

Editorial

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

Socorro Gomes, President
World Peace Council

In October 2019, the World Peace Council (WPC) participated in the 18th Summit of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (NAM) in Baku, Azerbaijan. As always, we expressed our commitment with the very current Bandung Principles, translated in our full engagement in the anti-imperialist struggle for peace, guiding our action through these 70 years of WPC existence.

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

In the 2019 Summit, we emphasized the two NAM founding moments, the 1955 Bandung Conference and the 1961 Belgrade Conference, as expressions of the struggle for a new economic and political world order, manifested in the protracted struggle for national liberation of peoples under the powers' domination after World War II. This process shows how important it is for us to march together to overcome underdevelopment and face powers that get their strengths from the exploitation of others, and to defeat the grave imperialist threats, with the US and its NATO allies as the main engine, putting humanity at the brink of catastrophe.

The nations' inalienable right to choose their political, economic, social and cultural systems is a basic condition for securing world peace and coexistence, as are the struggles for the planet's demilitarization, nuclear disarmament and for a new, egalitarian international system, where the powers' voices cannot continue dictating humanity's path.

In the NAM framework, we underline the appeal to national self-determination and peace formulated in the 14th Summit in Havana, in 2006, the message of the 2012 Summit in Teheran for peace, security, development, justice, equality and for a world free from domination by force, intimidation, threats and viola-

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Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism

Larnaca, Cyprus — March 27-29, 2020



NO TO IMPERIALISM!

NO TO NATO!

Bahman Azad
Executive Secretary
U.S. Peace Council

The Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism, jointly organized by the World Peace Council and the Coalition Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases, is the culmination of several years of effort by both organizations to create a broad, unified anti-imperialist front at the global level. It would be no exaggeration to say that this Conference constitutes a qualitative leap toward achieving this goal.

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

At the time of this writing, close to one hundred delegates from about forty countries have registered to attend the Conference, and the list is growing. It is indeed a significant achievement that twenty-seven of the forty participating countries (close to 70 percent) are from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East — all, one way or another, primary victims of imperialist aggression.

It is for the first time that such a large number of peace organizations from every oppressed region of the world are participating in an international conference specifically organized to address the issue of imperialism head on. This is an unprecedented historical achievement that we need to value and build on.

Yet, this achievement has not come easily. Rather, it has been the result of years of dedicated but difficult struggle by the World Peace Council at the global level, and the U.S. Peace Council and its anti-imperialist allied organizations in the United States.

As is apparent, a significant part of the peace movement around the world is under the influence of social democratic parties and governments of Europe, which are close allies of the United States in NATO and other similar aggressive

treaties. In addition, many of the social democratic forces in the peace movement are receiving financial support from numerous foundations affiliated with these parties and states. This NATO-friendly influence and the financial support accompanying it have had a negative impact on the peace movement globally. Most of these forces, concerned about losing the political and financial support from those funds, parties and states, have for decades refused to take an anti-imperialist position. And this has created a deep division between the social democratic wing and the anti-imperialist wing of the global peace movement over the very issue of imperialism.

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

However, the new wave of U.S. and NATO attacks on Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and many other countries after September 11, 2001 exposed the true nature of imperialism to many sincere peace forces who were under the influence of social democrats. They began to consider working with the

anti-imperialist peace forces on various issues related to war and aggression. And this, for us, was the beginning of the long process of collective work that has now culminated in the convening of the Cyprus Conference.

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

This new coalition organized the First National Conference Against U.S. Foreign Military Bases in Baltimore, Maryland, in January of 2018, in which the WPC played a key role. However, for us, the focus on military bases was just a step toward our ultimate goal of uniting and elevating the global peace movement to the level of direct struggle against imperialism as the main threat to peace. The Baltimore Conference called for an international conference against US/NATO bases, which was held in November of the same year in Dublin, Ireland, hosted by our sister organization, PANA.

In both cases, we faced fierce resistance of the social democratic wing of the

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75 Years After Hiroshima & Nagasaki For a New Development of Movements

Tadaaki Kawata
Japan Peace Committee

Nuclear Threat is Real

This year marks 75th anniversary of atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States. However human beings face the threat of their annihilation by nuclear weapons. Even nowadays there remain around 14,000 nuclear warheads all over the world. Furthermore, the United States and Russia each maintain roughly 900 nuclear weapons on prompt-launch status — high alert or hair-trigger alert — so they can be launched in minutes. According to the scientific research, a small portion, around 100 nuclear detonations, would cause global climate change by generated black carbon.[1]

The danger of using nuclear weapons is increasing. Trump administration's "Nuclear Posture Review" 2018 suggested the possible usage of nuclear weapons on a small-scale regional conflict and even against conventional attacks. For this aim, the administration has decided to deploy low-yield nuclear warheads on the sea-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) and is developing sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs). Unilaterally withdrawing from the INF Treaty and leading to its expiration, the US is seeking to consolidate its nuclear supremacy.

Russia is dangerously responding to this US move. Putin administration is elaborating several new nuclear weapon systems, including a new class of

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Honoring the Centenary of the Birth of Romesh Chandra

Speech at the Commemorative Event of AIPSO and WPC

Raipur/India — 3rd January 2020

Delivered by Iraklis Tsavdaridis
WPC Executive Secretary

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

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

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

He served as General Secretary of All-India Peace Council from 1952 to 1963. In 1953, he joined the World Peace Council, and in 1966 he became the WPC's General Secretary and a member of its presidium. In 1977 he was elected President of the WPC. During the Assembly of WPC in Athens in 2000, Romesh Chandra contributed decisively to the preservation of the anti-imperialist character of the WPC and got elected as Honorary President.

In more than the half time of the 70 years of history and struggle of the WPC, our Romesh Chandra was present on the front line of this prestigious international organisation. Romesh Chandra experienced the times of highest level of international recognition for the WPC, as well as the difficult times of the 1990s, when friends and enemies thought there might not be any future for the WPC. In the year 2000, his advice and opinion was decisive in "re-directing" things towards the historical mission and role of the WPC. Romesh Chandra, along with



other WPC leaders, was troubled with the stand of things in the WPC towards the NATO aggression against Yugoslavia in 1999. He could not accept and tolerate the ambiguous position that was actually justifying the crimes of the NATO imperialists.

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

Romesh Chandra was a genuine son and figure of the Indian working-class

movement and one of the leaders of the world peace movement. He was an example of an internationalist who never compromised his revolutionary identity and values. He championed the support for the liberation struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Middle East, and the struggles against dictatorial regimes around the world.

Until today, we meet people around the world who identify the WPC with its historical leader Romesh Chandra. For us, who had the privilege to meet and work with Romesh Chandra personally it constitutes an important chapter of our struggle.

With his deepest understanding of the

world culture and history, of the world peace movement, of the independence of the developing countries, Romesh Chandra's statements voiced fluently in English and French in the name of peace and the progressive people of the world on all people's international forums for peace, solidarity and friendship spread all over the world, including at the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization Forum or in the Non Aligned Movement (NAM). His speeches attracted and encouraged people of all generations to engage in the peace, friendship and solidarity activities and the struggle for a peaceful world of justice and social progress.

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

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

Message of Condolences About the Demise of Comrade Fanis Christodoulou

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

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

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

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

Comrade Fanis was an example for his deeply rooted understanding of the nature of the counter-revolutionary times, with deep appreciation of the role and service of the socialist

countries and of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in particular, where he had the chance to study and graduate. As a genuine patriot and internationalist, he served as an example to the younger generations, which shall continue his legacy.

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

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

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



*The Secretariat of the WPC
Athens 7th February 2020*



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- South African Peace Initiative (SAPI)
- Syrian National Peace Council (SNPC)
- US Peace Council (USPC)

Venezuela at the Center of Imperialist Threat

COSI — Venezuela

Recently, Venezuela has continued to be at the heart of international affairs related to imperialist warfare, the defence of peace, sovereignty, human rights and the use of unilateral coercive measures as a tool used by the United States and the European Union to strengthen the blockade against the country. The various spokespersons of US imperialism have made it clear on various occasions that all options are on the table in the case of Venezuela, including the military option.

Latin American countries that make up the so-called Lima Group have actively joined these attacks by being servile and accommodating to the mandates of the United States and the European Union. Following imperialism's instructions, they have tried to promote a coup in Venezuela. This began with the recognition of the former president of the National Assembly, who proclaimed himself "Interim President" on January 23, 2019, and later in their support 1 month later for the attempt to force alleged humanitarian aid through the Venezuelan-Colombian border. They also backed the failed coup led by reactionary forces in the country on April 30, 2019 with the support of the United States.

This offensive against the country has been accompanied by the threat of war by the United States, which, according to multiple spokesmen of the US Department of Defence, has repeatedly suggested taking military action against Venezuela. The US and the head of Southern Command, operating throughout the Latin American region, have declared that they are prepared to enter into Venezuela's sovereign territory with the armed forces, with the sole goal of deposing the government and handing over power to the opposition.

During September last year, with the initiative of the terrorist government of Colombia and the support of the fascist government of Brazil and the hawkish US government, the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR) was reactivated. The TIAR is a mechanism created in 1947 by the United States that contemplates military intervention in the countries of the continent to preserve their control and dominance.

This instrument, far from contributing to the defence of Latin American nations as so mentioned in its founding articles, has served to provide a legality for military intervention which is absent from international law. It has been used to legitimise interventions in Guatemala (1954), Cuba (1961), Dominican Republic (1965), Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989). When its activation was warranted during the Falklands war, illegally occupied by Great Britain, the United States took refuge in its alleged neutrality and did not activate it, in practice backing Britain in the dispute.

The Committee of International Solidarity and the Struggle for Peace (COSI) has denounced in Venezuela and abroad this grave threat to peace and security which an eventual military incursion legitimised by the TIAR would mean. Peace and solidarity organizations must raise their voices by rejecting the intention to escalate an

imperialist war against Venezuela which has the sole aim of seizing control of our strategic resources.

Through this complex military threat, a plan is also being developed by the fascist and most reactionary forces in Venezuela to generate destabilisation



and promote the sedition of the forces that support the process within the framework of military civic unity. This plan incorporates increasing numbers of mercenaries and terrorists, as well as demobilized paramilitaries from

Colombia.

As part of the attack initiated by the US Presidential Decree signed by Barack Obama in 2015 which declared Venezuela an unusual and extraordinary threat, at least 300 unilateral coercive measures, better known as

sanctions, have been passed. These measures have impacted all strategic sectors of the national economy, including the financial and oil sectors, and have generated large losses totalling US \$120 billion, resources

that directly affect the importing of medicines and food to meet the needs of the people.

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

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

Escalating Tensions in the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean

Peace Committee of Turkey

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

Turkey is situated in one of the most important geographic regions, from which a more extensive war can be ig-

nitions. The presence of energy resources in this basin has led the imperialist powers to turn their focus to this area. These valuable resources were discovered almost a decade ago. However, because of capitalist relations of production and imperialism's natural zest, up to this day these resources could not be used in favour of peoples, to improve the welfare of the peoples in the region.

Competition within the European Union, competition between the USA and other big powers of Eurasia and competition between the countries of the region is well reflected in all international relations regarding Libya and the Eastern Medi-

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

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

Along with the recent developments first in Libya and more seriously in Syria, the Neo-Ottomanist policy has clearly become warmongering. In Syria, Turkish armed forces are currently fighting in cooperation with reactionary groups, against the Syrian armed forces. This is nothing more than disrespecting another country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. After flirting with Russia for some time, the Turkish government is calling for USA's and NATO's support. Of course, using the opportunity, Israel is also intervening against Syria. It seems that the Turkish government is trying to expand the war and even try to pave the way for a confrontation between the USA and Russia.

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

Today, all forces fighting for peace should struggle to eliminate this danger and put forth the demand for peace. Wars that take place between capitalist forces serve only imperialism and its collaborator capitalist classes. It only brings destruction to the working classes. With wars, capitalist classes will enforce nationalistic and chauvinistic sentiments. The only result for the working classes will be destruction. What we need is peace. ■



nited. The tensions in this broad region, namely the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean, are continuously escalating. A possible spark has the potential to affect not only the countries of this region, but a much wider sphere, even the whole world.

The developments that have taken place in Libya since Qaddafi was ousted from power, must be accepted as a reflection of imperialism's crisis. Failure of USA's imperialistic policies towards the Middle East and North Africa has led other countries to seek opportunities. This general picture bears the risk of a darker future for all peoples in the region.

On the other side, recent developments in the Eastern Mediterranean have added a new dimension to the present ten-

terrestrial, with hypocrisy at its most. As long as imperialism prevails, a fight for redistribution of land and resources will continue. Interventions with imperial aspirations (not only of the biggest powers, but also of minor regional powers) will mean continuation of a security problem not only for Libya, but also for Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt and other countries in the region.

On the other hand, the current Turkish government is trying to reanimate the unsuccessful foreign policy, so-called Neo-Ottomanism. This time, the whole region is targeted as the area to implement this aggressive and expansionist policy. This policy has turned the former Turkish policy of "zero problems with neighbours" upside down and is based on "hostility against all neighbours."

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

of the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of the World Peace Council

Vientiane / Lao PDR — 24 November 2019

The Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of World Peace Council took place successfully in Vientiane Lao PDR on 24th November 2019, hosted by the Lao Committee for Peace and Solidarity (LCPS). The regional meeting was combined with the WPC Secretariat meeting on 25th and 26th November and in total participated by 31 delegates from eighteen (18) countries (Laos, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, DPR Korea, Philippines, Australia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam from the region along with delegates from Brazil, Greece, USA, Portugal, Cyprus, Palestine, Syria, Cuba and South Africa).

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

The meeting expressed deep concern over the continuing and growing imperialist aggressiveness internationally as well as in the region. Asia & Pacific has as region the second largest contingent of Nuclear weapons deployed, after Europe and after the withdrawal of the US from the INF treaty, the dangers for new arms race and new threats to peace and security are on the rise. Additionally, the WPC expresses its serious concern for the bilateral military agreements of the US with almost all countries from South Asia, to South East Asia, Far East Asia and Australia.

We stressed the importance of continued peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realize lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula by all concerned parties and the complete denuclearization of the Peninsula. We urged the US and South Korean authorities to take a proper stand and attitude on the Panmunjon, the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the DPRK-US Joint Statement and continue working towards the realization of lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

We welcomed, although being cautious, the recent dialogues with the aim to reach a peace accord in replacement of the Armistice agreement of 1953. We support the Korean people in their just cause for peaceful and independent reunification of their fatherland. The participants of the meeting stated clearly their demand for the end of the military exercises of USA and its allies on and around the peninsula and for the withdrawal of the US-troops and their weapons from Korean soil.

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

The meeting expresses serious concern about the more than one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, which constitute a humanitarian crisis which has to be dealt by the International community and the UN with adequate humanitarian help and with respect to their rights to decent life and repatriation to their homes with civil and political rights. At the same time we object any efforts to instrumentalize the crisis for

religious purpose and geo-strategic aims by imperialist forces and their allies.

The WPC is following with concern the developments in the South China Sea, particularly about the territorial and maritime disputes between several neighboring countries. We support the peaceful settlement of differences bi-



laterally and multilaterally between all involved parties. Meanwhile, we reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea and recognized the benefits of having the South China Sea as a sea of peace, stability and prosperity. We reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation and pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, especially the 1982 UNCLOS.

We emphasized the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states that could further complicate the situation and escalate tensions in the South China Sea. We underline our objection to the military presence of non-regional powers in the region, namely the USA, which have their own agenda.

The meeting observed that despite the economic development of many countries in significant level there also exists immense poverty, illiteracy, curable diseases, malnutrition and underdevelopment resulting in the sharpening of social and economic contradictions in this most populated area of the world.

The enlarged Regional meeting of Asia & Pacific of the WPC condemned the recent massacre of dozens of Palestinians in the Gaza strip and expressed its solidarity with the people of Palestine in its desire and right for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine in the borders of pre-4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as the right for the return of the refugees and the release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

Likewise, the meeting expressed its solidarity to the Syrian people, who are suffering for more than 8 years an imperialist aggression with hundreds of thousands of victims and millions of refugees. We note with concern that despite the significant victories of the Syrian people and its army, the situation has not been normalized fully. We denounce the invasion of the foreign army into the North of Syria and the violation of the sovereignty

of Syria. We demand the withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces from Syria along with their mercenaries.

The meeting underlined its strong condemnation to the recent Coup d'Etat in Bolivia and the fascist attacks and assassination of leaders of political and social movements which took place after

the legitimate re-election of President Evo Morales and the military/police Coup which was clearly sponsored by the USA and the EU. We express our full hearted solidarity also to the people of Venezuela who are defending their achievements and fighting back the imperialist maneuvers of the USA, the EU and the Organisation of American States which are aiming with the local oligarchy at the control of the rich energy resources of the country. We salute the brave people of Cuba which is serving for more than 60 years as symbol of inspiration for the peoples of the world and demand the end of the US blockade along with the sanctions and the efforts to impose new obstacles in trade and tourism.

The regional meeting expressed its solidarity with the people of Cyprus, Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, for the end of the Turkish occupation and for the reunification of their country and the closure of the British Bases on the island.

Last but not least the WPC meeting expressed its respect to the brave Lao people for their resistance during the US aggressive War in the Indochina and the suffering from the bombing of 3 million tons by the USA on the Lao people which were not more than 3 million people at that time. The Unexploded Ordnance

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tions of law; and the 11 points adopted in the 2016 Summit in Isla Margarida, Venezuela.

In those opportunities the WPC witnessed the convergence created to speed the process of change within the UN, to broaden its systems of direction; the support to new alliances such as the BRICS group; and efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda's goals, with emphasis to peace and the eradication of poverty as inherent to social development.

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

Despite the apparent world convergence around these commitments,

(UXO) are causing till today heavy injuries to peasants and children in Laos. We demand the appropriate compensation and measures to end the cause to this problem by the ones who have created it.

The meeting emphasized that all the above developments make it incumbent on WPC member's organisations to realize the multi-dimensional, comprehensive and interconnected nature of these challenges which threatens not only world peace but the very survival of the planet. The peace movements in our region cannot proceed in any meaningful way without assimilating the seriousness of these challenges and without evolving appropriate responses to them. After detailed discussions the meeting identified areas where the Peace movements in this region have to strengthen their activities.

Future activities for the coming period:

- To observe the centenary of birth of the historical leader of the WPC Romesh Chandra in Raipur/India in January 2020

- To endorse and support the "Kathmandu Conference for Peace, Friendship and Cooperation" on 27-28 Feb 2020 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

- To support and participate in the International Anti-imperialist Conference against the global imperialist war machine to be held in Cyprus on 28-29 March 2020

- To explore the possibility of holding an international event commemorating the 70th anniversary of WPC (1950 Warsaw) in Dhaka/Bangladesh along with the 47th anniversary of the "Joliot Curie WPC Award" to the founder of the country Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for May 2020

- To observe 6th and 9th August 2020 as Hiroshima and Nagasaki day and to popularize the demands for total abolition of nuclear weapons in Asia free of all foreign military bases

- To explore with the Japanese Peace Committee to hold a WPC event in Hiroshima on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the bombing of the martyr cities.

- To observe international day of solidarity with the people of Palestine on 29th November in appropriate manner.

Finally, the meeting extended sincere thanks to the people of Laos and the Lao Committee for Peace and Solidarity (LCPS) for hosting the meeting and providing warm hospitality. ■

reality shows that dangers to peace, the peoples' rights and national sovereignty are greater, with countless developments speaking less of peaceful coexistence or diplomatic solution of conflicts and more of "regime change", coup d'état, economic, commercial and financial sanctions, nuclear threats, military bases and offensive alliances, aggressions, and other really grave violations of international law. Conflicts of diverse forms develop world-wide, all linked to colonial and neocolonial domination and social oppression.

However, the peoples resist. In this troubled world, the NAM plays a fundamental role in the struggle for peace, development and national emancipation. The WPC joins the Movement in promoting these goals and commits to a broad convergence to strengthen solidarity among the peoples, facing these great challenges. ■

The Brazilian People Fight the Extreme Right-Wing Regime

José Reinaldo Carvalho*
CEBRAPAZ — Brazil

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

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

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

The Brazilian dominant classes and their international imperialist allies sponsored Jair Bolsonaro's election to impose an anti-people, neoliberal program, anti-social and anti-national "reforms" and Brazil's international alignment with imperialist powers.

In the previous period, from 2003 to 2016, when ruled by a coalition of democratic and patriotic forces, Brazil had intensively acted in favor of social progress, democracy, national independence, progressive regional integration, international solidarity and in alliance

with world peace forces.

Under the extreme-right wing government, Brazil became one of the main allies of US imperialism. Jair Bolsonaro regards US President Donald Trump a world leader to be followed unconditionally.

He conducts, therefore, a foreign policy of total submission to imperialism, and became the spearhead of that superpower



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

Bolsonaro also aligned Brazil to the Zionist Israeli regime and conducts an

active policy against the interests of the Palestinian and Iranian peoples.

One of the most salient aspects of Brazil's extreme-right government is the devastation of the Amazon, an immense region of about five million square kilometers where the largest tropical forest is, one of the planet's biggest reserves of biodiversity.

The Amazon region is at the center of

the result of a conception of government that destroys the environment and works to annihilate native populations, a policy rejected by patriots and the progressive humanity, and which has deserved rebuff within the United Nations.

The Brazilian patriotic forces, while struggling for the Amazon Forest's protection and for the inalienable rights of indigenous peoples, reject the proposal to internationalize the forest, often repeated in international fora run by imperialist countries, as seen last year in the G7 meeting.

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

The pushes against democracy, attacks against the workers' and the Brazilian people's rights, and submission to US imperialism stir the popular masses' revolt and the patriots' indignation. Political forces and popular movements are ever broader and numerous, rising against this anti-democratic, anti-people and anti-national government. Therefore, the Brazilian people's possibilities of resistance and struggle are growing.

José Reinaldo Carvalho is Secretary-General of the Brazilian Center for Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ).

Portugal: Broad Action for Peace, Disarmament and Internationalist Solidarity

CPPC — Portugal

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

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

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

High point of this wide convergence of wills for peace is the Meeting for Peace, which after the success of 2018 (with dozens of entities involved in its realization and the presence of hundreds of people), will be held again this year on May 30.

Many Causes for Peace

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

Public concentrations against the visit to the country of the American Secretary



of State Mike Pompeo and the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, guaranteeing that "they were not welcome in Portugal". That was also a moment to reaffirm the rejection of the Israeli illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, the US threats against Iran, militarism, foreign military bases, the arms race, the increase

in military expenditure. An occasion to reaffirm the solidarity with the peoples of the Middle East, and also of Latin America, in their struggle against imperialism aggression and for peace and sovereignty, and to denounce the Portuguese Government's active complicity with imperialism.

Days before, in public events, the

Cyprus International Conference ... (from page 1) peace movement. Some of its leaders first refused to sign our unity statement and join these conferences unless we equally included China and Russia as threats to world peace equal to the United States and NATO. However, the resistance was broken as a result of endorsement of these conferences by a good number of their member organizations from around the world. It was a great victory for our position and the anti-imperialist movement as a whole that they finally participated and even spoke at these conferences.

However, although these two conferences were significant victories which

took us a step closer to our ultimate goal, they were limited in that they did not address the issue of imperialism directly.

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

We are proud of what we have been able to achieve so far. But there is still a

long and difficult struggle ahead of us. The peace movement is still too weak and too divided to be able to defeat the imperialists' military, economic and environmental war machine. The imperialist states are acting globally in a united way in their effort to dominate and exploit the peoples of all nations of the world. Only a globally unified, well-coordinated anti-imperialist peace movement will have the strength to put an end to the present madness that is pushing our world to the brink of total destruction.

It is our hope that the Cyprus International Conference Against Imperialism will enable the global peace forces to respond to this historical necessity. ■

objectives of another NATO summit had been repudiated and once again the dissolution of this political-military bloc and the end of the EU militarization was demanded.

Latin America also mobilized the attention of the peace movement in Portugal, which held conferences on the subject and a set of statements: against the coup in Bolivia, and reaffirming solidarity with Cuba and Venezuela, which face and resist the cruel blockades imposed by the USA and its acolytes.

The ban on nuclear weapons, 70 years after the launch of the Stockholm Appeal, is another of the CPPC's central lines of action, which will launch, together with other organizations, a petition for Portugal to sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, negotiated in the United Nations.

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

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No to the “Defender-Europe 2020” Imperialist Military Maneuvers!

Milan Krajca
Czech Peace Movement

The US and NATO imperialist warmongers launched their new Defender-Europe 2020 military exercises, involving the largest deployment of US-based forces to Europe in more than 25 years, to be followed later by Defender-Pacific 2020 exercises.

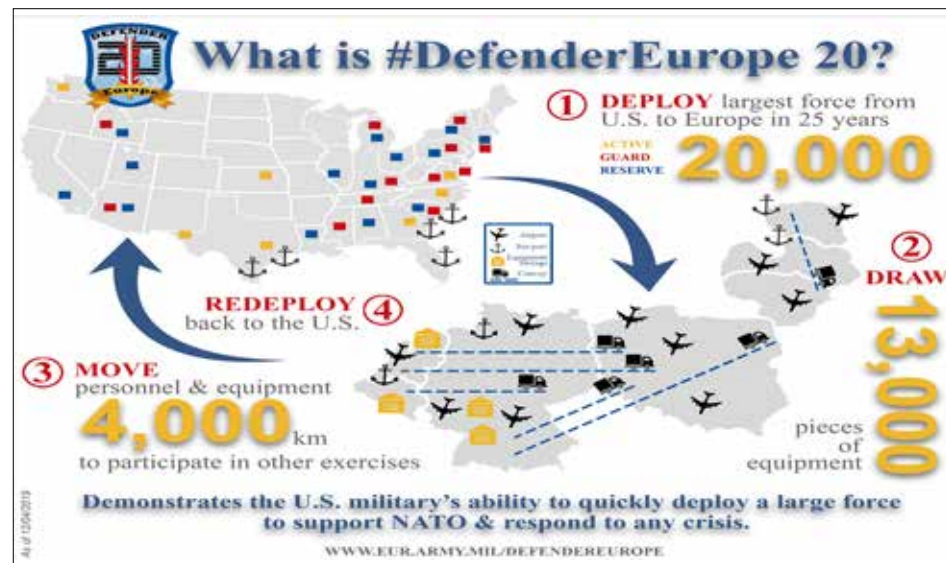
20,000 US troops are participating in the US’s largest deployment to Europe in over quarter of a century. With 18 states involved totalling 37,000 troops, this will be an extraordinary provocation in Europe’s border regions with Russia. With troop and equipment movements lasting from February through to July, the exercises themselves will take place in April and May.

The previously largest NATO exercise since the dissolution of the Soviet Union took place in Norway in 2018, which was entitled Trident Juncture. Fifty thousand soldiers from 31 countries took part. They practiced operations at sea, on land, and in the air. Defender-Europe 2020 continues along similar lines.

The official aim of this exercise is to rehearse a “rapid deployment of larger units across the Atlantic and through Europe” to “ensure that the appropriate procedures work in a crisis situation.” Clear goal of this exercise regarding military mobility is a militarization of European transport infrastructure in cooperation with the EU and its Permanent Structured Cooperation.

Defender 2020 exercises in both Eu-

rope and Asia are the military outcomes of the strategic change, and both follow the same pattern. While many different national forces are involved, the central focus is on rapid deployment of troops from the US to Europe and the Pacific.



In Europe, 20,000 US troops, comprised of active soldiers, national guard and reservists, will be transported to seaports and airports in the Netherlands, Germany and Poland, alongside vast quantities of equipment. Personnel and equipment, including so-called ‘pre-positioned stock’ already in Europe, will travel 4,000 kilometres for the exercises.

The heavy equipment, including 480 tracked vehicles that are known to destroy highways, will depart from the four seaports and move by water and rail

to the “fictional eastern front.” Soldiers will mostly be flying in through major airports in Europe and will travel across the continent by bus. 20,000 pieces of equipment will ship from the US for the exercise. It’s not clear how much of it

will remain on European soil.

Defender-Europe 2020 will include operations in Germany, Poland, the Baltic states, Nordic countries and Georgia, among others, while the Pacific-based Defender 2020 will focus on the South China Sea. It is clear that these highly provocative exercises are oriented against Russia and China.

NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg said there is nothing to be read into the fact that the exercise was taking place during 75th anniversary of the people’s victory

over Nazi-Fascist Germany on 9 May but provocative timing is more than evident.

In addition to the Defender-Europe 2020 manoeuvres, the NATO exercise Steadfast Defender, and the multinational deployment exercise Joint Derby 2020, will also serve to prepare these belligerent objectives. Since 2011, the annual Sabre Strike NATO exercise has been held in Poland and the Baltic states. In addition, the major Anaconda exercise takes place in Poland every two years and involves tens of thousands of soldiers from all NATO member states. There is also Astral Knight, an exercise of the US Air Force, which includes air and missile defenses at various locations. F-35 stealth bombers and B-52 long-range bombers are also taking part in this exercise.

Within the framework of the NATO Enhanced Forward Presence, also four combat-ready battalions of 1,000 soldiers each, have been already stationed in Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania since 2017, and the replacement of the units in the battalion takes place according to a rotation principle carried out under the Dragon Ride operation.

Defender 2020 demonstrates openly the imperialist dominance strategy and warmongering action of US, NATO and EU. Anti-imperialist and peace forces of all countries have to confront resolutely all imperialist plans. The demand that these plans, which are a real threat to the peoples of the world, not become a reality is more pressing than ever. ■

Bolivia: The Struggle for Democracy Is Not Over

U.S. Peace Council

In early January 2020, the Trump Administration’s assassination of a top Iranian general in Baghdad, Iraq brought the US and Iran to the brink of a major war. Understandably, that crisis shoved many other crises to the sidelines.

Accordingly, Bolivia is not now in the headlines. But even at the start of events on November 10, 2019 there was confusion in the headlines about what was happening in Bolivia. Compounding the confusion, some “progressive” and “alternative” media outlets were slow to acknowledge that a coup had begun. The coup regime’s racist violence towards Evo Morales’ protesting Indigenous supporters was hardly given adequate coverage anywhere. In the US corporate media support for the coup took the form of denying it was happening at all, thereby disorienting the peace movement response.

Evo Morales, in office 2006-2019, was the first Indigenous president of Bolivia, a country with an Indigenous majority. Under the 14 years of rule by his Movement for Socialism party (MAS), Bolivia had the one of the highest economic growth rates in the hemisphere. The country slashed poverty dramatically. Bolivia became a trailblazer for the rights of the Indigenous and poor, aligning itself with the progressive governments of Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua.*

Morales was re-elected president on October 20, 2019. Because the US-backed candidate lost, the US government called Morales’ election “fraudulent.” A US-dominated Organization of American States (OAS) disseminated misleading information on the validity of the election. Thus, the stage was set for the November 10 coup, when Morales was forced to resign under duress by the military.

Key figures behind the coup had allies in Washington. The OAS Secretary General embraced coup leader Luis Fernando Camacho. The coup was endorsed by the right-wing neighboring countries (Chile, Brazil). President Trump “applauded” the Bolivian military despite its well documented systematic violations of human rights. Evo Morales is now in exile in Mexico, and the Indigenous continue



to protest in the face of lethal, racist repression. An example of the racism: the self-proclaimed President Jeanine Áñez has smeared Indigenous communities’ religious beliefs as “satanic.” At this writing, Morales, the MAS, and most of the popular parties and movements have agreed to new elections but efforts are underway by backers of the de facto government to disqualify the MAS from participating in an eventual election.

Several prominent US peace organizations were first out of the gate in condemning the coup. CODEPINK on Nov 19, 2019, challenging the mainstream media narrative, emphasized the coup was indeed a coup. CODEPINK highlighted the need for international monitoring. It demanded that that the UN’s Office of

the High Commissioner for Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet join CODEPINK’s Medea Benjamin in Bolivia.

Veterans for Peace on Nov. 21 stressed US complicity in the coup, and the coup’s racist nature.

There has been a limited response from the UN. As early as Nov. 16, 2019 “the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet “urged

groups in Bolivia for years, is returning to Bolivia at the invitation of Jeanine Áñez’s coup government allegedly to “monitor” — in reality to manipulate and corrupt — the forthcoming elections.

The coup is not consolidated, witness the strenuous efforts of the coup government to fix the forthcoming elections.

We call upon all peace and solidarity organizations in the US to:

- Put Bolivia back on the front burner as a campaigning issue between now and the May 3, 2020 elections.

- Sign the CODEPINK Petition on Bolivia demanding that the chief of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visit Bolivia in person. There should be a powerful, institutional UN Office of Human Rights presence on the ground in Bolivia. It will serve as a restraint on the coup government.

- Demand a Congressional investigation to find out exactly to what extent the US was involved in the coup.

- Organize full international monitoring of the May 2020 elections by independent experts and groups.

- Oppose USAID and kindred NGO funding of election manipulation, including purges of Indigenous voter rolls. Voter suppression is already under way and it must be exposed, condemned, and stopped

Demand that police and army violence against Indigenous protestors and the medical professionals who care for them come to a halt. After September 11, 1973, when the Allende government in Chile was overthrown in a US-supported coup, our peace and solidarity movement and its allies launched years of campaigning to restore democracy in Chile and end the bloody rule of Pinochet. We must do no less for Bolivian democracy today.

* Roger D. Harris, 2019 *Latin America in Review*, Council on Hemispheric Relations.

75th Anniversary of the Victory Over Nazi-Fascism

Nearing the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War, it is necessary to recall all those who fought and gave their lives to defeat the barbarism of Nazi-fascism. To recall that 50 million human beings perished in the most violent and bloody military conflict in history, on the battlefields, from bombings, in concentration camps, in brutal massacres. 75 years past we must not forget the war in which for the first and only time nuclear weapons were used by the USA, against the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

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

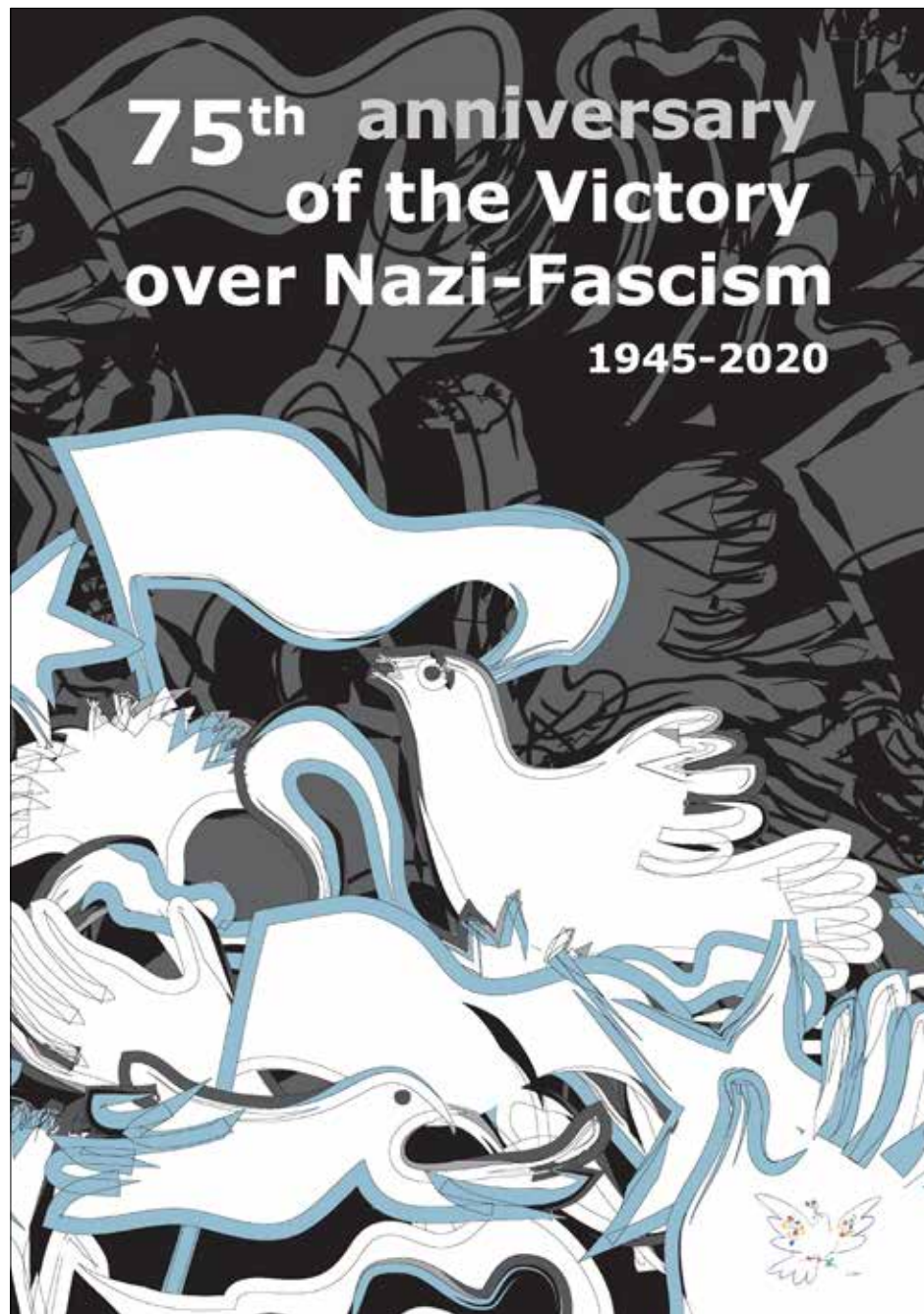
Triggered by Nazi Germany, fascist Italy and militaristic Japan, with the collusion of the USA, UK and France, Second World War had as its central causes the dispute between the great imperialist powers and the desire to use the Nazi-fascism war machine to destroy the USSR.

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

When the Western powers, particularly the United States of America, try to safeguarding its hegemonic domination at the world level, by the escalation of militarism, of military expenditures, through the race for new, more sophisticated and destructive weapons, including nuclear, the installation of new military forces and equipments in foreign bases, around the world. A time marked by interference and violent operations of destabilization, wars of aggression and occupation, sanctions, economic and financial blockages, imposed by USA, NATO, EU and their allies against countries and their peoples be it on the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, Latin America or Europe. A time that again witnesses the promotion and the resurgence of fascist and xenophobic forces.

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

The memory and lessons of Second World War are especially important when USA, NATO, EU and their allies are responsible for the disrespect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and of international law, that define important rights of the peoples and principles that should govern international rela-



tions – rights and principles conquered after the Victory over Nazi-fascism, as a result of the correlation of forces that was favourable to anti-fascism, peace, national liberation and social progress forces.

Also from the horror of Nazi-fascism and the Second World War, from the firm will that the such a barbarity should never again torment humanity that the World peace movement arose and took body in the World Peace Council.

WPC was the embodiment of the ideals of peace that united workers, intellectuals, artists, students, peasants, religious people, elected officials, rulers, political and trade union leaders and activists in the creation of a world-wide mass movement for peace, disarmament and global security; for national independence, economic and social justice and development, for protection of the environment, human rights and cultural heritage; for solidarity with and support of those peoples and liberation movements fighting for the independence, sovereignty and integrity of their countries, and against imperialism.

We need a broad anti-imperialist and unitarian international movement of mass action as an integral part of the world peace movement that continues to act in cooperation with other international and national movements.

It is with firm belief in the strength and justice of these ideals that we know that even in the face of the grave dangers set before humanity, war can and must be prevented and the Nazi-fascism barbarity defeated 75 years ago may never happen again. ■

Britain Continues as an Imperialist 'Pillar of Strength' for the US-led War-Mongering Allies

Liz Payne, Convenor
British Peace Assembly

That Britain continues as an imperialist 'pillar of strength' and crucial member of its US-led war-mongering line-up of allies is borne out by every piece of available evidence. The UK has everything it needs to maintain this position – the largest defence budget of any European country and the fifth largest in the world; a nuclear arsenal; state-of-the-art intelligence, security and surveillance systems; conventional land, sea and air forces equipped with the latest military hardware and software - deployed and primed for conflict; a string of strategic military bases, stations and facilities, a legacy of empire, stretched across the world, from Cyprus to Bermuda and Afghanistan to Nepal.

Furthermore, Britain is the second largest 'defence' and fourth largest security exporter in the world, having lucrative military-industrial multinational enterprises backed by cutting-edge research and development, raking in billions of pounds a year. From fighter planes to cyber security systems, from warships to the apparatus of internal suppression, the supply from the country's war manufactories is never ending. Their products, together with accompanying consultancy and training 'services', find their way predominantly into the hands of the rulers of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and other reactionary and bellicose regimes of the Middle East as well as to the Asia-Pacific region, Europe and North America.

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

Another "rock solid" commitment is the government's dedication to its longstanding "special relationship" with Washington. This manifests itself not only in the mass-media spectacle of Trump and Johnson as 'new best friends' but in the British state's very real backing of the US, support on which the latter is absolutely dependent in fulfilling its hegemonic designs. Britain continues to lease several home air-bases to the US, providing it with strategic forward positions in Europe from which to threaten 'enemies' further east. It gives the US carte blanche permission to use other British facilities around the world, for example Diego Garcia (Chagos Islands) in the Indian Ocean from which the US has for decades conducted bombing sorties, armed combat operational support missions and espionage against East Africa, the Middle East and Indian subcontinent. British bases in Cyprus are now fully developed and equipped to provide the US and its allies with similar potential as the power struggle in the eastern Mediterranean and Levant unfolds and

threatens the region with further wars and potentially a broader conflagration.

We may say that nothing is new in all of this, but we would be wrong to do so. What is dangerous and different is the disastrous election of the right-wing Tory government under Boris Johnson in December 2019. It has so large a majority that it is virtually unfettered in parliament and it comes with frightening manifesto commitments to concentrate on national security, bolster alliances and institutions that help protect Britain's influence (mirroring Trump's 'America first' pledge), while responding to alleged multiple threats from foreign powers which provide justification for improving the lethal capability of the armed forces and intelligence agencies. It promises that the government will support Britain's defence industry by renewing the country's nuclear capability, placing multiple orders for a new generation of conventional military hardware such as frigates, armoured vehicles and the like, developing the role of artificial intelligence in the conduct of warfare and establishing the UK's first space command. Ominously, we have been warned that an immanent defence review will closely align the development of military capability with the demands of foreign policy in expanding Britain's influence in the world.

The danger posed by the above is exacerbated by the failure of the Labour Party to put before the British electorate any significantly different position. Labour's manifesto, entitled rather misleadingly in this respect 'It's Time

continued on page 10

Italy Between NATO and the European Union

A Country Complice to Imperialism with Limited Sovereignty

Committee Against War
Milan, Italy

The current Italy's geopolitical position as well as other European countries is due to the balance following the Second World War.

USSR paid the greatest cost of war against Hitler with more than 26 million dead. Such was the main contribution to free Europe from Nazi-Fascism, although USA achieved hegemony over Western Europe shortly after and then created the Marshall Plan linked to World Bank and International Monetary Fund in order to oblige the Western European "supported" countries to bow to the US capitalist system.

This was an interference in the internal affairs of each country, limiting its sovereignty, which contributed to the creation of European Union's ideal.

The real matter is that the EU never was an alternative to the US. Indeed USA pushed to form the CECA, whose real aim was to produce weapons for NATO during the cold war, and consequently supported pro-EU lobbies. Such was the building of the EU.

In this way, NATO and the ideal of EU were always working together for subordinating the European allies to the US and guaranteeing capitalism the

world hegemony.

Since its birth the ideal of EU was a justification for NATO's mission. Since the fall of USSR, EU has become a tool for letting NATO spread to Eastern Europe. The first step was entering the EU and the next, entering NATO.



Despite all this, during the cold war Italy was able to maintain enough autonomy in economic, political and international affairs to play an important mediation role in the Mediterranean area through good connections with the Arab world, and even to cooperate with USSR without really going against the

US and NATO.

First SME and then EURO lead to less economic sovereignty by benefiting the Franco-German axis, mostly Germany at the expense of the Belt-Oil countries.

So Italy was squeezed between subor-

ordination to the US and dependence from Franco-German axis, which reduced its autonomy.

Many important political and economist influencers, such as Joseph Stiglitz, were very critical of EU's architecture because, since the start, there did not exist a common ground to avoid creat-

ing disparities and inequities between the member countries. In the 1980s, the CEE directions pushed the Italian policy to reform its banking system by the separating the Bank of Italy from the Ministry of the Treasury. As a result, the bank of Italy can no longer guarantee government bonds able to increase exponentially by amplifying public debt. The fear of the increase in public debt has become a pretext for the deregulation of financial transactions.

The process of privatization of strategic "assets" with their productive apparatus, the search for them and the resulting network of international relations, made the country more fragile, a country with less political weight and almost no influence in the international arena.

A few decades ago, Italy still practiced a Mediterranean policy which aroused the concerns of the USA, UK and France. But currently, Italy is characterized by the lack of autonomy, which leads it to participate in military adventures with the hope of being allowed to sit at the game table alongside countries that share imperialist tradition, without being able to benefit from any of it.

Still now Libya teaches us an important lesson. ■

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

Almost six decades after the UN listed Western Sahara for decolonization, self-determination remains elusive. In 1975, Spain, the "Administrative Power", or colonizer, illegitimately surrendered Western Sahara to Morocco, since then the occupier, and Mauritania, which withdrew in 1979. The Saharawi POLISARIO Front recovered part of the territory through armed struggle until the 1991 cease-fire for a referendum never held. The Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) was declared in 1976 but invasion of its territory and dispersion of its population resulted in unspeakable crimes.

Today thousands still live in refugee camps in Algeria. Saharawis have not just waited for the UN to fulfil the promise, though. They resist the brutal Moroccan occupation and demand the world's accountability with campaigns against the plundering of Saharawi resources sold by Morocco in international markets, for the protection of their human rights, and for the referendum, while consolidating SADR institutions and drawing international solidarity. We spoke to Oaima Abdeslam, the POLISARIO representative to the UN in Geneva, about her people's struggle.

Moara Crivelente: Dear Oaima, thank you for the interview. Tell us about the Saharawi cause's current stage.

Oaima Abdeslam: Thank you Moara, for the opportunity to speak about our struggle. Unfortunately, my people's situation is very sad and uncertain, due to global changes impacting international order and to the United Nations' weakness.

The Saharawi people are dispersed in three geographical areas; 173,000

refugees live in exile in camps in Algeria, totally dependent on international cooperation; 20% of our territory is liberated and is under the SADR's control, and 80% is under illegal Moroccan occupation. There are around 50 Saharawi political prisoners and more than 600 cases of enforced disappearance. The illegal plunder of our natural resources is ongoing, and the Moroccan regime has built a berm/wall of more than 2,720km in our territory, with millions of land mines that



jeopardize social and economic development in Western Sahara.

Moara Crivelente: What are the main international campaigns?

Oaima Abdeslam: Currently, the campaigns for the liberation of all political prisoners; for dismantling the wall of shame; for the boycott of Moroccan products produced in or illegally plundered from Western Sahara; for the boycott and judicial process against companies involved in the plunder of our natural resources in all countries; and for implementing the Saharawi people's right to

self-determination.

The WPC participates in initiatives such as the non-governmental group of support to the Saharawis in the UN Human Rights Council. Please describe the group's accomplishments.

First, I want to thank the WPC for joining. It was created to promote the Saharawi people's rights and the protection of human rights in Western Sahara. The group has given visibility to the Saharawi plight in the HRC and

established strong interaction with international organizations and UN mechanisms, including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It has strengthened the Saharawis' voice in different platforms world-wide.

Moara Crivelente: With countries overtaken by undemocratic/putschist governments and some having "suspended" or denied recognition of SADR, what is the Republic's stance today?

Oaima Abdeslam: The SADR is an irreversible reality, an African Union

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

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

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

Moara Crivelente: How do you think international solidarity matters?

Oaima Abdeslam: International solidarity has made a difference for various freedom movements around the world, like the fight against apartheid. It can make policymakers move towards a solution or oblige oppressors to step back. So, with international solidarity our path to freedom and independence will be shorter.

* Interview by Moara Crivelente, Director of the Brazilian Center for Solidarity with the Peoples and Struggle for Peace (CEBRAPAZ). February 23, 2020.

Greetings of the WPC to the XX Assembly of WFDY

Nicosia, Cyprus — 3-6 December 2019

Delivered by Iraklis Tsavdaridis
Executive Secretary WPC

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

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

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

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

The fraternal bonds between WPC and WFDY are decades long and deeply rooted in the common comprehensive analysis and understanding for the root causes of the wars, misery and exploitation in the world, for the injustice and underdevelopment in this world. And this is no other than Imperialism, its alliances and mechanisms. Both our International Organisations passed difficulties in the beginning of the 1990s, where friends and enemies thought that we would not make it, because of the counter-revolutionary changes in the USSR and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Life has proved for WFDY that the need for its existence and contribution to the Youth and Students movement in the world was a demand from millions of young people and their revolutionary progressive youth organizations gathered in WFDY. And the WPC is glad and congratulates WFDY for this success. We congratulate you for the World Festivals of Youth and Students where WFDY is the driving force and despite the contradictions it has managed to maintain the anti-imperialist content of the biggest political youth gathering in history in the world.

Dear Comrades,

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

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

The general situation in the Middle East continues being explosive. The situation in Syria, despite the significant victories of the Syrian people and army, remains under tension, with the recent military invasion of Turkey in the North-eastern part of the country and their plans to actually remain and de facto annex sovereign Syrian territory. The pretext of "security" is cynical and cannot hide the aims of Turkey for change of the demographic composition (against the Kurdish population) in the northern part of Syria along with the geo-strategic expansion of Turkey. The partial withdrawal of US-troops from this area opened the way for Turkey's incursion and is accompanied openly by statements of US President D. Trump, that the USA will maintain the control of the Syrian oil

in the same area. All the above constitute once more the ongoing violation of the sovereignty of Syria and of every sense of International Law. We observe with deep concern the agreements between involved parties (USA, Turkey, Russia etc.) which actually neglect the right of the Syrian people to exercise fully their sovereign rights over the land. As WPC we demand the withdrawal of the foreign military occupation forces in Syria and support the right of the Syrian people to decide alone upon their destiny and future.

We salute the recent popular mass mobilizations in Lebanon for social, economical and political demands and reiterate our solidarity with the Lebanese people for the end of its territories by Israel (Shebaa Farms). Likewise we express our solidarity with the people of Yemen against the ongoing aggression by the Saudi led coalition which has the full support of the US and its allies.

A key issue continues being the struggle of the Palestinian people, which is struggling for the end of the Israeli occupation. We denounce the slaughter of Palestinian



by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, as well as expansion of the settlements and land robbing, which continue along with the Judaization of Jerusalem and the deprivation of political rights for Non-Jewish citizens in Israel.

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

The situation in Latin America is of great concern.

The most recent Coup d'Etat in Bolivia (10th November) against the legitimately re-elected President Evo Morales on 20th October, constitutes an open intervention of the US, its loyal mechanism of the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the EU, well coordinated with the local oligarchy. We condemn the Coup and demand the respect to the expressed will of the Bolivian people. They remind us of the darkest days in the recent history of Latin America (dictatorships, mil-

itary interventions etc.) and are directly linked with the imperialist plans against Cuba, Nicaragua and other countries.

In Venezuela, the forces of the local oligarchy tried to overthrow the legitimately elected President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in close cooperation with the USA, the European Union and reactionary governments of the "Lima Group" in order to take over the rich mineral resources of Venezuela. The ideological and political attack on Venezuela and Cuba is accompanied by heavy sanctions against the peoples, aiming in the asphyxiation of the peoples. We express our sincere and deep solidarity with the other peoples in Latin America and their struggles, and against the new threats and dangers and in the framework of the new regimes in Brazil, Colombia, Chile etc.

The WPC expresses its solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, for the end of the criminal blockade and all forms of sanctions imposed on Cuba. The island of the Revolution, Cuba, was and is a source of inspiration for the peoples and youth of the world.

The WPC expresses its solidarity

would like to salute the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot youth who share the common desire for the re-unification of their common fatherland and who are the real victims of the Turkish occupation which is recently also expanding into Iraq and Syria. We condemn the violation of International Law and the Law of the Seas by Turkey in the East Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea and underline that the Multinational oil and gas companies and the imperialist forces behind them, will not give any halt to Turkey's expansionism. They are only interested in how to exploit the rich energy resources of the region. The dangerous path of the governments of Cyprus, Greece, Egypt along with Israel who are all in full alignment with the USA is only engaging the countries in the imperialist plans and not serving the peace and friendship of the peoples of the region. The approach of the government of Cyprus to try to affiliate Cyprus into NATO neglects the fact that NATO stood clearly behind the double crime against Cyprus, first with the Greek Junta's Coup followed then by the Turkish invasion in 1974. NATO, the armed wing of imperialism with its long record of crimes and Cyprus is one of them. Therefore we supported the peace loving forces in Cyprus who opposed the affiliation to NATO. It was our late comrade Dimitris Christofias, as President of the Cyprus Republic, some years ago, who opposed and exercised his Veto against such dangerous and negative development, when all other political forces (except AKEL) endorsed a resolution in favor of NATO.

The WPC, as stated clearly in our documents, stands in solidarity with the people of Cyprus who struggle for a reunited Country and People in a Bi-zonal, Bi-communal Federation with a single Sovereignty, single citizenship, and single international representation and with political equality, as referred in the relevant UN resolutions and International Law. We support a solution free from custodians and Guarantors, a solution that will set Cyprus free from all armies and military bases. We support the struggle of the Cyprus Peace Council for the dismantling of the British Bases in Cyprus and against their use in military operations against the peoples of the region.

Dear Comrades of WFDY,

Allow me at the end a personal note. Having had the honor and privilege to serve WFDY some 20 years ago from this very island Cyprus and on behalf the Communist Youth of Greece (KNE) then, as President of WFDY, I would like to express my moral and political satisfaction and congratulate the new generations of anti-imperialist youth fighters in WFDY who carry on the struggle against the system which causes wars, misery, exploitation and injustice.

Long Live WFDY!
Viva WFDY!

Dear Comrades and Friends,

Being here in Cyprus, the divided island which is for 45 years occupied in its 37% of territory by Turkey, we

Close All British Military Bases in Cyprus!

Palestine: It Is Not A “Peace Plan”

Palestinian Committee for Peace & Solidarity (PCPS)

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

Donald Trump and Netanyahu announced the so-called thw deal of century, or his Peace plan, for the solution of the Israeli-Palestine problem. January 28th in Washington as the political part, following the first part of this “plan” with so-called economic one which was held earlier in Bahrain under the title “prosperity for peace.

In fact there was nothing much new in this announcement from in political terms because Trump had already made many practical steps toward this plan by recognizing Jerusalem as united capital of Israel and moving the US embassy there. He had also recognized the Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In addition to that, the US had stopped all aid to the Palestinian authority and UNRWA and had closed PLO office in Washington

indicated the direction of its position.

The plan also supported Israeli occupation and annexation of Jordan valley and the settlements in the West Bank to Israeli sovereignty, and the US support for Israel’s “nationality law” and recog-

so-called final solution issues, such as Jerusalem, refugees, the right to return, borders, sovereignty — addressing all these issues in the interest of Israel.

US is in reality trying to create a new world order by ignoring the international

subject to American will — in the first place is Iran, Syria and other countries in and out of the ME.

Supporting the continuation of Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab land, continuing aggression against neighboring Arab countries, and ignoring the legitimate rights of Palestinian people, means prolongation of the conflict and continuance of the threat to the world peace.

Palestinian leadership, the people’s peace movement and other forces in the region and worldwide rejected this plan from the beginning, showing the willingness to confront this Trump-Netanyahu war plan.

But there are prerequisites for our success. Ending the internal Palestinian division; continuation of the popular resistance and the struggle for ending the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state within the borders of Jun 4th 1967 with east Jerusalem as its capital; and the rights of refugees to return according to the UN resolutions, with international solidarity and support by all the progressive and peace loving people all over the world, is the only way to stop this war crime of the world imperialism and giving the people of the region the possibility to live in peace and decide their future freely without any intervention and to develop their countries. ■



nition of Israel as a Jewish state, with all dangers it carries for the non-Jewish minority in Israel (more than 20%).

What the US and Israel want from this plan is complete liquidation of the Palestinian issue, and this extends to all

law and legitimacy, especially on the basis of the two state solution, serving the interests of the world imperialism and its plans in the region by creating new coalitions between Israel and other Arab reactionary regimes against countries that are not

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

EEDYE — Greece

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

The ever-deepening involvement in military planning, the transformation of our country through the Greece-US agreement into a vast military base, but also turning the country into a magnet for attacks in the name of so-called geostrategic upgrading of Greece, is the other aspect of the policy that pervades everyday life.

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

The New Democracy (ND) government, the SYRIZA, KINAL (PASOK) parties and other bourgeois parties are criminally responsible for sowing dangerous complacency by presenting the US-NATO-EU as the ultimate guarantors of peace, our security and sovereign rights.

The false quarrels that were also expressed in the debate in the Parliament on the “ratification” of the agreement aim to divert the people from the main essence of the agreement and obscure the increasing depth of our country’s involvement in the tangle of imperialist rivalries and wars. The “national consensus” they are talking about means subordinating the people to the “beneficial” — as they call it “national” — capital projects, while competing on who



can safeguard them more effectively and confirming how “predictable” they are for the implementation of the US-NATO-EU plans and the country’s involvement in imperialist interventions and wars.

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

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

Our people must not legalize this agreement in their conscience. We call upon them show no tolerance, and condemn any attempt at deploying nuclear weapons in our country, to send the Armed Forces in mis-

sions to the Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabia (along with Patriot missiles) and Libya.

We call upon all to reject the pseudo-dilemma of “compromise – submission

Britain Continues as ... (from p. 7)

for Real Change’, pledged to maintain its commitment to NATO and ‘European partners’, spend a minimum of 2% of GDP on defence, support innovation in the arms industry and renew the Trident nuclear ‘deterrent’ – all based on the false claim that these things will somehow “support peace and security worldwide.”

This leaves the labour movement and peace campaigns in Britain with the massive task of building a strong extra-parliamentary movement of opposition that can powerfully challenge and frustrate the government’s jingoistic policies, its programme for the development of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and its defence industry, including the sale of arms and military know-how to some of the most reactionary regimes in the world. Crucially, the people of Britain need to know that there is an alternative, that the vast investment

or war” in the framework of the Greek-Turkish relations, linked directly with the US-NATO plans for bargains and compromises between the Greek and Turkish bourgeoisie, which will open up new wounds, using the Hague Tribunal.

We will continue our firm, militant struggle in the coming period against the dangerous imperialist plans; to disengage the country from the imperialist structures; to close down all Euro-Atlantic bases and infrastructures; and to leave NATO and the EU. We express our solidarity with the neighboring peoples, and our support for the refugees in the common struggle against the common enemy so that the peoples become masters in their own land; and to pave the way for truly mutual and beneficial relations between states.

No subordination to Imperialism — The only superpower is the people! ■

in the military could be used to restore public services and eradicate poverty in Britain, that there are peaceful applications of the discoveries of war research and that jobs in the current defence sector can be transformed into ones that use the specialist skills of its workers for socially useful purposes. In raising this awareness and going beyond it, the British Peace Assembly has a special role to play. It must show that the root cause of war is imperialism, which now endangers the very future of the planet and all its peoples and that NATO is an alliance for defending capitalist exploitation and against the international struggle for peace and a just and democratic future.

The people of Britain must be won to the imperative of saying no to NATO — calling for Britain to withdraw from it and for it to be disbanded altogether — and yes to peace. Nothing less will suffice. ■

Trump Prosecutors Make Move to Ensure that Embassy Protectors are Convicted

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

As the trial has continued, the lawyers for the Trump Administration's prosecution of the four Venezuelan Embassy Protectors* who were arrested last May asked the court to make sure the jury is kept ignorant about the facts and circumstances surrounding the actions of the protectors.

In a recently filed motion by government lawyers, state prosecutors were seeking to severely restrict what can be discussed during the trial scheduled for February 11, 2020. Judge Beryl Howell heard their motion at the pre-trial hearing on January 29.

What did the prosecution want to repress? Everything that might give the defenders the ability to challenge the state's case.

The prosecutors did not want jurors to know that Nicolas Maduro is the democratically-elected president of Venezuela. They also did not want the illegitimacy of the failed coup leader Juan Guaido to be known to the jurors as the eviction and arrest of the four was based on the direction of a fake ambassador, Carlos Vecchio, who is wanted for violent crimes in Venezuela and is allied with Guaido.

The Trump prosecutors did not want the jury to know that the Embassy Protectors were inside the embassy with the permission of the elected government of Venezuela that is recognized under Venezuelan law and by the United Nations.

And, they did not want the Vienna Convention discussed so jurors are unaware that the United States violated international law when police entered the embassy to arrest the four who remained inside.

The parties will also discuss *voir dire*, i.e., the questions that would be used to pick the jury and ensure they were not biased, as well as jury instruc-

tions, which the court would read to the jurors before they deliberated.

The government's motion in limine, left the jury wearing a blindfold, unaware of the facts, context or why the Embassy Protectors were in the embassy. This would ensure the desired outcome of the state, which has been to convict the defenders and make them a model for how the state intends to deal with challenges to its illegal policies.

The jurors also were not to be told

embassy in Caracas and Turkey protecting the Venezuelan embassy in DC. The embassy protectors had told the police they would leave voluntarily when that agreement was reached. The day before the four were arrested, Samuel Moncada, the Venezuelan ambassador to the UN, held a press conference where he discussed the negotiations for a protecting power agreement and said the Embassy Protectors were in the embassy with Venezuela's permission.

The government also urged the court not

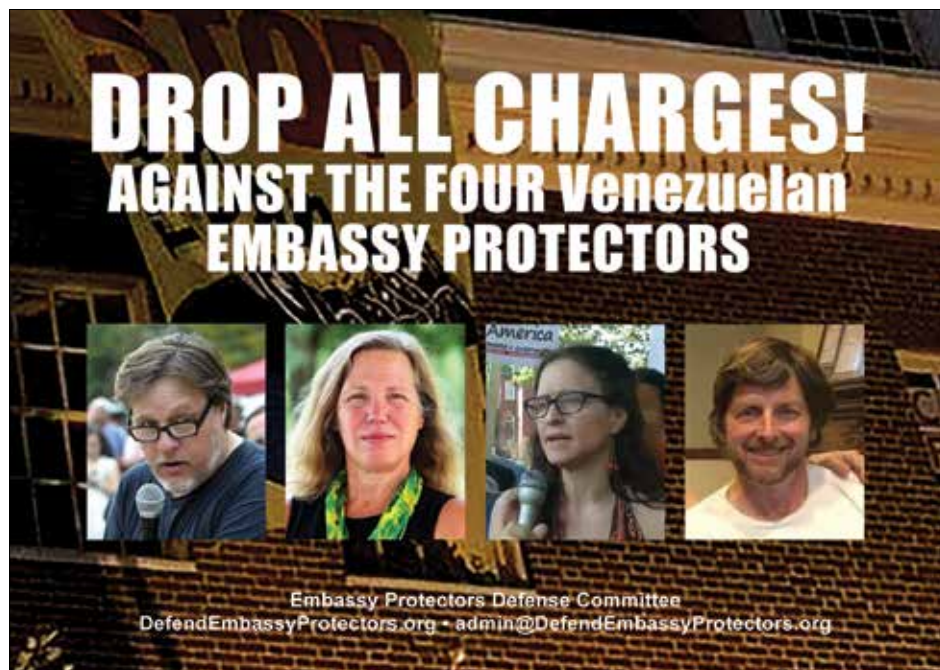
The judge in the most part agreed with the government's narrow view of the case and did not allow the questionable legality of the state's order to vacate the embassy and its clearly illegal entry into the embassy and arrest of the defenders as part of the trial. When the motion for discovery was argued, the judge ruled against the Embassy Protectors regarding documents and other materials related to some of the above issues. See the article we wrote at the time, titled "Embassy Protectors Are Being Denied Their Right To A Fair Trial."

But despite all the limitations imposed on the defense, the prosecutors were not able to convince the jury to find the four defendants guilty. The jury, after a deliberation that lasted longer than the trial itself, returned to the court and told the judge that they were deadlocked and could not agree on a verdict. The judge was forced to declare a mistrial and gave the state until February 28 to decide whether or not it intends to retry the case.

Although negotiations between the defense attorneys and the state are still continuing, the outcome of the first round of this trial was a great victory for the people's movement, who had done everything they could in support of the four embassy protectors, including raising tens of thousands of dollars to cover their legal expenses.

However, it is not yet clear whether or not the state will put the defendants on trial again. This only means that our struggle will continue. In this period of normalized illegality and attempts at intimidation, we shall not allow the state to move against these courageous activists without resistance from our movements. While today it is the defenders, tomorrow it could be any of us.

* Kevin Zeese, Margaret Flowers, Adreanne Pine and David Paul. Kevin Zeese and Margaret Flowers are members of the U.S. Peace Council National Board.



that the protectors were under siege, surrounded by a pro-coup mob that was working with the police, threatening the protectors and blocking food from going into the embassy. And, they would not know the government had the electricity and water turned off in the embassy.

While there were negotiations between the US and Venezuela for a mutual protecting power agreement during the final days of the embassy protection, the jurors would not be told that the negotiations were occurring and that they would have resulted in Switzerland protecting the US

to allow the four to explain they were exercising their rights under the First Amendment to political expression and criticizing the US government for their continuing efforts to force the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Venezuela.

Judge Howell granted most of the Trump government's motion and left the Embassy Protectors virtually defenseless. The government wanted the prosecution to be only about three things (1) the four were in the embassy, (2) they were given a notice of eviction by the police, and (3) they refused to leave.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

"Realities and Challenges of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as A Zone of Peace"

Havana, Cuba — April 27-29, 2020

Venue:

"Raúl Roa García" Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI)
Calle Calzada No. 308 esquina a H. Vedado, Plaza, La Habana

Appeal

The World Peace Council and the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples (MOVPAZ), with co-sponsorship of the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), the Peace, Justice and Dignity of the Peoples International Committee, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center (CMLK) call upon the peace organizations, social movements, civil society, researchers, professors and all interested people to debate on the strengths and the problems and challenges that affect the peace of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In this Seminar we intend to broach three large groups of themes:

- The offensive of USA imperialism in the political, economic, social and media spheres during the government of President Donald Trump, and its effects on Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The identification of the problems and difficulties that have been present in the last decade in the political forces that make up the left, which have originated the loss of political spaces in the region.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promoted by the United Nations Organization is a natural tool of the left, and one of its purposes is the strengthening of world peace through the fulfillment of 17 Objectives and 169 Targets

The World Peace Council and the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples endorse the postulates of the "Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace", a document approved by all the Heads of State or Government that attended the 2nd Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Havana in January, 2014.

More information:

https://cubaporlapaz.wordpress.com/

SANCTIONS KILL

International Days of Action Against Sanctions and Economic War

March 13-15, 2020

Sanctions Kill!
Sanctions are War!
End Sanctions Now!

Sanctions are imposed by the United States and its junior partners against countries that resist their agendas. They are a weapon of Economic War, resulting in chronic shortages of basic necessities, economic dislocation, chaotic hyperinflation, artificial famines, disease, and poverty. In every country, the poorest and the weakest – infants, children, the chronically ill and the elderly – suffer the worst impact of sanctions.

US imposed sanctions, violate international law and are a tool of regime change. They impact a third of humanity in 39 countries. They are a crime against humanity used, like military intervention, to topple popular governments and movements. They provide economic and military support to pro-US right-wing forces.

The US economic dominance and its +800 military bases worldwide demands all other countries participate in acts of economic strangulation. They must end all normal trade relations, otherwise they risk having Wall Street's guns pointed at them. The banks and financial institutions that are responsible for the devastation of our communities at home drive the plunder of countries abroad.

Many organizations have been fighting Sanctions and Economic War for some time. NOW is an opportunity to combine efforts to raise consciousness on this crucial issue. This broad campaign will include protests and demonstrations, lobbying, petition drives and all forms of educational efforts.

As an initial step for this campaign we encourage mobilizations and educational efforts to be organized for the International Days of Action against US imposed Sanctions and Economic War on March 13-15.

In Solidarity & Unity,

Ajamu Baraka, Black Alliance for Peace; Alexandra Reyes, Accion Revolucion Ecuador; Angela Castelo, Accion Revolucion Ecuador; Bahman Azad, U.S. Peace Council; Bill Sacks, Venceremos Brigade; Chuck Kaufman, Alliance for Global Justice; Ed Ortiz, Call to Action on Puerto Rico; Emily Thomas, IFCO Pastors for Peace; Fabian Velez, Colombia Humana; Frank Velgara, Ministry of Solidarity with the Peoples, Holyrood Church; Gerald Hassett, Veterans for Peace NY; Gerald Horne, Author/Historian; Kevin Zeese, Popular Resistance; Gerry Condon, Veterans for Peace; Jacqueline DiSalvo, International Committee of PSC - CUNY; Joe Lombardo, United National Antiwar Coalition; Kazem Azin, SI Solidarity Iran; Larry Adams, People's Organization for Progress; Manny Ness, PSC CUNY; AI Marder, U.S. Peace Council; Margaret Flowers, Popular Resistance; Nathaniel Chase, International Action Center, Nina Macapinlac, International League of Peoples Struggle; Omowale Clay, December 12th Movement, Radhames Morales, Ministry of Solidarity with the Peoples, Holyrood Church; Raphael Agosto Miranda, NY Boricua Resistance; Richard Kossally, Workers World Party; Rhonda Ramiro, BAYAN USA; Sara Flounders, International Action Center, Suzanne Adely, International Association of Democratic Lawyers; Terri Mattson, CODEPINK

Iran: Our Campaign for Peace Is the Only Sure Way to Secure a Democratic Future!

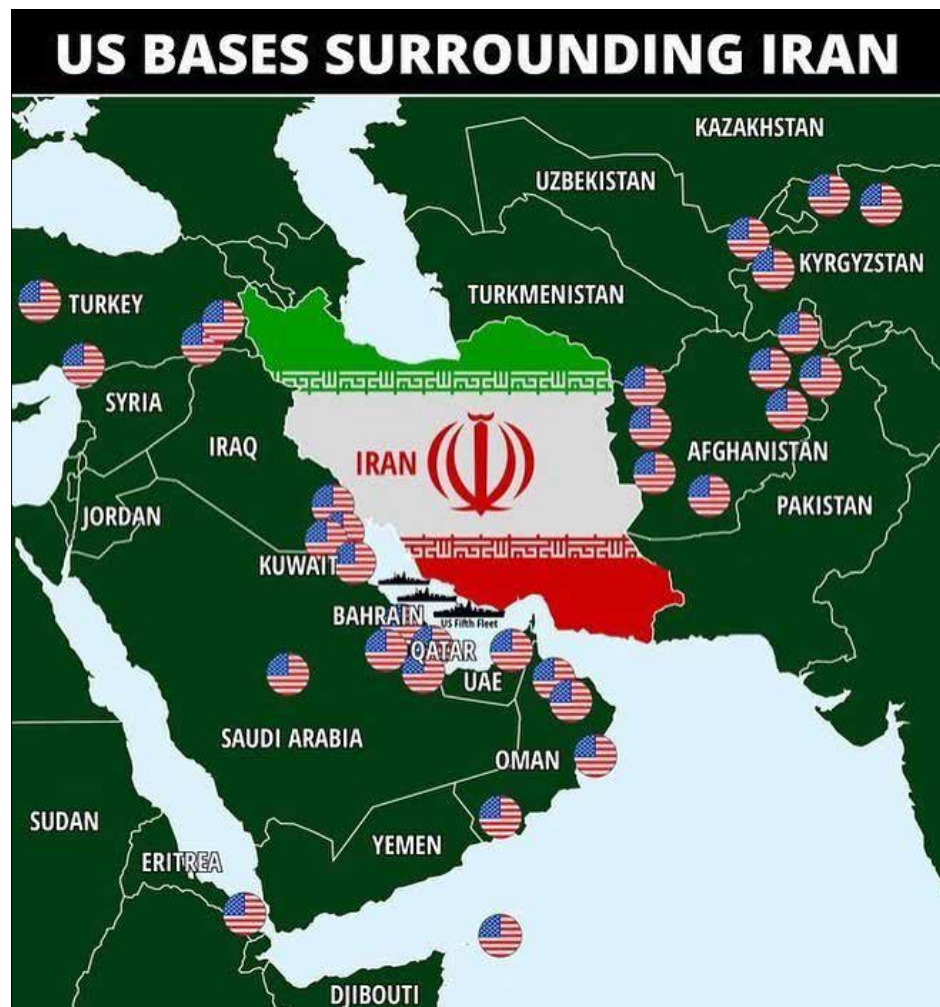
Payam Solhtalab, Convenor
Coordinating Council
ADPSD – Iran

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

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

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

The US has engineered a significant



role for NATO in the Middle East in pursuit of imperialism's hegemonistic designs there. This represents a serious threat to peace in the region and is currently primarily aimed against Iran. NATO has proved itself to be an aggressive force that violates the rights of independent nations and a major threat to world peace.

In Iran, the theocratic regime led by the Supreme Leader establishment has driven the country into a deep and extended political, economic, and social crisis. Extreme poverty has spread throughout the country, while corruption has become a systemic issue and suppres-

sion of the opposing democratic voices continues unabated.

A "limited military conflict" between the Islamic Republic and the US' vastly more powerful military machine as a solution to the long-running standoff is a fallacy. It will most probably lead to a bloody war that will bring more death, misery and economic devastation for the people of Iran and the wider region. It will strengthen the hand of reactionary 'political Islam' in Iran and the region and provide another pretext for further incursions/transgressions by NATO and other powers.

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

As far as ADPSD is concerned, the campaign against foreign intervention in Iran under any and all pretexts is a strategic priority. We consider the drone attack on Soleimani and his associates on 2 January to have significantly increased the potential for conflict in the region. The hawks in the US administration, including Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, are only too aware and welcoming of this.

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

If and when the US launches an attack on Iran, an even greater mobilisation of public opinion will be necessary if a conflagration greater than that witnessed in Iraq is to be avoided. The stakes could not be higher. A US-led war with Iran would drag us all to the precipice of world war. ■

75 Years After Hiroshima ... (from p. 1)

ICBM. It is also taking a policy to use preemptively tactical nuclear weapons on regional conflict in neighboring countries. China is the only country among P5 that has increased nuclear warheads and is also depending more on nuclear deterrence.

The threat of nuclear weapons is still real. Today broad ranges of young people are joining actions for the solution of the climate change and other critical problems for the survival of the human race. We can and must bring all these efforts together to build a worldwide movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

World is Moving

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

However, a major global trend for the elimination of nuclear weapons can no longer be reversed. In 2017, the UN adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), a

first-ever treaty to legalize nuclear weapons. Despite the opposition and pressure from nuclear superpowers, 81 countries have signed and 35 of them ratified the treaty.

Though the forces clinging to "nuclear deterrence" are persistent in continuing to buttress their monopoly over nuclear



weapons as a pillar of their military strategy, this reactionary trend is being cornered by global public opinion for a world without nuclear weapons.

This Year's Plan of Japanese Anti-Nuclear Movement

From August 2 to 9 of this year, the 2020 World Conference against A and H Bombs will be held with the main theme:

"Together with the Hibakusha — For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World."

In the coming April, on the eve of the NPT Review Conference, with the cooperation of anti-nuclear peace movements and a broad range of movements for other causes, the World

Conference against A and H Bombs in New York will be convened with the theme: "Abolish Nuclear Weapons; Resist and Reverse the Climate Crisis; For Social and Economic Justice." It is of historical significance for three Japanese anti-nuclear organizations[2] to join in the international call for the event. It is the first time for them to do something in unity since the movement was spitted in 1960's.

Japanese Government In Defiance of Anti-Nuclear Opinion

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

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

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

1. <https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/two-billion-at-risk.pdf>

2. Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, Japan Congress against A and H Bomb, Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Japan Peace Committee is its member)

3. <https://hibakusha-appeal.net/languages/>