effort to fight the COVID-19.

The result: at the opening of this week Brazil already had over 5 million infected and over 150,000 deceased, the second highest number of deaths in the planet.

The pandemic of the new coronavirus is, undoubtedly, the greatest political event since the end of the socialist countries in Eastern Europe.

Unemployment, poverty, and the concentration of wealth in one pole and poverty in the other will surely aggravate. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the situation is also worrying. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) published studies pointing out that following the pandemic the region will experience its worst crisis in a century, with more than 96 million people driven to extreme poverty.

The pandemic revealed with absolute clarity the anti-human and predatory nature of imperialism, which even in the face of a humanitarian tragedy persists in its route of aggressions, blockades, sanctions, and threats.

In the session to celebrate 75 years of the United Nations, USA President Donald Trump made an impressive statement. Speaking to a world in mourn for the loss of millions of lives during the pandemic, Trump boasted of having spent more than US\$ 2,5 billion (trillions) in recent years in armament, an unacceptable blackmail against the peoples of the planet.

On the other hand, countries like the People's Republic of China and our dear Cuba follow a different road, a road of hope.

Particularly with regard to Cuba, I lack words to express how much humankind is indebted to it for the example of heroic internationalism and the permanent humanism of its performance, which saves not only lives but also the future by strengthening in all of us the conviction that there is indeed an alternative to barbarism.

Cebrapaz, in the difficult conditions in which we find ourselves in Brazil, continues to be firm in its solidarity with Venezuela, and together with the tens of important entities of the Brazilian social movement we succeed in articulating a permanent campaign of denounce against the plans of aggression, through the ample and diverse Committees acting throughout the country.

Our priority is also the militant solidarity with Cuba. We are making great efforts to support the campaign for the granting of the Nobel Prize for Peace to the Henry Reeve Brigades in 2021. This campaign by itself already has the valuable merit of dismantling lies and prejudices against Cuba and revealing the huge injustice of the blockade. An eventual victory with the conquest of the Nobel Prize would be of great significance for world peace.

Neither do we disregard at any point the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian people continue to be the victims of Zionism, beachhead of the USA imperialism in the Middle East, and ever more require a strong current of solidarity. In the same way, the People's Republic of Korea, Iran, the Saharawi Arab Republic, the defense of the Argentinian Falkland Islands, the independence of Puerto Rico, and all the peoples who struggle, resist, and seek to protect their sovereignty have the support of Cebrapaz in their activities in Brazil. Nor do we fail to denounce the NATO war machine and the presence of USA military bases in our territory.

Comrades:

The world economic crisis initiated in 2007 lacked a perspective of improvement before the pandemic. After the pandemic, the situation will be even worse, with implications in the geopolitical sphere. The perspective of China occupying the world proscenium likewise arouses a powerful reaction. International conflicts expand, whether technological, commercial, environmental or of other nature. Neo-colonialism and new types of aggression are to become more frequent.

That is why our times demand that the peace-loving and anti-imperialist forces redouble their activities. The peoples have to clearly understand the relationship between what is happening in the international scenario and their daily life.

We must increase the mass of those who struggle for peace, of the consequent internationalists. Only that will grant us the capacity to lead great mobilizations in the world, in denounce of the Lords of War. Cebrapaz, within its modest possibilities, continues ahead, moved by the conscience that in Venezuela, Cuba, China, Palestine, Syria, Korea, Vietnam, and even in the United States, in all countries of the world there are hundreds of millions of men and women who seek and long for world peace.

Comrades: we are not alone. We shall overcome!

Thank you.





By: Pablo Ruiz
Observatory for the Close-Down of the School of the Americas, Chile

Good morning, dear comrades.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to deliver a few words.

The first thing I wish to say is that since the World Peace Assembly held by the World Peace Council is San Luis, Brazil, in November, 2016 which I was able to attend, we have been living even much more complicated moments in Latin America and the entire world.

1 – Historically, since the foundation of our organization we have been working in denouncing the dangerous role played by the military training given by the USA to the troops of our entire continent at the School of the Americas. As you know, the School of the Americas was expelled from Panama as a result of the Torrijos-Carter Treaty. Since 1984 it operates at Fort Benning, Georgia, USA.

Since January, 2001, due to the intense protests and clear denounces we all made of the role played by this military academy in the violation of the Human Rights of all our peoples, the USA State Department decided it would be better to change the name in order to feign having closed it. Now it is called Western Hemisphere Institute of Cooperation and Security (WHINSEC).

One year later, in 2002, President Hugo Chávez endured a coup d'état in Venezuela that was fortunately reverted by its brave people. In 2010, Manuel Zelaya was expelled from the government in Honduras employing violence, enduring a coup d'état. Last year, in October, Evo Morales was also compelled to resign because of a coup d'état. In these three cases, those behind the events have been military graduated in the School of the Americas, now called WHINSEC.

2 – Last October 7 we delivered a report together with other organizations to the Commission for Truth in Colombia. The report is titled "From the Beginning to the End: the United States in the Colombian Armed Conflict." You are familiar with this whole story; I only need to add that over 100,000 Colombian troops, including policemen and military, have been trained by the USA in recent decades not only in the School of the Americas, WHINSEC, but in many other academies of the empire.

The situation in Colombia is a difficult one; the assassination of female leaders, social leaders, and former guerrilla fighters continues to take place. We continue to support the efforts to achieve the implementation and maintenance of the Peace Agreement signed between the FARC-EP and the government of Colombia in Havana in 2016.

3 – Changing the topic, I would like to say that new concerns have added in recent years. In Chile, together with other organizations (and I wish to highlight the vanguard role assumed by the Group of Relatives of Political Victims and comrade Alicia Lira, who has supported these causes) we have carried out campaigns to draw attention to the nuclear problem.

We observe with great concern the withdrawal of the United States from several treaties for the control of nuclear weapons. Among them is the withdrawal from the Treaty of Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) and the announcement of the withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty and of the possible end of the START 3 Treaty or the Treaty on the Reduction of Strategic Weapons.

With all these actions, the USA wants to disregard its obligations on the control of mass destruction weapons. This is a danger for the entire world, because if the USA succeeds in breaking the strategic balance that still exists among the countries in possession of these weapons, it will want to impose its will even more against our nations.

Many of you have supported these campaigns, and we thank you for it. Also Cuba, its Minister Bruno Rodríguez has pointed out that "The total elimination of nuclear weapons must be the highest priority in the sphere of disarmament." This point should be in our work agenda because of the dangerous implications that nuclear weapons have for the entire humankind.

4 – Another theme we have been active in is our struggle against the foreign military bases in Latin America. At this point I wish to add our concern for the USA naval base in Peru, called Namru-6, which carries out research on infectious diseases.

Namru-6 also recently opened a "branch" in the Soto Cano military base in Honduras, where the Bravo Joint Task Force, the largest USA military base in Central America, operates with a battalion of more than 500 USA marines.

This is worrying, because these investigations may help create biological weapons against our peoples. Cuba has great experience on this subject.

Lastly, I wish to conclude by expressing our solidarity with Cuba. We support the demand for the return of the territories occupied by the USA in the Guantánamo military base. It is an illegal military base, and in addition, inside it is a prison where tortures are carried out and prisoners are retained without the right to a due trial.

Our solidarity also goes to the people of Brazil, which not only is having a very hard time on account of the pandemic and the Fascist policies of Bolsonaro, but its government has signed several military agreements and agreements of subordination to the USA, among them the use of the Alcántara air space base and the reshipment of troops to the new School of the Americas.

The struggle we all engage in from this space is the struggle for the Right to Live in Peace that Víctor Jara so appropriately sang to.



By: Alicia Lira
President of the Group of Relatives of Political Victims

In Chile, the dictatorial governments have practiced a foreign relations policy of servility to the United States administrations, and the deployment of military forces to the School of the Americas has been a criminal meddling against Cuba and Venezuela.

In the face of these two situations we have worked in solidarity with diverse national and international organizations and fully rejected the meddling policies that lessen the right to self-determination of free peoples.

Today in Chile, a huge mobilization of students has been taking place since October 18, 2019, when they blockaded the entrance to the subway and urged the population not to pay the fare. From that day on, the mobilization became massive throughout our country.

We have been repressed in criminal form by the Special Police Forces (FFEE) for saying ENOUGH to the repression to the social mobilization, to the plundering of our wealth, to the denial to worthy salaries and pensions suppressed in criminal form by the Special Police Forces along the years of government. Therefore, our actions have the purpose to end the National Security Doctrine, which follows the logic of regarding all organized and mobilized people as domestic enemies.

Sebastián Piñera, following the policy of a Fascist rightist government, further strengthens the neo-liberal system in wild form affecting the homes of the most marginalized and middle class, and those grounds give birth to the popular revolt, which has gradually added millions of Chileans.

Human Rights have been massively and systematically violated since that date, having to regret more than 35 assassinations of young people by the Special Police and Armed Forces, plus 450 mutilated (two persons lost both eyes, 350 lost one eye, and the rest, different parts of their bodies), and over 2,500 young people and about 100 minors sent to prison from October 2019 through February 2020 and still incarcerated in facilities of the SENAME (Service to Minors), a place that is being investigated by the Attorney General since the Bachelet administration.

Today, the criminal escalade continues, an example of which was the criminal action of pushing 16-year old Anthony Araya from the 7-meter high bridge over the river Mapocho.

We have been permanently working in the international sphere, making denounces and expressing our solidarity with the peoples.

In the case of Colombia we actively work with organizations such as the Coalition of the Butterflies and Ties of Dignity, and with defenders of Human Rights and the freedom for political prisoners. We were invited in 2017 to be observers of the Peace process signed in Havana, Cuba.

We visited the comrades at the Simón Trinidad camp, expressing our solidarity and commitment to learn about the situation of the FARC prisoners.

We were at the Chiquinquirá prison in that municipality, where we were received by the political prisoners held there. They handed to us the full documentation on the obstacles and false arguments employed to violate the Peace Agreement, and information about the assassination of former guerrilla fighters or social leaders, which we succeeded in delivering to the United Nations officer in Bogotá in charge of this Peace process.

In Argentina we perform a constant work with the League of Human Rights and Mopasol, a defender of Human Rights led by our dear comrade Rina Bertaccini in defense of the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the human quality of this peace fighter. We also had meetings with the ambassador in Chile to inform him about our activities in solidarity.

The struggle of Venezuela is the struggle of all the peoples like ours who want to be free from submission to the USA imperialism. For years we have worked in different fronts in favor of active solidarity, with participation in activities such as forums and congresses both in Cuba and Caracas. On September 19-21, I took part in the First International Women's Congress for Peace and Solidarity among the Peoples.

Our group has a permanent relation in the solidarity with the ambassador to Chile, comrade Arévalo Méndez, sharing with him in activities and delegations that have come to Chile.

These actions against the meddling, persecution, and blockade of the USA, and the disrespect to the self-determination of the peoples in Chile with the servile government of Sebastián Piñera reinforced in the last few months the campaign against the government of comrade Nicolás Maduro, adopting a complicity with the permanent attack by Donald Trump's imperial government and the criminal economic and political blockade and the criminal attempt to the life and health of Venezuelans.

Trump has the active complicity of President Iván Duque in the attacks to the Bolivarian government and its people. However, in Colombia human rights are systematically violated, and that country does not respect the Peace process.

With regard to Cuba, the solidarity with Cuba has always been in the heart of the Chileans since the revolution started, and in its support we actively participate in the meeting in demand of the closing of the military base in Guantánamo and the end of the blockade.

On behalf of our group of relatives of victims of the Pinochet dictatorship and of the civilians victims of State terrorism, we recorded a video demanding the Nobel Prize for Peace for the Cuban medical brigades because of their solidarity, generosity, and humanity toward other

peoples. They are evidence of a people that believes in those values, and we are convinced that they would dignify the Nobel Prize if they were to receive it.

Chile continues to send military to the Institute of Cooperation and Security of the Western Hemisphere (WHINSEC), the new name given to the School of the Americas.

From 2009 to 2019, more than 2,147 Chilean military and policemen have been trained at the WHINSEC, in Georgia (USA), and in Fort Benning.

The installation in 2012 of a military base of the USA in Chile, the Police School of Repression by the USA government was a coarse meddling of that government in Chile. During Sebastián Piñera's first term, a military base of the USA was established in Fuerte Aguayo, in the city of Concón, some 135 Km northeast of Santiago.

In 2019, the government, submitted to the USA administration, carried out the "Force Commando" drills sponsored by the Southern Commando, and also performed the UNITAS naval exercises.

On April 12, 2019, USA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo came to Chile to meet with Sebastián Piñera, and logically broached the topic of Venezuela and Washington's obsession to knock down the government of Nicolás Maduro.

He questioned Piñera's possible visit to the Huawei Enterprise, pointing out that "he is the president of a sovereign nation", but adding that that giant of communications "is controlled by the Chinese government", and for that reason the visit would entail "risks."

No to the military bases in Latin America and the Caribbean!



By: Myriam Parada

Executive Director of Colombia School of Peace



Dear comrades of the World Peace Council, comrade President Socorro Gomes, dear comrade Silvio Platero, all MOVPAZ team members, and all participants in this continental online meeting:

We hereby send our brotherly embrace in these times when the normal development of life in the planet has changed, not only because of the situation created by the COVID 19 pandemic, but also because of the constant siege of the empire against the economies and life of the people

In the first place we wish to underline and particularly acknowledge the work of the Cuban doctors, the Henry Reeve Brigade, displayed in more than 38 countries to offer its help in favor of life in the struggle against the pandemic, as an act of humanism and solidarity in spite of the constant and ever more aggressive siege of the government of the United States, which pretends to suffocate the economy, the blockade.

As I mentioned at the start, this COVID 19 pandemic changed the lives of each one of us, but we must bear in mind the pandemics of corruption, hunger and war that for a long time have kept the peoples in extreme poverty and deprived of a worthy life.

In Latin America, plans of the United States government have been developing to destabilize the progressive governments of the region, now with the support of the governments that meet in the so called Group of Lima, created in August, 2017 with the sole purpose of "looking for a peaceful outcome of the crisis in Venezuela", in a meddling that violates the sovereignty of the Venezuelan people.

Now, let us talk a little about Colombia. In addition to the military bases installed in our territory by a military agreement between the government of Colombia and the United States in 2009, as you well know, now we have the arrival of new US troops to our country: the SFAB - Brigades of Assistance to the Security Forces of the South Commando of the United States - "to reinforce the struggle against the drugs", but also to support "the strategy of the Colombian State of the Futuro Zones", established in 2020 by the Duque administration, which comprise the regions of the nariñense Pacific, the Catatumbo, the Low Cauca and the south of Córdoba, Arauca, Chiribiquete and nearby national nature parks. This has been denounced and has generated debates in the Senate of the Republic. And of course it endangers peace in the region.

Nevertheless, it is important to point out that the persecution and massacre of social leaders, Human Rights fighters and subscribers of the Peace Agreement does not cease.

Unfortunately they are daily news without an effective answer on the side of the government to find the authors and apply justice.

In this regard I quote a report of the Institute for Studies on Development and Peace - INDEPAZ - dated July 16, 2020 entitled already 152 assassinations in 2020 of Leaders, Human Rights Fighters and Former Farc Members. (Figure 1: Map of murdered leaders in Colombia)

Indepaz presented its report on aggressions against any type of leadership since the signing of the Peace Agreements. The pandemic does not stop the scourge: 82 homicides have been registered since the national confinement began.

And it also points out:

Cauca, Antioquia and Nariño are the three departments with the highest number of assassinations of leaders and Human Rights fighters in 2016. The first one with 226 cases, followed by 133 and 84, respectively. The total figure reaches 97 indigenous natives, peasants, African descendants, trade unionists, women and environmentalists, among others assassinated between November 24, 2016 and July 15, 2020.

In addition are the actions of police violence and invalidation of social protest, among other earnest problems faced by the country.

But there is also the scorning of the social justice system by the allies of the author of the most horrid crimes of lesser humanity, pretending to avoid justice. A situation that scorns, attacks and victimizes anew all those relatives and victims of the shameful episode of massacres and forced displacement, State crimes (false positives). We are referring to the former President Álvaro Uribe.

With this brief but very earnest and alarming picture we are presenting to you we can say that the country lives under a government of terror, an openly Fascist government.

The student, trade unionist, indigenous, and social organizations continue to demonstrate and mobilize in rejection to these actions and in defense of life, democracy, and peace.

As peace fighters, our organization, from the Colombia School of Peace continue to work in the creation of a peace culture, despite the daily difficulties due to the isolation. However, we use the internet platforms, which to some extent have enabled us to develop our work with a small number of children, and on occasions we have carried out workshops with Mexican children in collaboration with comrade Rolando Brito, President of Mompade, to whom we send regards and whose interest in developing this program we acknowledge.

We are initiating the online program “UN CAFECITO PARA HABLAR DE PAZ” (A CUP OF COFFEE TO TALK ABOUT PEACE), with which we pretend to celebrate brotherly meetings with friends, heads of families and workers at the base, in order to reflect on the need to acknowledge the importance of peace and what it means in our country and the world.

We declare our commitment to continue rejecting all acts of violence and meddling of the empire against any sovereign country. And we express our full solidarity with the peoples and governments of Cuba and Venezuela.

NOW IS THE TIME! A BETTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE, AND ALL TOGETHER WE MAY CONSTRUCT IT. WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEACE WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE.

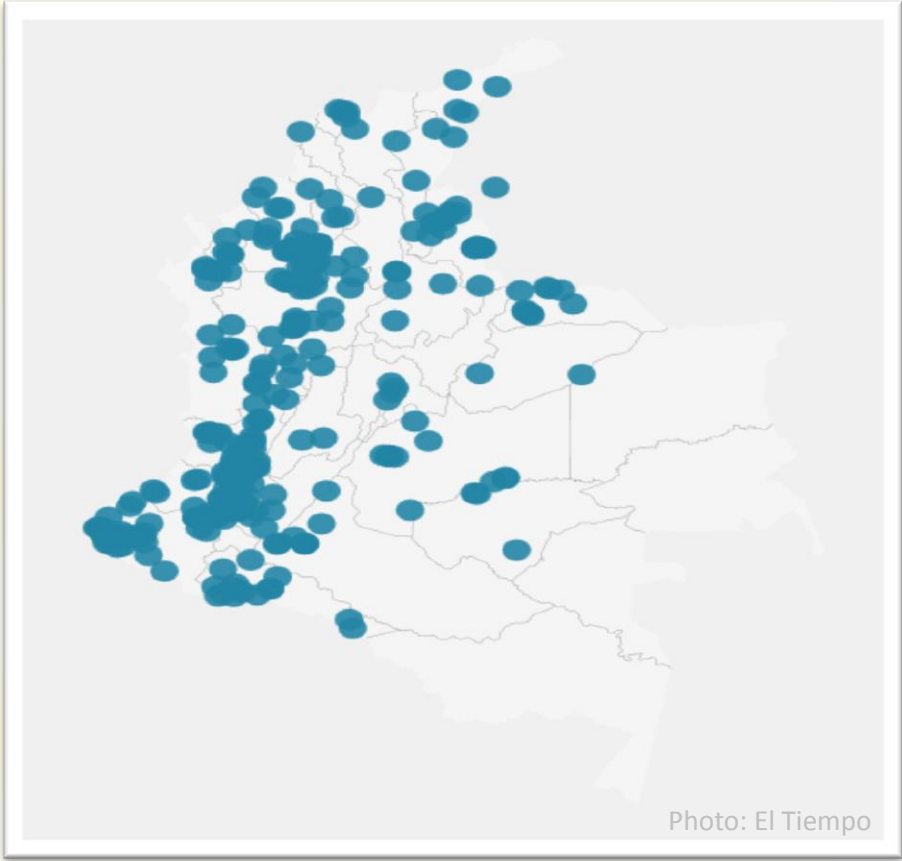


Photo: El Tiempo

Figure 1

By: José Rivera
Member of the International Peace Committee
Colombia Chapter



In the handling of COVID 19, Colombia shows 924,000 infected and 42,141 deceased as of October 13, with the majority of cases in the regions of Antioquia and the Valley, both in the Andean region, while the Amazonia and the Orinoquia, with the lowest population rates, also have the lowest number of infected.

The way in which the pandemic has been handled allows us to identify several things: the illness has higher levels of transmission among the economically vulnerable population, i.e., its transmission has a marked class seal; the adoption of isolation measures is easy when the population to be kept in quarantine has a minimum of vital elements, but in Colombia these sectors must daily seek the means for survival.

I must also point out that the origin of the statistical data is scarcely reliable: it comes from the information supplied by the EPS to the health authorities and shows the number of clients in the intensive care units which charge millions of pesos. While a person with cancer may be treated as an out-patient, someone with corona virus is compelled to pay for the most expensive hospital beds in Colombia, and while those affiliated to a health system pay for medical care, the ones lacking that capacity have to face the illness without medical care, which is not uncommon in a country where minors starve without the government taking any action to at least ensure their survival with a minimum nutritional diet.

In the continent, Colombia has played a leading role in the different aggressions to the Venezuelan government that go from allowing the training of aggressive bands in Colombian soil to the establishment of a media campaign about the lack of democracy and death by starvation of the Venezuelan people during Nicolás Maduro's administration, while they close their eyes to the deaths of starvation of peasant children and chocoanos that is taking place in Colombia. And precisely that Venezuelan government described as tyrannical and incapable, thanks to its preventive measures has a rate of infection below eight percent, but Iván Duque thinks he has been predestined to save Venezuela.

The health emergence caused by the pandemic in Colombia at a time when the government should be dedicating its best efforts to implement the peace agreements served an administration that has openly declared its intention of turning the peace process into a failure.

Massacres and the assassination of social leaders and people in the process of reincorporation took place during the quarantine period, which evidences how, in spite of the lack of mobility ordered for all Colombians the criminals murdered their victims even in strongly militarized spaces such as the departments of Cauca and Nariño, which have been the scenario of the largest killings.

At the same time, the pandemic was the pretext to allocate resources from the peace campaign to finance advertising campaigns to improve the image of the president of the republic.

The figures of the peace process are scary: 232 former FARC guerrilla fighters have been assassinated since the peace agreement began to be implemented. The most recent one took place less than forty hours ago in the neighborhood of the territories destined to the reincorporation, in San José del Guaviare. In addition, more than 2,000 social leaders and human rights supporters have been killed during the same period. The communities of former guerrilla fighters located in the ETCR of Ituango in Antioquia and La Elvira in the department of Cauca have been displaced due to the aggression of the paramilitary groups. The ETCR of Carrizal, in the municipality of Remedios, in Antioquia, have been threatened, involving directly nearly 1,000 former guerrilla fighters whose economic and familiar reincorporation has been damaged and their physical safety endangered.

In spite of this situation, there is a clear decision of constructing peace particularly among the former combatants and the FARC (Fuerza Alternativa Revolucionaria del Común).

We must particularly express our gratefulness to the Republic of Cuba for its huge contribution to the peace in Colombia, in spite of the grotesque statements of officials representing the government that, in its day, supported the United States government in its aggressive measures against the Cuban people. We also acknowledge the solidarity of the peoples of the world that help us denounce the activity against peace and against the return of war as part of daily life in Colombia and form of international connection on the part of the Colombian government.

We demand a more intensive activity of the international community in condemnation of the warmongers in America. Thus we will build together the dream of our liberators to construct the united America, the Great Fatherland.



*By: Carlos E. López
National Coordinator of the Committees for Reconciliation
Justice, and Peace, Nicaragua*

Brothers and Sisters of the World Peace Council (WPC)
Comrade Socorro Gomes, President of the WPC
Comrade Silvio Platero, coordinator of the Peace Movement in Cuba
Women and men fighters for peace in our Latin American and Caribbean

We send you a fraternal greeting on behalf of the President of Peace, Commander Daniel Ortega, and the Vice President, comrade Rosario Murillo. We likewise send you a brotherly greeting from the Commissions for Reconciliation, Peace, and Human Rights of Nicaragua, a movement that brings together thousands of Nicaraguans who work for a culture of harmonious coexistence.

A second stage of the popular Sandinista revolution began in Nicaragua in 2007. The first one went from 1979 to early 1990, and was characterized by trying to overcome all the injustices, inequities, and inequalities inherited by the Somoza dictatorship, which was an instrument of the USA imperialism that dominated the country from 1934 through 1979.

Great conquests for the people were attained in the first stage of the revolution: rights were obtained in the fields of education, health, and agrarian reform for the peasantry, among other collective conquests. These achievements for large majorities of the people took place in midst of a military, political, and economic aggression in all fields, an aggression that found the resistance of the peace-loving people and were condemned by the International Court of Justice of The Hague.

There followed a historical interval of 17 years (1990-2006), times that were a true nightmare for those majorities that had seen their dreams come true in the revolution. Governments imposed policies of structural adjustment and neo-liberalism to favor the large transnational capitals and the domestic oligarchic capital, which resulted in the enrichment of a few, the impoverishment of many, and the destruction of Peace and quiet of the people submitted to hunger, unemployment and massive violations of their Human Rights.

Then we arrived at this second stage of the revolution we have been living in since 2007. In these new times, our Peace-loving people returned to power through its instrument, the FSLN, and through its leader and untiring fighter for Peace, Commander Daniel Ortega.

This Government of Reconciliation and National Unity is inspired by Christian, solidary, and revolutionary values.

It is a Government of Reconciliation because it rules for all Nicaraguans without any kind of distinction; it rules the country with a logics of inclusion, promotion of human development and respect to Human Rights. It is a Government of Unity because the demands of the social and communitarian movements excluded by three consecutive neo-liberal governments have now been assumed by the policies of the

The present government is a government of Peace, understanding Peace as the construction of a model of human development and restoration of the rights of the people, families, and communities.

In the almost 14 past years, Nicaragua has enjoyed a social and comprehensive peace marked by:

- The construction of a Family and Communitarian Model (MOSAF), that ensures the right to health, allowing the people, families, and communities to enjoy free, quality health care, integral health prevention and attention.
- The construction of an educational system that guarantees the full exercise of the right to the education of children, adolescents, and youth, enabling the new generations to enjoy a free, inclusive, and pertinent education at all educational levels.
- The implementation of more than forty social and economic programs that have made it possible to reduce poverty and extreme poverty, and to improve the conditions and life levels of the women, children, youth, peasants, indigenous peoples and African descendants, disabled persons and other sectors of society that had been excluded in the past, but which today are included in our society.

In the context of the Corona virus pandemic, our government has designed and implemented a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect, and grant attention to the COVID 19 pandemic. This strategy is part of MOSAF; it is not something occasional but a comprehensive, permanent strategy that has proved to be effective in the combat against all the viral and bacterial epidemics that have scourged our country and the region, and we have emerged victorious in facing each one of them with the lowest number of victims and impairment when compared with the neighboring countries.

We have likewise obtained positive results in the combat against COVID19. We are among the countries with the least infected and the lowest rates of mortality and deadliness in the region.

These results have been obtained thanks to the public investment of the Sandinista government in health. Twenty percent of the total General Budget of the Republic is destined to health; 19 new hospitals and hundreds of health units such as health centers, health posts, and motherly homes have been built; 18 hospitals have been destined to face the impact of the pandemic; thousands of public health servants together with a communitarian health network made up by thousands of volunteers worked in the ten thousand communities in the country to prevent and educate the population to avoid the infection with COVID-19.

Likewise, all State institutions, coordinated by the Ministry of Health and commanded by Commander Daniel and Comrade Rosario have developed, as we said before, a comprehensive strategy of education, prevention, detection and care regarding this pandemic.

This model of live peace and human development we have been developing since 2007 was interrupted by an attempt of coup d'état in April, 2018 promoted by a small group of politicians, entrepreneurs, and members of religious orders that ruled the country for 17 years and which have been defeated by the FSLN in three consecutive elections; groups that promote hatred, destruction and confrontation, small groups financed by the imperialism of the United States.

That attempt of coup was defeated by the Government of Peace and Goodness, by the wise, prudent, strategic, and constructive leadership of Commander Daniel and Comrade Rosario, by the State institutions that work in coherent and articulated form around the model of human development I mentioned previously, institutions that work in consonance with the Political Constitution of the Republic and the collective rights established by the supreme law.

The Commissions of Reconciliation, Peace, and Human Rights began to exist precisely in April, 2018, and also contributed to avoid chaos to take hold of the country, but their main contribution has been in the period that followed the frustrated coup. Since they started, a total of 7,500 commissions have been created, which a structure at all levels. There is a National Commission, a commission in each department capital and autonomous regions of the Caribbean coast, with 15 department commissions, two regional ones, and commissions in every municipality totaling 153. However, the greatest strength of the commissions lies in those at communitarian level, in each neighborhood and territory of the country, with something over 7,000 existing today.

The Commissions are made up by the people, conscious Nicaraguan brothers and sisters who love Peace, among them teachers, communitarian leaders, evangelical pastors, Catholic delegates of the word of God, and communitarian public servants, among others.

These territorial commissions have contributed to overcome the wounds caused by the frustrated attempt of coup d'état, and foster the brotherly coexistence, a culture of human meeting, of respect for diversity, and a culture of peace at all levels: in the family, school, work centers, and community.

All the efforts made by the Government through its policies and social and economic programs, plus the construction of relations of cooperation among all Nicaraguan families have enabled the country to take again the road we had been following in recent years.

This great meeting among government, family and community is strengthening, and the idea is to consolidate that great unity to continue defeating all the external aggressions of imperialism and the attacks of an opposition that is thirsty of destruction.

Nevertheless, both our government and our people who participate in the Commissions and in many other popular organizations of women, students, youth, peasants, trade unions, entrepreneurs, micro, small, and middle enterprises, we are sure that we will continue to win and to reach levels of development, happiness and shared prosperity for the people, all of it a synonym of full and lasting peace.

Brothers and sisters: let us continue ahead united, struggling for Peace, in order to defeat the empire of war and oppression. United we shall overcome in this Large Fatherland.



Photo: National Assembly of Nicaragua

By: Miguel Figueroa
President of the Canadian Peace Congress



Dear comrades, friends and fighters for Peace:

Our meeting takes place in unprecedented times, marked by circumstances we could hardly have foreseen when we last met in Moca in September, 2018. Our hemisphere and our world are mired in several distinct but interrelated crises that, taken together, constitute the most serious threat ever to world peace, to the struggle for democratic advance and social progress, and to the very future of humanity.

These crises include:

- A public health crisis resulting from the spread of COVID-19, resulting in over one million deaths globally to date (over 600,000 in this hemisphere alone), massive social and economic dislocations, and exposing the utter failure of under-funded and privatized, for-profit healthcare services;
- A global economic crisis which, while triggered by the pandemic, is the result of sharpening contradictions within the failed system of global capitalism itself; a crisis which will be more widespread and protracted than any other since the Great Depression of the 1930s, one which falls most heavily on working people, the unemployed and vulnerable sections of the people, especially in the Global South, but also on the exploited and oppressed in the so-called 'advanced' countries of the North, including Canada;
- An ever-worsening environmental crisis marked by global warming, desertification and loss of biodiversity, with all of the economic and social costs this entails;
- A socio-political crisis characterized by the rise of narrow nationalism, racism and discrimination, and the spread of ultra-right and neo-Nazi movements and ideology; together with an increasing assault of the labour and democratic rights of the people by authoritarian and repressive states and governments; and not least,
- A dangerous deterioration – indeed, wholesale breakdown – in international relations, reflected in the systematic undercutting of the authority and standing of the United Nations and its bodies, of international agreements (especially those relating to arms limitations and control), and of respect for international covenants, the UN Charter and the principles of international law; and their replacement with the “law of the jungle”, of unilateralism, of coercive economic measures (sanctions), political interference and subversion, of “regime-change” and “hybrid warfare” waged against Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia in this hemisphere, and against China, Russia, Iran, Syria, the DPRK, the Palestinian peoples and other countries internationally – in other words, a rising wave of militarization, aggression and war by US imperialism and its allies (including Canada) in a desperate attempt to reverse its declining power and global hegemony.

The maturing of each one of these crises, taken separately, is ominous enough. Taken together, they constitute a toxic, explosive mix – a ‘Molotov cocktail’ of global proportions, one which threatens the very

survival of humanity and our planet. This is the scope and breadth of the challenge which lies before us all.

For its part, the Trudeau government and the Canadian State has oriented its policies in lock-step with Washington and the imperialist camp. It plans to increase military spending by over 73% over the next 10 years, and is purchasing a whole new fleet of fighter jets, naval vessels, and attack drones as part of its heightened commitment to NATO. It continues to play a leading role, under US supervision, in the so-called “Lima Group” targeting Venezuela and the progressive forces across Latin America in general. And it is playing an active role in the hybrid war against China, having detained Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou for almost two years, and threatens to extradite her at Washington’s behest.

In the face of these disturbing developments, the Canadian Peace Congress has been stepping up our campaigns to demand Canada’s withdrawal from NATO; to cut the arms budget, diverting these funds to social needs; and to oppose the rearmament program for the Canadian military.

Over the coming months, our Congress will be issuing a comprehensive “Peace Alternative” which will outline a whole new direction for a truly independent, made-in-Canada foreign/defence policy based on peace, cooperation and respect for international law, not on aggression and imperialist war. And we will soon be launching a special campaign to counter the growing anti-China narrative in the mainstream corporate press, framed around the slogan: “No Cold War against China!”

In terms of strategy and tactics, we are pursuing a two pronged approach: firstly, to build up the influence and reach of the anti-imperialist current within the broad peace movement, starting with the growth of our own Peace Congress; and secondly, to support efforts to strengthen unity-in-action of the broader peace movement, despite its clear limitations and current weaknesses. It is our fervent view that both tasks are required at this critical moment in order to revitalize the peace forces in our country.

Finally, our Congress would like to thank compañero Silvio Platero and MOVPAZ for convening this meeting and discussion, and we extend our warmest solidarity greetings to comrades Socorro and Iraklis of the leadership of the World Peace Council, and to all of our sister organizations and participants here today. At this crucial moment, it is more urgent and necessary than ever that we strengthen our coordination and collaboration. Despite the many difficulties which confront us, we remain confident in the victory of our common goal!



*By: Bahman Azad
Executive Secretary of the U.S. Peace Council*

Thanks to MOVPAZ and especially Comrade Silvio for organizing this Regional Meeting of the WPC. I am deeply honored be addressing this important and timely gathering.

Since the September 11, 2001 attack on New York, leaders of the US military-industrial complex have put the Empire's war machine into

high gear, attacking — under the guise of an endless “war on terror” and “responsibility to protect” — one country after another and bringing death and destruction to many countries of the world, especially to those in the Middle East.

Now, thanks to the Trump administration, US imperialism's war machine has been put in overdrive. The never-ending wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Syria are now being supplemented by simultaneous threats of war and efforts to force a regime change against several countries; expanding the US economic war through imposition of illegal, anti-human sanctions against Cuba, Syria, Iran and Venezuela, which has already resulted in the death of 40 thousand people and threats against the lives of an additional 300,000 people in Venezuela alone; withdrawing from missile and nuclear treaties with Russia and Iran, creating a humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen; dispatching more U.S. war ships and troops to the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf; expanding the reach of the US global war machine, NATO, into Latin America; starting an economic war with China; and increasing tensions with Russia. And on top of all this is a trillion-dollar military and war budget to fund the Empire's “full spectrum dominance” project for the whole world, about which all U.S. politicians and presidential candidates, with the exception of one or two, are absolutely silent.

Decades of neoliberal capitalist economic policies — massive privatization of healthcare and systems, removal of market and environmental regulations, globalization of production at poverty-level wages, etc. etc., has created massive poverty, health crisis and environmental disaster at the global level.

All these point to the fact that the Empire is pushing the world toward a very dangerous global military, economic, environmental and humanitarian catastrophe, which demands extraordinary steps on the part of the global peace movement if such a disaster is to be prevented.

The global COVID-19 pandemic crisis has now more than ever opened the working people's eyes, especially in the United States, to the cracks and weaknesses of the global capitalist/imperialist system and its inability to provide for the most fundamental and basic human needs, especially for the working people, African-Americans and the communities of color.

Massive demonstrations are spreading throughout the United States, around the issue of police brutality and racism of the neoliberal capitalist economic policies.

But this is, indeed, only the tip of the iceberg. However, many see this just an issue of police brutality alone, calling for the reform of the police departments and defunding the police, or at best bringing them under community control, forgetting the fact that all these oppressive measures, and racism in general, are only symptoms of the deeper contradictions of the capitalist/imperialist system itself that cannot be resolved by means of just a few of localized patches here and there, but a fundamental transformation of the system from the ground up.

To this general crisis we should add the current crisis of legitimacy that has resulted from mishandling of the COVID pandemic by the Trump administration and the economic problems — massive layoffs, unprecedented level of unemployment, poverty, hunger, etc. — that have engulfed the whole society as a result of it.

Donald Trump, fearful of losing the election, is now himself contributing to the deepening the legitimacy crisis of the state by questioning the validity of the upcoming elections and announcing that he would refuse to leave office if is defeated in the elections. His plan, with the help of his loyal Republicans in the Senate, is refusing to accept the results and referring the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court, which he is now trying to stack with his own supporters.

However, regardless of the outcome of the elections, the crisis of the U.S. and global capitalism will not only continue, but will deepen further, thus creating additional reasons for the wounded beast of imperialism to inflict more damages on the peoples of the world — through more wars, economic sanctions and more blatant violations of human rights — in order to protect its weakening global hegemony.

All this, adds to our responsibility to redouble our efforts — regionally and globally — to confront imperialism's anti-human global sanctions and was machine by pushing more strongly for a globally unified peace movement on the world scale. Let us take the necessary steps to build such a unified movement before it is too late.

By: Hope McNish

Chair of the Steering Committee of the Jamaica Peace Council

Good afternoon brothers and sisters,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this very important meeting.

I bring greetings and solidarity from the Jamaica Peace Council to WPC President Socorro Gomes, WPC Executive Secretary Iraklis Tsavdaridis, WPC Vice President Movpaz President Silvio Platero and other fellow meeting attendees.

It is good to see so many persons whom I met at the WPC continental meeting in the Dominican Republic in 2013.

The Covid-19 disease threatens the health, wellness and mortality of the people of the world at an unprecedented level. In its wake, it unveils many social inequities that are the result of the predominant social system which engenders and thrives on exploitation, oppression and various types of discrimination – class, race, ethnicity, gender, age etc.

The disparity in education is widened by the pandemic. As students are required to attend classes online, Covid-19 exposes the inequality in internet access and unavailability of computer technology in homes. While students from upper class families access their online classes easily, poorer students faced major problems.

In many cases, the student's only access to the internet is their parent's phone, if they have a data plan. There is some effort to close the gap through some excellent educational programs on television but this does not allow for interaction, personal attention and continuity. Tablets are also being distributed to students in situations where they can have internet access.

Covid-19 disproportionately affects the lower classes and non-whites as they are disproportionately exposed to situations that make them vulnerable to the disease. This includes working in frontline jobs, traveling by public transport, living and working in congested spaces with poor ventilation, and having pre-existing conditions.

The harsh economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have also been felt mostly among the working class, in particular, black workers. Job loss is high and climbing, especially as many companies are increasing the use of digitization, automation and mechanization. Added to that is the astronomical increase in the cost of living.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, highlighted the fact that there is a gender



disparity in the impact of Covid-19. We can add to that age disparity in those affected by the disease, as the majority of persons who die from the disease are senior citizens who may not be prioritized for life-saving in overwhelmed health systems.

An important dimension to Covid-19's impact is the fact that governments have had to introduce extraordinary emergency measures which curtail human rights and can easily create the conditions for them to morph into dictatorships without the vigilance of constitutional lawyers, human rights bodies, civil society groups, mass organisations and peace advocates. There is an obvious difference in the measures used to contain the virus in working class and poor communities compared to upper class communities. In working class and poor communities a militarized approach is used, whereas in upper class communities they are treated with dignity and respect and allowed to self-quarantine and self-isolate.

A major danger to peace posed by the impact of Covid 19 is the tendency of powerful imperialist countries to use the severe economic realities faced by poorer countries to manipulate them into supporting actions which are against their self-interest; against the thrust towards creating a peaceful world; and against maintaining our region of the Caribbean and Latin America as a zone of peace. In this region, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba are currently the primary targets for regime change because of their resistance to foreign domination of their natural resources. What does this have to do with Covid-19? The fact is that the economic problems of developing states have been exacerbated by the pandemic and they are challenged to find the resources to both fight the pandemic and revitalize their economies. This makes them vulnerable to manipulation by powerful countries, thus posing a major threat to peace in our region.

We firmly believe that COVID19, which has done so much to expose the structural socio-economic, cultural and political inequities and disparities between races, gender, ethnic groups and classes in capitalist societies, should be treated as an opportunity to transform our societies to at least minimize, if not eliminate, the threats to peace and stability globally. We can deepen and broaden our level of cooperation and support.

Against this background, we support the nomination of Cuba's Henry Reeve Medical Brigade for the Nobel Peace Prize for their bravery in providing healthcare to peoples all over the world to combat dangerous diseases such as Ebola and Covid-19. They are setting an example of what peaceful cooperation between nations looks like.



By: Silvio Platero
President of the Cuban Movement for Peace and
Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ)

Dear comrades and friends:

For more than 7 months, humankind has been facing the COVID 19 pandemic that has shaken the majority of nations with its sequel of infected and deceased, already exceeding the scary figure of 37 million sick people and one million deaths.

It is a highly contagious illness that fully impacts all sectors of contemporary societies and has shaken the very foundations of the political, economic and social national structures and the entire international system.

Our American and Caribbean continent today shows a very high figure of infected and deaths, which has turned it into the world epicenter of the pandemic.

The neo-liberal policies applied and developed by quite a few governments in the continent have not favored the restraint and control of the illness; on the contrary, they have favored its unceasing dissemination through the absence of support to the public health services and other social programs in benefit of the large masses, as well as by corruption.

Paradoxically, the United States of America, the greatest global power, has the sad merit of heading the list of nations of the continent with the highest number of infected and deceased: more than 7 million sick people and over 214 thousand deaths.

Coincidentally, other countries that are highly identified with the imperial policies such as Brazil, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru also show very high figures, while in Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela the huge efforts of their rulers continue in order to control and revert the disastrous effects of the pandemic.

Our country, in midst of the reinforced economic, financial, and commercial blockade of the United States with the sequel of sanctions that pretend to drown the Island's economic development, has succeeded – thanks to its renowned health system and the strong political will of its highest authorities – in controlling and reverting as much as possible the effects of this illness, investing not only the necessary financial resources but also the entire huge scientific potential developed by the Revolution in the more than 60 last years.

In this whole context, the aggressive policies of the United States have been intensified and multiplied, promoted by the most conservative groups that today control the establishment in that country, ignoring the multiple callings of the international community to eliminate the sanctions arbitrarily imposed on nations considered enemies in order to grant them better possibilities to fight the pandemic.

In its unceasing urge to impose its dictates on our countries, the Trump Administration distances itself ever more from multilateralism and consolidates its policy of ignoring the international organizations, going as far as to abandon the World Health Organization in midst of the present global pandemic.

At the same time it strengthens the enforcement of the Monroe Doctrine through an increased interventionism in the domestic affairs of the majority of nations in the area, with special emphasis against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, sparing no political, financial, and commercial resources and blackmail to try to revert the democratic and participative revolutionary process of that brotherly nation.

Dear comrades:

All those imperial actions represent a very serious threat to the peace and political, social, and economic stability of our continent, in midst of the cruel pandemic that scourges, one way or the other, all nations of the hemisphere.

The political events that today shake Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, and Brazil, among other nations that support the neo-liberal policies, have convulsed the foundations of peace and social stability in those countries. Protests and mass demonstrations of the most oppressed and dispossessed sectors (which are also the most damaged by the pandemic) are constantly taking place, and the governmental repression against them is being intensified.

In moments such as these, an appeal becomes necessary from our side, the side of the peace and social movements, to the widest solidarity with the peoples directly or indirectly submitted to oppression and poverty through the oligarchic governments, and at the same time the increase of denounces of the imperialist aggressiveness and blackmail against the progressive and patriotic sectors of our peoples.

Cuba has repeatedly expressed in dissimilar forums and addresses of its highest leadership its commitment with peace and solidarity, which it has evidenced and will continue to evidence in midst of the national struggle against the pandemic with the presence in more than 39 countries of groups of the Henry Reeve International Brigade to confront illnesses and disasters, as expression of such commitment nobly shared by all our people.

Allow me to express my thankfulness from this tribune for the world claim to grant the Nobel Price for Peace to the Henry Reeve Internationalist Brigade, and very specially to the World Peace Council for having embraced and supported that laudable initiative.

Once more we reiterate the appeal to all peace organizations to raise the Proclaim of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace as the most effective commitment to oppose the reactionary policy of the United States and its instrument of oppression of the region, which is the Monroe Doctrine.

These are times to fight for peace and it is our call to do it.



Paz y Soberanía



<https://cubaporlapaz.wordpress.com/category/revista-paz-y-soberania-2/publicaciones/>