



DISMANTLE THE MONROE DOCTRINE!
LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN
BELONG TO THEIR PEOPLE!

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**ANTI-MILITARISM AGENDA: ADDENDUM
ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our gratitude for the consultations with organizations fighting everyday for just peace that collectively brought the agenda to life:

Trinbago for Palestine, Venezuela Explicada, Processo de Comunidades Negras, Pesquisa e Assessoria Sindical e Popular (CEPASP), Dossiê Acre, Assembleia Popular Itinerante (API), Mulheres Pela Paz na Palestina, Fórum Popular da Natureza (FPN), international League of People's Struggles - Latin America, ILPS Bolivia, Zone of Peace Campaign, Black Alliance for Peace



DISMANTLE THE MONROE DOCTRINE! LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BELONG TO THEIR PEOPLE!

The kidnapping of President Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores by the U.S. on January 3, 2026, has brought sharp focus to the political and economic interests of the U.S. in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). This act of aggression demonstrates that the U.S. is no longer even paying lip service to the international rules-based order established in the post-Second World War period. However, the kidnapping was not solely about gaining control over Venezuela's rich oil resources; it was also a move to claim dominion over all of LAC. Recent U.S. documents, such as the 2025 National Security Strategy and the 2026 National Defense Strategy, have brazenly laid out U.S. claims to the "western hemisphere." The U.S. has made it clear that it will aggressively fight any "foreign hostile incursion" meaning any country that dares to challenge U.S. imperialist domination of the region, whether through "better investment opportunities" or solidarity with countries fighting for national independence.

Trump's proclaimed "reassessment" of America's hemispheric military posture is essentially a reaction to the deepening crisis of imperialism that has plagued the U.S. since the 1970s and grown far more acute over the last two decades. While U.S. monopoly capital is still the main enemy of the peoples of the world, its global standing as the main imperialist is declining at an accelerating rate. The U.S. share of global economic output has plunged from around 40 percent in 1960 to roughly half that figure today. In Latin America U.S. shares of investment and trade partnership have decreased drastically in the last two decades particularly as countries turn to China for more advantageous deals. Currently China is the second largest trade partner of Latin America, with the U.S. being the first, and the European Union the third. From August 2024 to August 2025, China accounted for 20.9% of LAC exports (excluding Mexico), surpassing the U.S. (16.4%) and the European Union (12.4%).

The history of the dozens of U.S. intervention operations in Latin American and the Caribbean is one that relied on death, devastation, torture, and ruthless exploitation. The current U.S. escalation in Latin America marks a return to the gunboat diplomacy that characterized U.S. colonization of foreign nations at the end of the 19th century. It represents the same Biden-Obama strategy but with more brute force, far more desperate implementation, and without even the facade of respecting international law. Obama, Biden, and Bush each pursued and enacted regime change in Latin America, in places like Honduras and Haiti to weaken their rivals' influence in the region. Trump, in his turn, is pushing so-called "commercial diplomacy," using direct military threats and actions against Venezuela, Cuba, Mexico, and other countries to force rivals out of the territory and eliminate popular resistance and independent governments. In other cases, he co-opts the fascist ruling classes in allied countries, pushing the U.S. economic agenda through economic bribes or force.



Protests Argentina 2025

In Venezuela, for example, the U.S. has moved from years of hybrid warfare, waged through economic sanctions and psychological warfare, to direct intervention. This invasion, that led to the kidnapping of President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores, aimed at destroying the Bolivarian revolution in order to curb the influence of rivals such as China, Russia, and Iran and resulted in the deaths of over 100 Venezuelan and Cuban troops. At the same time, the U.S. is increasing its support for fascist puppets elsewhere in Latin America, including Bukele in El Salvador and Milei in Argentina, while violently destabilizing Haiti by shipping weapons to anti-people paramilitary groups. Domestically, these foreign interventions are paired with a fascist onslaught against migrants within U.S. borders. The U.S. continues to occupy Puerto Rico and use it as the tip of the spear in its invasion of Venezuela, it also threatens further intervention against Cuba as it increases its regime of sanctions leading the island near to collapse and widespread power outages for their refusal to bow to imperialist dictates.

But as the U.S. scales up its aggression and war, the people's resistance also rises, along with the need for solidarity with them. The Resist US-Led War movement is adding this addendum on Latin America and the Caribbean to the Anti-Militarism Agenda as a tool for education on the escalating U.S. tactics of intervention in LAC. Most fundamentally, however, it serves to highlight the people's historic and current resistance to the U.S. desire to transform this region into a backyard that would sustain imperialist spoils through the plunder of the region's natural resources and the exploitation of its people's labor. LAC has been, and will continue to be, a bastion of anti-imperialism, from the victorious Bolivarian and Cuban revolutions and the fight against U.S.-backed bloodthirsty dictatorships in the 20th century, to the current fight against fascist agents returning to power and the struggle for native and peasant land.

This addendum has been developed in consultation with several organizations, members and allies of the Resist US-Led war movement.



HANDS OFF LATIN AMERICA: STOP USING THE WAR ON DRUGS TO EXPAND MILITARY PRESENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND INTERFERE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

The long-standing U.S. “War on Drugs” has for decades served as a pretext for military expansion and interference in LAC. From Nixon’s designation of narcotrafficking as a national security threat, to Reagan’s narcoguerrilla theory to today’s “hybrid warfare” framework, recent escalations are being conducted under the guise of counter-narcotics and counter-terrorism dubbed “narcoterrorism.” The violence associated with Mexican cartels has been driven largely by demand from the United States drug market. The 2026 SOUTHCOM posture statement names 13 regional organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations. It launched “Operation Southern Spear,” a new U.S. mission with the stated aim of dismantling drug networks operating throughout Latin America. The initiative gives an official name and expanded strategic framework to a campaign that the U.S. military has already been implementing in the region. This U.S. military terror has included joint U.S.-Ecuadorian bombings of farmers by framing them as drug traffickers and wide spread military disappearances of Ecuadorian youth; the January 3 military operation that took hostage Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and first combatant Cilia Flores; extrajudicially killing over 100 people through military strikes on boats in the Caribbean and Pacific waters; military style execution of Peruvian youth accused of drug trading; and the recent threats to kidnap former Bolivian President Evo Morales which demonstrate a pattern of direct military intervention.

Similarly in Mexico, the U.S. has escalated its War on Drugs operations against the cartels. The U.S. has taken advantage of armed conflict between drug cartels, by inserting CIA forces (as was recently documented when 2 undercover CIA agents were killed in a car crash) and using the anti-drug operations to destabilize and sustain unrest against the progressive government.



The violence associated with Mexican cartels has been driven largely by demand from the United States drug market, but the measures to control it focus on stemming production and transport abroad. The war on drugs serves as counterinsurgency to attack the people's resistance movements for land and social justice. Communities that are targeted are assaulted twice, first by the violence of drug cartels, and second by the state- backed war on drugs.

The push for a Status of Forces Agreement in Paraguay to allow more US military, jungle warfare training in Panama, and Ecuador's attempted constitutional change to allow foreign bases all confirm that the U.S.'s true goal is not drug control or any kind of public safety as these incursions have only furthered the harmful impacts of violent crime on communities. Instead, this phase of escalated War on Drugs and War on Terror is enforcing a modern Monroe Doctrine to expand U.S. geopolitical dominance in Latin America, through a politics of extermination, bringing in the military forces for extrajudicial action, expanding formal military bases, and taking over civilian infrastructure like ports and airports and communities for military staging for these operations.

The U.S. has enlisted the region's militaries as its partners in militarized international drug enforcement, including those which are themselves implicated in drug corruption. The Trump strategy has again employed Latin America's right wing U.S. puppet governments and their militaries into a continent-wide expanded military force, deepening further militarization. For example, in Ecuador, president Daniel Noboa, has pursued militarized crackdown with widespread human rights abuses. The high rates of de-facto military occupation of villages, using civilian infrastructure for staging anti-drug operations and the military kidnapping, disappearances and murder of civilians characterizes Ecuador's US-backed war on drugs. Communities cite complaints of the military camping out in their towns, and living in immense fear given the tragic rate of 9000 extrajudicial killings each year, adding to 25 homicides in Ecuador every day.



Thousands take to the streets of Mexico City in November 2025 to protest crime, corruption and impunity



Colombian farmers fight for alternatives to militarized war on drugs; substitution program of coca leaf crops for illicit use

Ultimately today's policy of foreign intervention and military counterinsurgency in combating "narcoterrorism" has caused widespread destabilization and damage to the social fabric of communities. The true root of the drug crisis lies not in the cartels which are a symptom of a disintegrated and export economy, due to the destabilization of the countries through military intervention over decades, and CIA involvement in planting the drug trade itself. Today's neoliberal crisis of the economies, shaped by U.S. trade policies, restructuring liberalization programs, and international debt, from the 80's onwards, led to substituting the cultivation sustainable agricultural production with coca production. Forms of drug control, like Plan Colombia, spread glyphosate over the Colombian countryside and destroyed crops, which damaged the productivity of the land.

The people are resisting this military offensive and promoting genuine alternatives like illicit crops substitution program (PNIS) in Colombia that center community autonomy and humanitarian peace agreements that truly promote self-determination and sustainable livelihood, not militarization. If the people of LAC can control their own land and produce sovereign production economies and stable livelihood for the landless farmers, that would be the biggest contribution to stemming the dangerous drug trade.



Ecuadorians resist brutal represión ordered by President Daniel Noboa against indigenous strikes resisting elimination of fuel subsidies

END U.S. INTERVENTION IN FOREIGN ELECTIONS AND DEFEAT U.S.-BACKED FASCIST AND PUPPET ALLIES.

The U.S.'s latest involvement in Latin America's political elections is part of a long tradition of U.S. interference from economic sanctions to covert operations to overthrowing governments. Today, the U.S. is meddling in elections to push a surge towards the right to shape the political landscape and pave the way for U.S. economic interests in LAC.

At the recent Counter Cartel Conference in March, White House security adviser Stephen Miller said that the United States would "not cede an inch of territory in this hemisphere," describing a doctrine that leans on "hard power, military power, [and] lethal force." The U.S. knows how to enlist the fascist element of the ruling class and bureaucrat capitalists inside Latin America in order to get its dominion over the Western Hemisphere and is using a series of significant national elections to try to eliminate any political resistance in the governments. Due to the stage of the crisis of U.S. decline, it is seeking to enlist fascist Latin American and Caribbean leaders loyal to the U.S. in the war over trade routes, resources as its hegemony becomes contested by China's rising influence on the continent and people's resistance.

After about 10 years of so-called Pink Tide governments in Latin America, the fascist right wing is positioning to take power in most countries. However, several key elections in 2026 are contested spaces where the people are asserting their resistance to this trend. In cases where progressive candidates are poised to win, like Iván Cepeda in Colombia, the U.S. is actively meddling, criminalizing President Gustavo Petro as part of the drug cartels, to try and install puppets committed to facilitating Trump's agenda.

In Brazil, faced with the return of the son of former fascist president Jair Bolsonaro, the election in October will determine whether social democrat Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva secures another term, or if the far-right regains power.



While both candidates have served up Brazil's rare earth minerals and made investment deals that benefit the U.S. imperialists, Bolsonaro has shown it will hand off the entire country's future to U.S. imperialism, while Lula has resisted Trump's trade wars and called for national defense over the return of the Trump gun boat diplomacy.

In Bolivia, key Trump ally Rodrigo Paz has been in office for less than six months as of this writing and already suffered a major electoral setback and faced massive worker strikes in response to his attempt to eliminate fuel subsidies. Over the first three weeks of May, the Bolivian people have waged mass countrywide strikes, particularly among miners, campesinos and Indigenous peoples against neoliberal reforms of president Rodrigo Paz demanding his resignation. The Shield of the Americas has been employed as a tool of continent-wide counterinsurgency where Marco Rubio has called these protestors terrorists and vandals and backed up the repressive Bolivian forces calling to "defend the rule of law," when in fact those protesting from the peasant and Indigenous communities are the ancestral and constitutional stewards of Bolivia's land and resources. But the U.S. active media warfare against this rebellion by the Movimiento al Socialismo and recent plots to assassinate or extradite former president Evo Morales are clear signs that the U.S. is aligned with the fascist right wing in the country and they will illegally interfere in Bolivia to promote them.

Haiti stated it will hold its first general election in more than a decade in the second half of 2026, however the country has been completely destabilized by U.S. weapons. This crisis has made it nearly impossible to have a functional government, where UN, Kenyan, American and now Chadian military forces constantly intervene in Haiti's sovereignty.

Bolivian popular forces mobilize weeks of strikes and road blockades demanding resignation of Rodrigo Paz, right wing Bolivian president



July 2025: Protesters in Lima march carrying a banner stating “Down with the dictatorial congress.”



Haitians mobilize for justice for those extrajudicially killed and an end to foreign military intervention in Haiti

A security mission backed by the UN has been running since 2024, but it has done little to improve public safety. The foreign intervention erodes democracy and the safety of the Haitian population while U.S. billionaires rake in profits from private security contracts.

In Chile's presidential election, the progressive Gabriel Borich lost to José Antonio Kast, a right-winger who expressed nostalgia for the 17-year U.S.-backed military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. Even before taking power, Kast was invited to affiliate with Trump's Shield of the Americas. In Perú, right-wing politician Keiko Fujimori, daughter of former dictator Alberto Fujimori is in the lead in an election rife with fraud and disinformation following the impeachment and detention of progressive president Pedro Castillo and the corruption cases that removed Dina Boluarte from office.

Over the decades, the U.S. has backed dictatorships, planted puppet governments, conducted regime change operations and flooded LAC with bribes, threats and military operations. This meddling in today's electoral space aims to try and shape the regional governments from the Pink Tide a decade ago to a hand picked set of US-puppets. However, from the uprisings in Bolivia to the land defense campaigns in Brazil, the people have always resisted these anti-people governments and continue to raise the call Yanki Fuera [U.S. Out!]



Venezuelans oppose U.S. aerial war drill over Caracas



**Coast Guard Base,
Gorgona Island,
Colombia**



**USS Gerald Ford
deployed to Caribbean
in 2025**



**Roosevelt Roads Naval
Station on occupied
Puerto Rican land**

END THE EXPANSION OF U.S. MILITARY HUBS AND BASES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN! OUR COUNTRIES ARE NOT LAUNCHING PADS FOR IMPERIALIST WAR!

The U.S. National Defense Strategy envisions a more permanent, large-scale military presence in the region, including ongoing exercises and trainings and a push to open new or reopen former military bases.

A key case in point was the January 3 regime change operation on Venezuela, which required the largest build up of warships and forces in the Caribbean in generations, and the use of bases and civilian infrastructure across the region. This buildup led to the concentration of naval assets in the Caribbean, which at its peak included eight destroyers, two guided missile cruisers, two nuclear-powered submarines, the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier, and numerous support vessels. Operation Southern Spear and Operation Absolute Resolve, from August 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, is estimated to have cost at least \$4.7 billion in government funds. "Operation Absolute Resolve" involved more than 150 aircraft: fighters, bombers, surveillance platforms, refueling tankers, and drones launched from at least 20 bases across the Western Hemisphere. During the Caribbean naval buildup, most forces relied on the civilian port of Ponce, in Haiti, as their home base. They also used civilian infrastructure to station radars in Trinidad and Tobago. And the U.S. has rapidly brought Naval Station Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico back into service to support F-35s and brought in 15,000 American troops to stage for the invasion of Caracas.

While on paper the U.S. acknowledges very few U.S. overseas military bases in Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. has developed Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) or access agreements to operate American forces for equipment deployment, training, and military operations without formal U.S. bases being established in many countries. New SOFA deals proliferated in the end of 2025 and start of 2026 to massively expand troop, training and staging presence in the continent. The U.S. secured military deals with Paraguay, Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago in December 2025. In these deals the U.S. has also exploited civilian infrastructure, seen in Trinidad and Tobago, where radar stations and U.S. troops using airports have staged cover for operations, including surveillance and preparation for bombing Venezuela. The Comalapa International Airport in El Salvador has seen significantly increased activity by MQ-9 Reaper drones and AC-130J Ghost Rider gunships operating in the eastern Pacific. Recent U.S. flyover operations and so-called “humanitarian extraction” exercises violently disrespect the sovereignty of Venezuela, a move firmly rejected by the popular masses.

In March 2026, Paraguay approved a defense measure the the temporary deployment of US troops for joint operations. The bill also gives the U.S. criminal jurisdiction over American troops while in the country, promoting a concerning geopolitics of impunity. Last August, Paraguay received its first ever US foreign military sale of Northrup Gruman’s AN/TPS-78 Advanced Capability (ADCAP) ground-based long-range air surveillance radar,. This in addition to a new hyper scale data center to increase Paraguay’s capacity for cyber operations and being used as a hub for further interference on the continent.

Recent agreements also included the “temporary” deployment of US air force troops to Ecuador despite Ecuadorians having rejected in a referendum the establishment of foreign military bases in November 2025. Peru’s congress also granted authority to deploy US military and intelligence personnel to operate armed in the country after a request from the White House. The US has signed similar agreements with Guyana, the Dominican Republic and Panama, while other countries in the region have already been drawn into the military buildup against Venezuela through existing U.S. bases in Puerto Rico, Honduras and Cuba, and surveillance hubs at airports in El Salvador, Aruba and Curaçao. For countries that are not onboard with the U.S. Monroe Doctrine and interests, U.S. gunboat diplomacy is an implicit threat that the US military is right nearby and ready to be deployed.



Protesting base expansion, Puerto Rico



Mobilization to vote no on Ecuadorian Constitutional amendment for military bases



Trinidad and Tobago respond against the use of their islands and civilian infrastructure for surveillance and attacks against Venezuela

Army Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of U.S. Southern Command, visits U.S. and Colombian soldiers at Tolomaida Military Base, Colombia. The soldiers were participating in Exercise Southern Vanguard 23 in November.

Naval Station Guantánamo remains illegally occupying Cuba, with the capacity to host warships destroyer-sized or larger. The U.S. is financing new installations like the a coastguard on the protected Gorgona Island in the pacific off Colombia, without consultation with the Indigenous territories or the Afro-descendant community councils. In Colombia in Palenquero, there is an agreement for Blackhawk maintenance and training at the Captain Germán Olano Moreno Air Base.

This policing surveillance approach elevates U.S. involvement from drug enforcement collaboration to full military alliance as discussed in the War on Drugs section, exemplified by proposed Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO) in Trinidad and Tobago, modeled on Jamaica's system, where ZOSO correlates with increased extrajudicial killings by police and military.

The people have historically risen up to defend the life and territorial rights of the local communities most directly affected by all forms of US military installations. Decades of organizing drove the U.S. Navy out from Vieques and Culebra in Puerto Rico, and Ecuadorians mobilized to defeat constitutional referendums that would have allowed U.S. military bases to be built in Ecuador's territory. These victories prove that a truly sovereign Latin America, as a Zone of Peace, without foreign bases or militarized international policing is possible if we fight for it.

END THE MURDEROUS U.S. FINANCING AND TRAINING OF MILITIAS AND PUPPET GOVERNMENTS AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LAND DEFENDERS

Latin America remains the most unequal region in the world in terms of land tenure. Just 1.3% of landowners control over 70% of all agricultural land, while the vast majority of peasants and rural workers live in plots often under five hectares, struggling to survive with no access to credit and markets dominated by monoculture crops that they are forced to sell at a much lower price. This concentration of land is a direct product of colonization in which large estates, whether colonial haciendas, export-oriented agribusiness plantations, or modern corporate land grabs, have enjoyed state protection, infrastructure investment, and legal advantages, while peasant and Indigenous communities have been systematically displaced and criminalized for tilling the land. This extreme concentration of land creates a reserve army of dispossessed rural workers who have no choice but to labor for low wages on the lands that their ancestors have tilled for generations.

In this context the U.S. perpetuates a murderous financing apparatus that arms militias and puppet governments waging war against Indigenous Peoples and land defenders, driven by the pursuit of critical minerals such as lithium, copper, gold, and rare earth minerals, essential for military technologies, electronics, and the global green energy transition. It does so by financing weapons, training fascist state forces, contracted private security forces and paramilitary militias, interfering in elections, and supporting regimes that grant mining concessions after displacing peasants and Indigenous communities. This legal and military apparatus, entrenched in the puppet politics of many countries in Latin America, has a direct legacy in the School of the Americas, the U.S. military training center that for decades instructed Latin American officers in counterinsurgency doctrine and torture techniques. Through these channels, U.S. multinational corporations are financing a war against Indigenous Peoples, conducted by puppet regimes that Washington arms and trains.

Latin America accounts for more than 80% of the assassinations of land defenders in the world, with Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil leading the statistics. Climate schemes like carbon trading, cap and trade, and other market-based mechanisms serve as the "green" extension of this same murderous financing apparatus, funneling resources away from the people, tilling and caring for the land by channeling capital into extractive industries, militarization, and financial speculation of land. Backed by the same institutions that profit from displacement, these programs often criminalize traditional stewardship, enable land grabbing, and reward the transnational corporation interests that financed the original violence.



Indigenous struggle against monopoly corporation Cargill in Brazil



-indigenous resistance victory defending the Tapajos River in Brazil

Large-scale agribusiness corporations (Cargill, Archer-Daniels-Midland (ADM), among other transnational fruit, coffee, palm oil, and soy conglomerates) are direct beneficiaries of unequal trade and the violent dispossession of peasants and indigenous peoples. This happens through cheap land and labor gained by forced displacement when paramilitary violence clears Indigenous and peasant communities for monoculture export crops, through unequal trade agreements that criminalize family farming by eliminating tariffs on industrial agricultural exports while maintaining barriers on the basic grains peasants have grown for centuries, through contract farming and debt traps that lock farmers into cycles of debt, and through super-exploitation of rural workers who survive displacement and end up working 12-16 hour days for poverty wages without contracts or safety equipment.

Yet despite this relentless assault, Indigenous peoples and peasants continue to defend their land. In Brazil, at the Tapajós River basin, the Munduruku, Apiaká, Kayapó, and other Indigenous nations, alongside riverside peasant communities, physically blockaded mining barges and the facilities of U.S. company Cargill, and occupied federal agencies to halt the São Luiz do Tapajós and other mega-dam and open-pit gold mining projects that would have flooded ancestral cemeteries and poisoned their lifeblood waterways with mercury. In the countryside of Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia, peasants have staged national strikes with hundreds of thousands participating. And across Latin America, peasants and the people reclaim territories seized by agribusiness and mining interests via occupation. While facing down paramilitary gunmen armed with U.S.-traced weapons, these movements and people reclaim and cultivate the land.

Popular protests advance towards La Paz , Bolivia



END THE SO-CALLED SHIELD OF THE AMERICAS.

The Shield of the Americas, a coalition announced on March 7, 2026, in Doral Florida by Donald Trump alongside right-wing Latin American leaders of Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and Chile's president-elect at the time José Antonio Kast, is not a genuine alliance among sovereign and independent nations. Rather, it is a U.S.-led mechanism to further exercise U.S. dictates through its puppets in Latin America. The Shield of the Americas operationalizes the "enlist and expand" Western Hemisphere strategy laid out in the 2025 U.S. National Security Strategy, which aims to "enlist" partner nations to control migration and stop drug flows while "expanding" U.S. preeminence using military operations to forcefully edge out its competitors in the region and secure strategic assets.

The fascist-aligned leaders involved in this "alliance" are willing to subordinate Latin American defense forces to Washington's strategic interests instead of serving the needs of the region's peoples. The Shield of the Americas has its precedent in a long and bloody history of U.S. interventions in Latin America through the narrative "war on drugs", from the Cold War-era anti-communist pacts like the Rio Pact (1948) to the counterinsurgency operations of Plan Colombia (2000-2015) and the Mérida Initiative (2007-2021), providing funding for military equipment under the war on drugs frame, which supported Latin American militaries to commit widespread human rights violations, including torture, disappearances and state-backed killings. All have consistently militarized the region, protected U.S. corporate interests, and attempted to eradicate people's movements resisting U.S. imperialism, and many, like the Shield, under the pretense of the war on drugs and combating external threats to Latin American countries.



Trump and cronies sign the Shield of the Americas into existence in Doral, Florida

HANDS OFF CUBA AND VENEZUELA! DEFEND CUBA AND VENEZUELA'S SOVEREIGNTY!

As the primary countries in Latin America challenging U.S. domination over the region's resources, people, and land, while also resisting the broader U.S.-led imperialist offensive, Cuba and Venezuela have become the main targets of an escalating U.S. campaign against the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Venezuela, this escalation took the form of direct military aggression. In a blatant act of invasion, the U.S. carried out attacks against civilian and military areas of Caracas, the capital, as well as the states of Miranda, Aragua, and La Guaira, killing over 100. According to testimonies, the parts of Caracas that were not bombed were hit by sound and thermal weapons, with planes and helicopters flying overhead. A large portion of the population continues to suffer psychological trauma from the invasion, and many women lost their children during the assault. Following the attack, President Nicolás Maduro and First Combatant Cilia Flores were captured and are now being illegally detained in a New York prison, facing fabricated charges of "narco-terrorism." These actions are the culmination of a decades-long hybrid war waged against Venezuela ever since the Bolivarian Revolution's victory in 1999. Through sanctions, intervention attempts, and media warfare, U.S. imperialism has relentlessly targeted not just the government, but the entire nation and its people. The Trump administration dramatically escalated this aggression during its first term, imposing devastating oil sanctions in 2019, unilaterally recognizing coup leader Juan Guaidó as so-called "interim president," and freezing Venezuelan state assets abroad. Continued under Biden, these measures severely crippled Venezuela's economy, blocking access to food, medicine, and basic commodities while strangling the country's ability to participate in international trade.

**Venezuelan mobilizations
demanding the return of
President Maduro and First
Combatant Flores**



Cuban's against the U.S. blockade and shortages caused by sanctions



In Cuba, the Trump administration intensified its criminal blockade by signing an executive order on January 29, declaring a national emergency and authorizing new economic sanctions on any nation engaging in oil trade with the island. This move came shortly after U.S. military actions in Venezuela, which was historically Cuba's main oil supplier and was forced to halt shipments to the island. Moreover, the U.S. has illegally seized oil tankers suspected of sailing to Cuba, from the Caribbean Sea as far as the Indian Ocean, and has declared further economic warfare against any state that does business with Cuba. This immense escalation of the decades-long blockade has triggered one of the most severe energy crises in Cuba's history. Civilian and commercial flights have been limited due to jet fuel shortages, weakening freedom of movement and the country's ability to import goods. Electricity cuts have impacted private homes, schools, hospitals, and economic production, pushing existing hardships to suffocating levels. As of this writing, the U.S. has also issued an indictment against Raúl Castro, former president of Cuba and former First Secretary of the Communist Party, a similar strategy used against Maduro before the U.S. invasion on Venezuela.

In both cases, the attacks come as a response to Venezuela and Cuba's assertion of national sovereignty, transferring wealth to their people, choosing the path of independence and practicing international solidarity. Despite economic collapse and currency devaluation of its currency, widespread inflation and other economic and humanitarian problems caused by U.S. unilateral sanctions, Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution reorganized life with people at the center building communes. These nationwide self-governing bodies, rooted in the Bolivarian Revolution, coordinate food production and distribution, mutual aid, and crisis response at the street level, while serving as a political base for popular resistance. These structures buffered the worst impacts of sanctions during 2016-2021 and the COVID-19 crisis. The El Maizal Commune, one of the larger self-governed rural communes with 28 communal councils, produces food, manages collective labor, and runs political and technical training schools.

Similarly, Cuba's socialist model has produced notable successes in public health, sports, and education. Among its public health achievements are international medical brigades, advanced research, pandemic response, service to under served populations, South-South cooperation initiatives, and the world's highest doctor-to-patient ratio. These gains stand as a direct challenge to U.S. domination, and as a testament to why Cuba and Venezuela remain targets of imperialist escalation.



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