

Manifesto for Peace



Official newsletter of the Committee for International Solidarity & the Struggle for Peace (COSI) Venezuela
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II WPC and WFDY International Solidarity Mission Visits Caracas

Venezuela is facing a deepening imperialist offensive against it, an offensive which has intensified during the past few months and which has as its central theme the setting up of a series of unilateral coercive measures against the nation.

In the context of this aggression, the **Committee for International Solidarity and the Struggle for Peace (COSI)** organised the Second International Solidarity Mission together with the World Peace Council (WPC) and the World Federation of Democratic Youths (WFDY) from April 12 to 15. This mission included participation from **more than a hundred**



international delegates from the five continents.

Its objectives included checking the actual situation in the country and to express a condemnation of the actions of imperialism which openly promote an imperialist war against the Venezuelan people, a

threat against the peace of the entire region.

During the mission, the **Regional Meeting for the World Peace Council for the Americas and the Caribbean** was also held, discussing the work plan 2018-2020 and approving the final declaration of the meeting.

Likewise, the international delegates had the opportunity to meet with President Nicolás Maduro and with numerous Caracas communities, with the objective of transmitting their solidarity with the struggles of the Venezuelan people and reaffirming their commitment to take the truth about Venezuela back to their countries.

COSI VENEZUELA

WPC celebrates 70th anniversary in Venezuela

Paris 1949 was when the partisans of peace, alongside the international effort of the USSR, installed **the First Conference for Peace**. It was held following the end of the Second World War and after seeing the horrors which the advance of Nazi-fascism and the detonation for the first time of the atomic bomb brought. The risk of the sparking of a new world conflict and the use of arms of mass destruction were the most important causes of the founding of the world peace movement which would struggle to avoid the development of these threats to human existence.

70 years later, these threats continue to exist, and have been added to by phenomena like colonialism, racism, xenophobia, and foreign military bases, which have become flag-bearing issues of struggle during these 70 years for our organisations of peace and solidarity. They have also become mobilising factors to unite the democratic and peace-loving forces so as to create consciousness about the threats of imperialist war for our peoples.

In this context and with numerous activities of mobilisation and agitation, the World Peace Council celebrated its 70th anniversary in Venezuela: a country which today is in the epicentre of the struggle against imperialism.

COSI VENEZUELA



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The WASHINGTON EMBASSY PROTECTORS have Galvanized the US Peace Movement



The US peace movement has a long history of struggle against US imperialism's interventions in the internal affairs of other countries. This history has had frequent ebbs and flows, depending on the political situation of the time.

The massive demonstrations that appeared before the invasion of Iraq, during which close to half-a-million anti-war activists marched in Washington DC, dissipated after the start of the war and later went into hibernation with the election of Barack Obama.

Although the war-mongering policies of US imperialism continued, and even intensified, during the Obama administration, the US peace movement remained relatively quiet in the fear of not attacking the first black president. This also caused a deepening fragmentation within the movement with regards to how to respond to the intensified militaristic policies. While the left and anti-imperialist forces, including the U.S. Peace Council, continued their active opposition to the interventionist policies, the more liberal forces limited themselves to signing petitions and appealing to various authorities for policy changes.

The election of Donald Trump created the potential for reviving the peace movement. He removed all masks and pretensions by openly threatening several countries with regime change, and imposing or intensifying illegal economic sanctions against countries like Syria, Iran, and Venezuela. Trump's blatant imperialist threats also brought to the fore the conflict between the anti-imperialist and the liberal centre forces within the peace movement. The liberal centre forces, under the influence of persistent media demonization of the leaders of various nations, refused to take side against US imperialism's interventions with the phony excuse that "both sides are bad."

With Trump, we found the opportunity to bring the left and anti-imperialist peace forces together and initiate the formation of a united front that would be able to force the whole peace movement to take a side against US imperialist interventions. Considering the US foreign military bases as the main instrument and the launching pad of all US military aggressions around the world, the USPC called for the creation of the first truly anti-imperialist coalition in the United States for several decades — the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases. The new coalition brought together, for the first time, a broad range of forces, including some significant segments of the liberal centre forces that had refused to take sides against imperialism in the past. This coalition was further expanded into a Global Campaign Against US/NATO Military Bases.

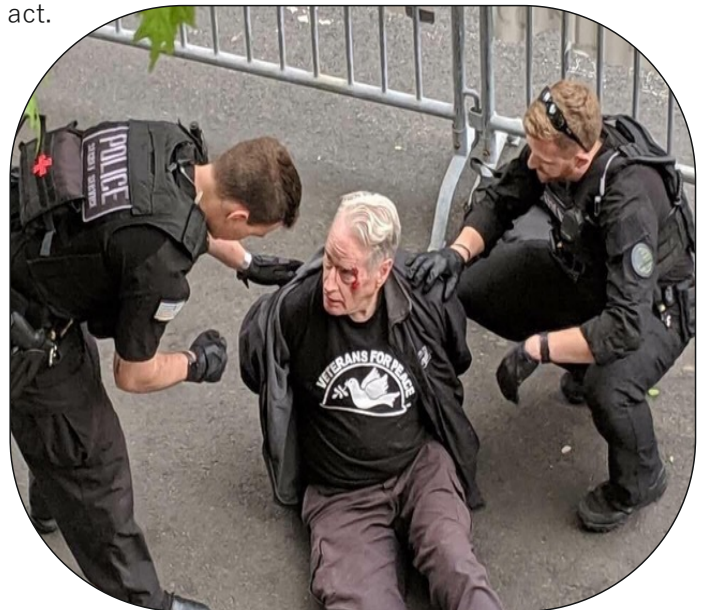
We held two extremely successful Anti-Bases conferences, first in Baltimore, USA, and, second in Dublin, Ireland.

With the intensification of the attacks on Venezuela, The U.S. Peace Council decided that it was time for us to repeat what we did in 2016 with regard to US interventions in Syria: send a high-level delegation to Venezuela. Thanks to the selfless and dedicated support from our sister organization in Venezuela — COSI — the U.S. Peace

Council delegation was rapidly organized and travelled to Venezuela in March 2019. We had the honor of meeting with many government officials, community leaders, the leadership of COSI, the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Venezuela, and finally with President Maduro. This trip provided us with much needed concrete information to allow us to defend the Bolivarian Revolution and its legitimate president much more effectively.

In February 2019, when Juan Guaidó, with the backing of the US, declared himself "interim president," our peace movement went into a high gear throughout the country, organizing various national demonstrations.

The heroic effort to protect the Venezuela embassy in Washington was in fact initiated by two of our delegation members: Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers, along with a few other allies. With this act, they took our anti-imperialist struggle to a higher level. Not only did they engage the movement in a direct defense of Venezuela's sovereignty, but they exposed US imperialism's blatant violation of international law and the Vienna Convention. The whole movement was galvanized around this heroic act.



With the US Secret Service raid of the embassy and the arrest of the four remaining protectors, our struggle has entered a new stage. Our comrades have been charged with the false charge of "interfering with the protective functions" of the Secret Service, which can carry a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment plus \$100,000 fines. Our comrades have refused any settlement with the Federal Government that would involve pleading guilty to the fake charges.

So, we are now faced with a long-term legal and political battle, not only in defense of our falsely-charged comrades, but with the no less important struggle to expose US imperialism's crimes against the people Venezuela. We are planning to turn these trials into a trial for the US government, forming a Defense Committee for the Embassy Protectors.

For us, this is a very important struggle that hits at the core of US imperialism's illegal interventions. We are determined to carry this struggle to the final victory. We will be standing with the people of Venezuela and their Bolivarian Revolution to the end until we achieve victory.

BAHMAN AZAD, US PEACE COUNCIL

COSI MÉRIDA



The COSI in Mérida State held a talk together with the Movement for Peace and Life (MPV) on Saturday June 1 in which they developed a complete analysis of the character, nature, and the elements which make it up.

The event, which was attended by nearly 100 youths from the Campo Elías municipality of the Andean region, had the objective of clarifying what imperialism consists of and how it threatens Venezuela. The title of the activity was “Getting to Know Imperialism to Keep the Peace.”

Through the intervention of Álvaro Yaya, activist from the COSI Mérida, the activity examined the role which the military branch of imperialism - NATO - plays, as well as the Forum of Davos, the government of Donald Trump, and other political expressions of imperialism, including the most important “governors in the shadows” of the economic branch of imperialism grouped into the Blinderberg Club, which was meeting in Switzerland that same weekend.

The dynamic activity was attended by spokespersons from the Communal Council of the sector, the Urban Heart movement, the Bolivarian National Guard, sportsmen and women,

politicians, and workers from the Hugo Chavez Great Missions Base where the event was held. Apart from Yaya, the General Secretary of COSI, Gabriel Aguirre also intervened, inviting the youths to not underestimate the concept of “imperialism” so as to better understand the essence of the enemy which looks to take control of the strategic resources of Venezuela.

The successful event marked the start of an important alliance and a series of activities planned between the government foundation MPV and the COSI in Mérida State. This alliance looks to sew an antiimperialist and internationalist consciousness in the youth of the region so as to offer them a counterweight to the powerful reactionary media campaigns in the state. Both organisations look to work together in the media, cultural, and formation areas in the near future.

PAUL DOBSON, COSI MERIDA

COSI MONAGAS

The COSI Monagas held a tour with General Secretary of the organisation Gabriel Aguirre to strengthen the work in favour of peace and solidarity and in defence of national sovereignty and the self determination of the peoples, working to build relations with students, workers, public institutions, civic-military fronts and the people of Monagas. Various activities and meetins were held in the Maturin and Ezequiel Zamora municipalities. On Monday May 14, a forum entitled “The Imperialist Seige against Venezuela” was held in the Bolivarian University in Maturin with

the internationalist Domingo Poito speaking to over 60 students and university workers. Also, a meeting was held with university professors, leaders of the student movements and peace activists. Similarly, the COSI Monagas held a meeting of its regional leaders to evaluate the work plan for 2019-2020. On May 15, the forum “Non-conventional Warfare against Venezuela” was held by Ramón Pomblas in the principal theatre of Punta de Mata in Ezequiel Zamora municipality with over 300 members of the Bolivarian Militia, and at the end of the activity, an agreement of cooperation was signed between the



Mayor's Office of the Bolivarian Municipality of Zamora and the COSI, represented by Mayor Raúl Brazón and COSI General Secretary Gabriel Aguirre.

**RAMON POMBLAS,
COSI MONAGAS**

The COSI in Caracas raised the flags of solidarity for Colombian political prisoner Jesus Santrich during April and May until his liberation. With numerous activities coordinated by the COSI and the Santrich Solidarity Committee, a consciousness was sewn in the capital population regarding the unfulfillment of the peace agreements by the Colombian government. Amongst the activities held were a series of protests in front

of the Colombian consulate in Caracas and numerous symbolic acts in the Marulanda Square in the 23 de Enero district of the city.

Santrich, who was a negotiator of the peace agreements between the FARC and the Colombian government, and who has amnesty according to the

them, was elected to the congress in March 2018. However, due to his illegal arrest, he was unable to take possession.

COSI Caracas celebrates his liberation but warn not to lower the guard.

COSI CARACAS

COSI CARACAS



COSI PRESENT in the VI INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR for the abolition of foreign military bases

This past May 4 the VI Seminar on Peace and the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases was held in the eastern Cuban province of **Guantánamo** with three days of intense activities. The seminar was organised by the **Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples** and was attended by a delegation from COSI made up of its General Secretary Gabriel Aguirre and COSI Coordinator in Monagas State Ramón Pomblas.

This seminar, which dealt with the topics concerning the existence of US and NATO military bases in the different corners of the world in a specialised way, was also a space to denounce the risk which these bases represent to the threat to world peace.

Specifically, this seminar dedicated various expositions to the presence of these military bases in the American continent and especially the military siege against

Venezuela. As such, those participating agreed to keep their commitment to defend the proclamation by the countries of CELAC in Habana in 2014 in which they declared **Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace**.

During the meeting, the COSI raised its voice in solidarity with the people of Cuba, to struggle to free it from military bases, against the criminal blockade and genocide instigated by the United States through the application of the **third article of the Helms Burton Law**.

Finally, the delegation visited the Calmanera municipality in Cuba where the Yankee military base is found, and which has been the centre of provocations and tension by the North American soldiers against the population of this sector.

GABRIEL AGUIRRE, COSI VENEZUELA

ABOUT COSI

The Committee for International Solidarity and the Struggle for Peace (COSI) is a Venezuelan organisation which struggles to coordinate and organise the widest possible friendship and solidarity between the peoples who have been victims of imperialism.

Created in 1971, the COSI is a plural, national, and independent movement, made up of activists-internationalists from various areas of struggle and organised by region. It is the only voice of the World Peace Council in Venezuela, which has consultative status in the UN, the UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNCTAD, ILO and is a special guest at the summits of the NAM, the African Union, and the Arab League. The COSI fights to form resistance to imperialist wars and foreign military bases; fascism, racism, xenophobia, and against every form of discrimination; for world peace and universal disarmament, especially of WMDs; and to promote respect for human rights and the right to self-determination of the peoples.

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