

FINAL DECLARATION

VIII International Seminar on Peace and Abolition of Foreign Military Bases

“A world of peace and social justice is needed”

Guantánamo, 4-5 May 2024

Delegates from 30 countries met in Guantánamo Province, Cuba, on May 4 and 5, convened by the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples and the World Peace Council to hold the Eighth International Seminar on Peace and Abolition of Foreign Military Bases.

A total of 80 delegates and guests participated from Argentina, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Greece, Guyana, Italy, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Nicaragua, Palestine, Puerto Rico, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Venezuela, Peru.

We also had the participation of leaders of the World Peace Council (WPC) and its member organizations, as well as personalities, fighters for peace, anti-war activists and friends in solidarity with Cuba.

This seminar took place in an increasingly complex context characterized by the increasing aggressiveness of capitalism at the global level and the interference of all kinds of US imperialism, the European Union and NATO in their efforts to impose their excessive dictates by means of a war of communication, unleashing war conflicts of varying intensity in various parts of the world, while increasing controversies and tensions.

For such nefarious purposes, foreign military bases and similar aggressive installations have been strengthened, which are a constant focus of actions that violate sovereignty and human rights.

The imposition of the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo violates the international treaties to which Cuba and the U.S. are signatories.

Military bases have an ecological, economic and psychological impact on the inhabitants of the areas where they are located.

The occupation of Guantanamo Bay gives the U.S. military dominance over the Caribbean and South America, and constitutes a threat to the independence and sovereignty of the peoples of this vast region.

Participants endorsed the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace. The relevance of that proclamation was stressed in the face of challenges to peace and political and social stability at the regional level.

In view of the above, and in the face of the challenges posed by the current international situation, this Eighth International Seminar calls upon all peace-loving and progressive forces to multiply their actions and initiatives against imperialism and its warlike and interventionist policies, which continue to seriously endanger the destinies and futures of all mankind.

The peace fighters gathered at Guantánamo also pledged to:

- To denounce the aggressive and interfering policies of the current U.S. Administration and its NATO allies, which seek to dominate the world with the help of the extensive network of existing military bases, installations and enclaves, as well as the danger posed by the incorporation of new members into this belligerent organization.
- Working to build continental peace means that Colombia, Brazil and Argentina urgently abandon their status as global partners and non-NATO allies.

- Demand the closure of U.S. and NATO foreign military bases and facilities around the world.
- Denounce the increase in military spending by the European Union and NATO, which contributes to the strengthening of the arms race.
- Continue to demand the return of the territory illegally occupied by the United States Naval Base at Guantánamo, as well as the elimination of the existing prison.
- To increase support for the legitimate right of the Cuban people in their struggle against the blockade expressed in unilateral coercive and economic measures.
- To continue to alert the peoples of the world to the dangers of a global nuclear conflagration with incalculable consequences for humanity, calling on us to mobilize on a permanent basis.
- Strengthen the demand for the closure of foreign military bases, installations and enclaves and the immediate withdrawal of foreign occupation troops from the countries where they are deployed as an instrument of the hegemonic policy of imperialism and international finance capital. Likewise, reject any plans to impose new bases or install cybernetic equipment.
- Convene each year around February 23 “World Day of Action against Foreign Military Bases” actions and initiatives are carried out in all countries against these facilities.
- To expand the dissemination of the contents of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, given its relevance and validity in the Latin American and Caribbean political context, and to demand that governments honour the commitment it establishes.
- Strengthen the fight against terrorism in all its forms and continue to denounce the link between this scourge and imperialism, which is the creator of the arbitrary and unilateral list of countries alleged to be sponsors

of terrorism, where Cuba should never have been. In this context, we demand that Cuba be immediately removed from this illegal list.

- Multiply the actions of the international campaign for a world of peace, free of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and reveal their presence in foreign military bases and installations.
- To continue to express the broadest solidarity with the countries and peoples under occupation and colonial domination in the English and French Caribbean, South America, Africa and the Middle East, where there is a foreign military presence, such as Guyana, Puerto Rico, Argentina in Neuquén and the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, Syria, Palestine, Western Sahara and Cyprus.
- To express solidarity with the Peruvian people while condemning the increase of U.S. military bases on their territory following the coup d'état against President Pedro Castillo.
- To reject the use of the Guyana Esequiba controversy as a pretext to promote the presence of the Southern Command in our region, affecting the zone of peace that characterizes Latin America and the Caribbean. Likewise, support the right of the Venezuelan people to hold elections on July 28, peacefully and without foreign intervention.
- To express our solidarity with the indigenous peoples and African communities of Latin America; at the same time we demand reparation for the damage caused by colonialism and slavery to these populations.
- To express our support for the people of the United States who are fighting for peace and rejecting the expansion of military bases and the interventionist actions of their government.
- Denounce the imperialist actions against Nicaragua and strengthen solidarity with its people.

- Express solidarity with the Colombian people and government. We call for the implementation of the Peace Accords, and respect for life and human rights, while we support the program of total peace that drives the policy of the current government.
- Increasing denunciations of the threat of the use of nuclear weapons that would only lead to a generalized war of global dimensions, and in turn against any kind of attacks against scientists in the global South.
- We warn of the militarization of the Arctic and the use of outer space for war purposes.
- Reject the cyberwar and communications disinformation campaigns launched by the United States and NATO.
- We strongly condemn the role of the United States and NATO in the militarization of Ukraine and the support of these powers in the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which must end.
- Haiti suffers from a grave humanitarian and security situation, exacerbating social instability and poverty caused by centuries of colonial and neo-colonial plunder, underdevelopment and foreign intervention.

The Haitian people have the right to find a peaceful, sustainable and lasting solution to the enormous challenges they face, based on full respect for their self-determination, sovereignty and independence. We therefore express our solidarity with the Haitian people; we oppose any military intervention in that country; and we support a social development plan that benefits this sister nation.

- With regard to the genocide being committed against the heroic Palestinian people by the Zionist State of Israel in complicity with US imperialism and the European Union, the participants agree that:

A comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the conflict inexorably requires the real exercise of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

and to build their own independent and sovereign State within the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as its capital. If Palestine dies, unity dies.

History will not forgive the indifferent and we will not be among them. It is time to put an end to the philosophy of plunder, robbery and exploitation, so that the philosophy of war dies for lack of incentives.

- We denounce the repression and persecution in our countries against activists who support the ceasefire in Palestine and its liberation.

In addition to encouraging the use of force and continuing to send millions of dollars in financial aid through state-of-the-art military equipment, all parties have a responsibility to help find a solution in the interests of world peace, in accordance with the rules of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

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The pacifist, progressive, anti-imperialist organizations, we reiterate our condemnation of interference in the internal affairs of nations, the imperial rearrangement of the planet under the designs of the U.S. and NATO, which endangers the human species and places us at the door of a new world confrontation.

- Let us all redouble our efforts to peacefully resolve global conflicts, strengthen the mechanisms of integration, the defence of peace and the principles of equality. Fighting for peace means saving humanity.
- Let us work in our countries to involve ever more young people in actions for peace, as future followers of the World Movement for Peace.

- We urge that actions in defense of world peace be coordinated with the Cuban Solidarity Movements in the countries.

We express our solidarity with the Cuban people who continue their great efforts to achieve a more just, prosperous, democratic and sustainable socialist society. We also convey fraternal greetings and gratitude to the people of Guantánamo and their authorities for the warm welcome and facilities extended for the successful conclusion of the event.

We call upon to follow up and disseminate this declaration, which will be a point of reference for further strengthening work in favor of peace and against foreign military bases.

Guantánamo, Cuba, May 5, 2024.