

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Strengthening the support for the struggle of the Venezuelan people against interference

By: Socorro Gomes, President of the World Peace Council: January 23, 2019

The forces of peace and democracy, constantly mobilized in support of the Venezuelan people's struggle in defense of their sovereignty, are again strongly repudiating the offensive against the legitimately elected government of President Nicolás Maduro. Evidencing its eagerness to take interference in Venezuela to ultimate consequences, Donald Trump's government on Wednesday, 23rd of January, declared it recognizes the opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, who has no popular mandate, as the country's acting president, which was seconded by allied governments.

Such an outrageous step is an attack on the most essential norms of international relations prized by all the truly democratic forces dedicated to building a world of peace and cooperation. It should be largely rejected not only by popular entities, but also by institutions that cherish democracy and the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.

The World Peace Council defends the sovereignty of nations and mutual respect as pillars of constructive relations between nations. Therefore, it repudiates, in the strongest terms, this outrageous announcement of the US government, also indicated by the countries that adhered to the arrogant statement issued on behalf of the Lima Group two weeks ago, saying it did not recognize the legitimacy of the Maduro government, whose mandate was renewed by popular vote. Most of the governments of such a group, as we said then, suffer from the complete lack of competence to claim themselves promoters of democracy. This is the case, among others, of the governments of Colombia and Brazil, who also declared to recognize Guaidó as president.

The coup attempts in Venezuela are incessant and the resistance has been brave, an example for the peoples committed to the defense of their nations' sovereign course. Solving the crisis in the country and correcting courses is entirely up to the Venezuelan people, in a dialogue already called for by the government among those who sincerely seek a democratic solution. (Continued next column)

(From last column) Venezuelan people

The governments of Hugo Chávez and, from the outset, that of President Maduro, backed by the Venezuelan people and patriotic forces, have bravely faced those attempts. Such resistance also sheds light on the continuity of US imperialism's policy of interference, which does anything to maintain its dominion over Latin America, trampling over international law and the democracy it claims to defend.

Therefore, we urge the strengthening of international mobilization in support of the Venezuelan people's struggle in defense of their sovereignty and democracy, of the legitimacy guaranteed only by the popular vote to lead the country's course, in a frank and sovereign dialogue with the democratic opposition, facing the coup plotters who have been supported by US imperialism and reactionary forces in the region.

For the end of the imperialist offensive and the coup attempts!
For sovereignty and peace in Venezuela!



Before Venezuela, US had long involvement in Latin America

By: The Associated Press: January 25, 2019

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro accuses the United States of trying to orchestrate a coup against him, and that allegation has resonance among many in a region where Washington has a long history of interventions — military and otherwise.

Ever since President James Monroe announced a sort of protectorate over the hemisphere in the early 19th century known as the Monroe Doctrine, the United States has involved itself in the daily affairs of nations across Latin America, often on behalf of North American commercial interests or to support right-leaning forces against leftist leaders.

That military involvement petered out after the end of the Cold War, although the U.S. has been accused of granting at least tacit backing to coups in Venezuela in 2002 and Honduras in 2009.

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(From Page 1) **Before Venezuela**

The Trump's administration leading role in recognizing Juan Guaido as the interim president of Venezuela returns the U.S. to a more assertive role in Latin America than it has had for years.

Some of the most notable U.S. interventions in Latin America:

- 1846:** The United States invades Mexico and captures Mexico City in 1847. A peace treaty the following year gives the U.S. more than half of Mexico's territory — what is now most of the western United States.
- 1903:** The U.S. engineers Panamanian independence from Colombia and gains sovereign rights over the zone where the Panama Canal would connect Atlantic and Pacific shipping routes.
- 1903:** Cuba and the U.S. sign a treaty allowing near-total U.S. control of Cuban affairs. U.S. establishes a naval base at Guantanamo Bay. U.S. Marines repeatedly intervene in Central America and the Caribbean throughout the first quarter of the 20th century, often to protect U.S. business interests in moments of political instability.
- 1914:** U.S. troops occupy the Mexican port of Veracruz for seven months in an attempt to sway developments in the Mexican Revolution.
- 1954:** Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz is overthrown in a CIA-backed coup.
- 1961:** The U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion fails to overthrow Soviet-backed Cuban leader Fidel Castro but Washington continues to launch attempts to assassinate Castro and dislodge his government.
- 1964:** Leftist President Joao Goulart of Brazil is overthrown in a U.S.-backed coup that installs a military government lasting until the 1980s.
- 1965:** U.S. forces land in the Dominican Republic to intervene in a civil war.
- 1970s:** Argentina, Chile and allied South American nations launch brutal campaign of repression and assassination aimed at perceived leftist threats, known as Operation Condor, often with U.S. support.
- 1980s:** Reagan administration backs anti-Communist Contra forces against Nicaragua's Sandinista government and backs the Salvadoran **1983:** government against leftist FMLN rebels. U.S. forces invade Caribbean island of Grenada after accusing the government of allying itself with Communist Cuba.
- 1989:** U.S. invades Panama to oust strongman Manuel Noriega.
- 1994:** A U.S.-led invasion of Haiti is launched to remove the military regime installed by a 1991 coup that ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The invasion restores Aristide.
- 2002:** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is ousted for two days before retaking power. He and his allies accuse the U.S. of tacit support for the coup attempt.
- 2009:** Honduran President Manuel Zelaya overthrown by military. U.S. accused of worsening situation by insufficient condemnation of the coup.

Support for Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs

By: Laura Savinkoff Coordinator on behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We thank you for standing strong in support of Mother Earth, for doing all that you can to protect our planet for ourselves, our children, our grandchildren and all the generations that will follow. Together we can stop the environmental destruction because of the world's reliance on and over consumption of fossil fuels and all that is associated with them (energy production, transportation, manufacturing, etc).

We pledge to join our voice and if possible our bodies, with your struggle. We are the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition made up of peace, social justice and environmental groups spread across the Kootenays, the Boundary and the Okanagan. We are a member of the Canadian Peace Congress and work with other organizations--local, national and international--to stop war on people, the land, the air, the water and all that exists on our planet based on principles of non-violence, equality, respect, honour, integrity, accountability and love for all creation.

We have petitioned and will continue to strongly urge both provincial and federal governments and, where possible local governing bodies, to make a concerted effort to shift from fossil fuel dependence to sustainable, renewable materials. We are constantly being told that the transition is underway and that it cannot happen immediately. We do understand that but we have heard this refrain for decades now and wonder why it is taking so long. Reports from both media and from global groups with whom we work, informs us that in other parts of the world the transition is well underway. Industrial nations such as Germany have surplus power from renewable and nations in Africa are providing the means for their populations not only for renewable electricity but so many other products not derived from fossil fuel. So why is North America so far behind the rest of the world? Is it because the fossil fuel/oil industry funds our political parties and threatens to pull that funding unless the subsidies continue and the move to renewable is delayed and delayed some more? We don't understand why it is so difficult to use the existing technology and provide the incentives and the means for further development of materials and energy that is not oil and gas based.

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(From page 2) **Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs**

We don't understand why there is no support and subsidy to make it affordable for all sectors of the population to transition to sustainable and renewable energy and manufacturing from renewable products.

Instead of support we are threatened with job losses. . . But the 'powers that be' neglect to say that the jobs created and the economic boost attained from sustainable renewable energy will far surpass those from the dying fossil fuel industry. This is very evident in those regions of the world that are well advanced in the transition.

The industry and their supporters also neglect to truly inform the people of the danger posed to our very existence because of the results from the continued use of fossil fuel and all its offshoots. The dramatic destruction from extreme weather surrounds us and it will only get worse unless we stop adding to the pile of pollution from fossil fuel over consumption. In our region we have already suffered from the results of climate change with the increase in floods and fires and an increasing lack of potable water. We do not understand why this information is not forthcoming from our governments and action not taken by our elected officials to eliminate the cause of the destruction.

We are sure you have asked these same questions and have the same concerns. Therefore we assure you that the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition will continue to do all we are able to support and work with you. Part of our mutual work is to share information, alert and educate our brothers and sisters, our global family.

Again, we thank you for taking the lead on this struggle to stop the tar Sands, the pipelines and the tankers that are destroying and threaten to further devastate our lives and our children's and grandchildren's future.

Savinkoff to speak at Conference

Dear Friends,

On March 30 the Regina Peace Council is holding a peace conference and noon hour rally to condemn NATO and celebrate 70 years of the World Peace Council and affiliated peace organizations. Laura Savinkoff, coordinator of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition and newly elected Vice-President of the Canadian Peace Congress, will speak about the need for a reinvigorated peace movement. She will be sharing the platform with international journalist Andre Vitchev who will be talking about NATO's legacy of war and aggression and David Gehl of the Regina Peace Council who will be addressing the need for a Canadian foreign policy based on peace. For more information call Ed Lehman 306-718-8010 or write edrae1133@gmail.com. Demonstrations will be occurring on that date in advance of the US celebration of 70 years of NATO on April 4th.

Continued from last issue: The Minutes of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference will run in a series. They were compiled by Laura Savinkoff from comprehensive notes by Beth Novokshonoff.

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference, October 27, 2018. At The Slavonic Senior Citizens Centre, Grand Forks, BC

KAIROS Kelowna: Roy stated that individual churches have had a lot of activity, but not specifically KAIROS related actions in Kelowna.

KAIROS Nelson: Hannah informed us Sandra is not well and therefore was unable to produce a report or attend.

KRUNA & USCC Working Groups: JJ explained that they continue to hold their annual events such as International Day of Peace and Hiroshima Day and a few others.

Hannah added that as a KRUNA member she attended and took part in a great event with the March and Rally in Castlegar for Take Back the Night. There was a wonderful First Nations presence with a beautiful circular hide on which were placed twigs and hopeful messages. These messages represented many women's voices. As well Laura Plotnikoff cut fabric in the form of a teardrop with the names and birth dates of the missing women and the date they disappeared. A Men's group took part in order to bring greater awareness about violence against women and stated that it is a man's problem not a woman's problem. An RCMP Constable urged that services should be expanded for women who suffer from abuse. Hannah agrees that we all need to work harder on this because one in three women suffers from some sort of abuse.

JJ asked if there are such men's groups in Grand Forks or Kelowna. Chris said she does not know of any formal groups in GF. Laura added that there was one previously but she is not aware of any at present but that does not mean one doesn't exist in some form. Hannah replied that one of the men in the Kootenay group is a Fire Chief so

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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

The BPI has no events planned.

Watch for announcements of the monthly Peace Cafe at the Grand Forks Public Library.

Forgiveness is not always easy. At times, it feels more painful than the wound we suffered, to forgive the one that inflicted it. And yet, there is no peace without forgiveness.

Marianne Williamson

Islam teaches tolerance, not hatred; universal brotherhood, not enmity; peace, and not violence.

Pervez Musharraf

Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.

Buddha

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524** or **250-442-0434** or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition

maybe he could invite other Fire Chiefs in the area to initiate something. No one volunteered to speak with the Fire Chief in Castlegar to pursue this. Mark and Roy said that the Kelowna Friendship Society may be addressing this issue within their group but they do not know for sure.

Hannah continued to speak about other events such as Rise Up for Climate in Nelson. KRUNA is quite well known in the region and many members come to the Nelson peace rallies and events.

Hannah expressed gratitude for the financial assistance she received to attend an International conference in Toronto hosted by 'World Without War'. When asked for a brief account of the conference, Hannah referred us to her article in the ISKRA (*Attachment #1—this has not be forwarded so is not included*) and suggested that it be attached to the minutes. The conference was very involved and went for several days so it would be difficult to encapsulate in a brief report. One highlight I will refer to the recreation of the 2008 blue scarves worn by a small group of women in Afghanistan representing the expansive blue sky that has become a global symbol, and was worn by all participants gathered in a park in Toronto who marched to the US consulate and the Eternal Flame memorial. JJ stated he saw no coverage in the media of this conference and asked if there was any media present? Were there any new faces? Hannah responded that there were some young people but demographically the majority were baby boomers but was unaware of any media.

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace:

Hannah said she will submit a report. (*Attachment #2—to date this has not come so as to be included*) There are branches of VOW across Canada with the strongest being in Ontario and Nova Scotia. At one time we painted a mural on a military cannon in Halifax. There are annual Peace camps with one held in the Nelson area in August. We try to lobbying Government on an annual basis for demilitarization. We work on strategies to get the message out. At the World without War conference VOW organized an inspirational women's peace brunch. We expected 50-60 people but 90 showed up; it was an exceptional event. The Voice of Women also held a strategy session for Peace activists interested in building the peace movement. Hannah said she would attach link to her report.

Letter of Regret: Laura read a statement of regret for not being able to attend from Richard Cannings. (*Attachment #3*)

BPI Report: (*Attachment #4*) Laura gave a short report on the Peace Cafe at the Grand Forks Library organized by Linda Wilkinson. Nigel James, a retired Military man, was very disruptive and definitely came with an agenda to be so. Although he is a friend we do not agree on many things, said Laura, but we do respect each other's right to our opinions. There were no further updates or questions regarding the report.

BCSIPC Co-ordinators report. (*Attachment #5*) The Financial statement by Christine Thompson was circulated (*Attachment #6*). Christine cited a correction—it should read November 2016 and not Nov 22, 2017. The report, according to the bank statement is balanced up to September 2018. We choose November as the year end since that was when we opened the account. The next Treasurer report will be submitted prior to the Spring/April conference.

(More next issue)