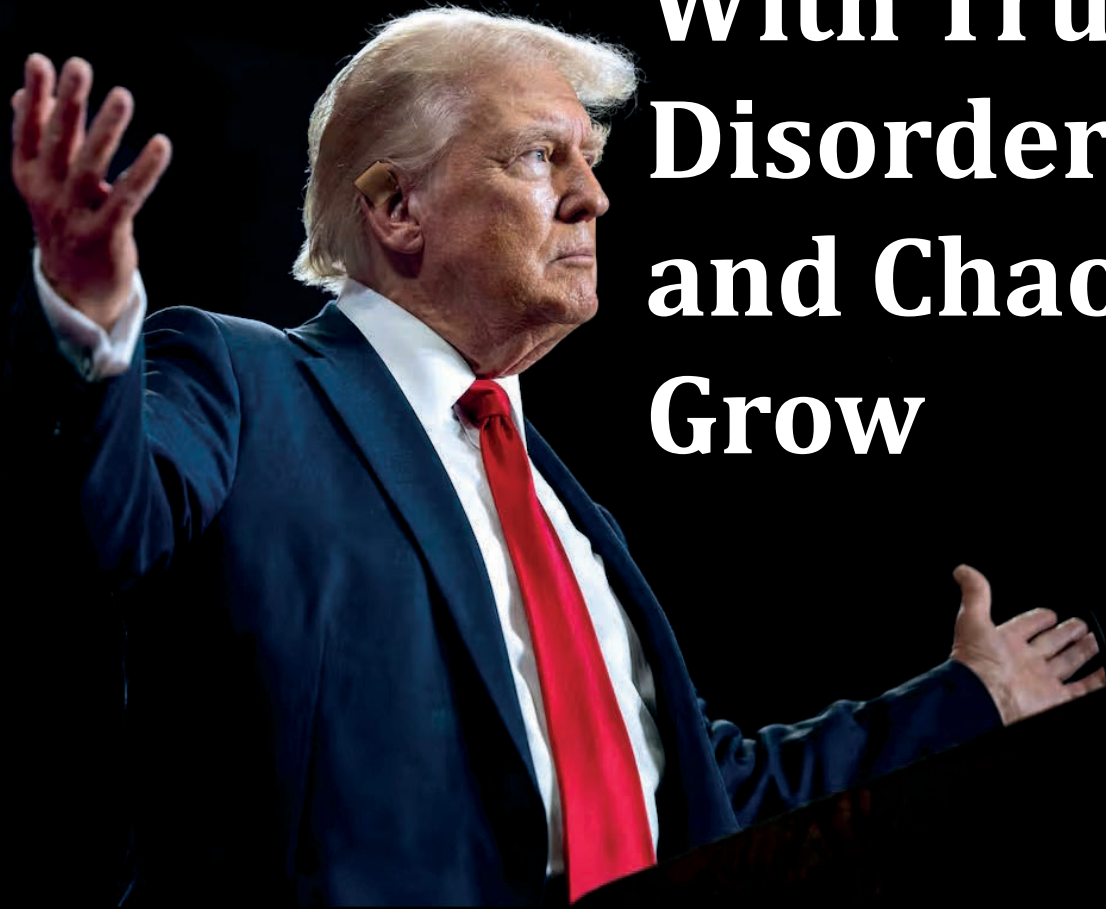


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With Trump, Disorder and Chaos Grow



Rebellion of the Bolivian People



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Foreword

This is a special edition of *International Correspondence* dedicated to the 9th World Congress of the IWU–FI, to be held in November in the City of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Most of the articles, except those that are signed, are substantial parts of the *Draft World Document* currently under study and debate in the various sections. In this way, we also want to share its content with the activists in the various countries with which we are connected. We hope that they will be part of the collective process as we act together in workers', youth, and popular struggles.

On the way to the 9th Congress, it is becoming increasingly clear that the struggles of the people are challenging and weakening the imperialist counteroffensive of the far-right Donald Trump and his allies around the world. At the time of this writing, the great rebellion of the working class, peasants, and popular sectors of Bolivia was still ongoing (see from page 25), demanding the resignation of the right-wing president Rodrigo Paz, who had assumed office only six months earlier.

Trump, an ally of the genocidal state of Israel, has failed in his war of aggression against Iran, and he has had to back down. Polls in the US show that 58.3% of Americans currently disapprove of the Trump administration. Eight million people mobilised at the end of March with the slogans “No Kings” and “No to War” (see page 14). And in Hungary, Viktor Orbán, a central figure of the European and global far right, was defeated in the elections (see page 29).



Miner's march, in La Paz, Bolivia

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With Trump, Capitalist Disorder and Chaos Grow

Trump's return to power in January 2025 is an expression of the global crisis of imperialism. Trump's economic, political, and military ups and downs have only exacerbated the global capitalist economic crisis, increased inter-bourgeois friction, and intensified struggles in the United States and around the world.

For our international current, there are three definitions, which we present in summary form, that help explain the context in which the chaos being caused by Trump is taking place.*

The most serious capitalist crisis in history¹

Since the last IWU-FI Congress (2023), we have stated that imperialist capitalism is undergoing an enormous crisis — economic, political, social and environmental. It is the most serious economic crisis, having lasted longer than the Great Depression of 1929. It began in 2007-2008 and has now lasted almost 20 years. But the crisis is not merely economic. Rather, it

has been linked to political crises and the worsening of the environmental crisis generated by capitalism itself. It then entered a new phase with the invasion of Ukraine (2022), which in turn generated its own consequences, exacerbating the global economic and political crisis. This was compounded by the genocide in the Gaza Strip.

This is part of a broader process of absolute and accelerated decline of imperialist capitalism, which is increasingly plunging the working classes and peoples of the planet into greater misery, super-exploitation and the plundering of resources.

Crisis of US imperialist domination

The evidence in the 21st century of the debacle of Yankee imperialism has led some bourgeois analysts, as well as

those on the left, to speak of the “end of US imperialism” or that it is no longer hegemonic and could even be replaced by China. We at the IWU-FI consider that the US remains the dominant imperialist power in the world, still far ahead of China, the second imperialist power. For now, the differences between the US and China are vast. This can be verified with some data. Of the 100 largest companies in the world, for example, 63 are American, 8 Chinese, 5 French, 4 British and 3 Swiss. The US military budget in 2024 was US\$841.4 billion, whilst China's was US\$231 billion. The US currently maintains a global network of approximately 800 military bases and facilities across 80 countries. In Europe alone, it has nearly 200 bases, and in Japan, 120 bases. China has its only major military base in Djibouti, a small country in the so-called Horn of Africa, alongside

¹ See *International Correspondence Special Edition*, “The Decadence of Capitalism in the 21st Century” and *International Correspondence No. 54*, “Trump, the Tycoon of Chaos”.

other minor military presences in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tanzania, Mauritius, the Maldives and Myanmar (formerly Burma). But US dominance is a dominance in crisis, weakened from the power it held after the Second World War (1945). Since its military defeat in Vietnam in 1975, for example, it has been unable to recover.

Global capitalist disorder

Such is the global political and economic crisis that the existence of “global disorder” has already become an almost commonplace expression among bourgeois analysts, journalists and even politicians within the system. It is no longer a definition used solely by us. But our class-based interpretation of why it occurs is different. For us, it is the result of a combination of two factors: 1) the economic and political crisis of capitalism, and 2) the clash with the struggles, strikes and rebellions of the masses who are confronting austerity measures, plans of exploitation and destitution. A situation of social polarisation arises, leading to sudden changes, political crises, political instability, and often the downfall of capitalist governments or regimes through popular uprisings.

Amid the deepening capitalist crisis, the far-right Trump seeks to abandon old alliances, but in doing so, he encourages global disorder

Trump’s return to power in January 2025 is an expression of the acute political crisis in the US and imperialism. The political failure of Democrat Barack Obama, the first president of African descent, who had taken office under the slogan “Change” (and who was nonetheless re-elected for a second term), led to the first electoral victory of the far-right Trump (2017), who was defeated four years later with the unprecedented attempt to overturn the election result with the storming of the Capitol (2021) by thousands of his far-right and Nazi supporters. The arrival of Democrat

Biden did not alter the landscape of economic and social crisis in the US. Biden had to oversee the withdrawal from Afghanistan (2021) after 20 years of failed occupation. This culminated in the scandalous withdrawal of his candidacy just a few months before the 2024 election, highlighting the deep crisis within the Democratic Party. Against this backdrop, Trump won the election.

Since the start of his term in January 2025, Trump has attempted to overcome the global imperialist crisis through a new global realignment, breaking the post-Second World War (1945) agreements (See “Eighty years ago, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin divided up the world” in *International Correspondence* No. 54, pp. 16 and 17, see website uit-ci.org). In doing so, he has merely added fuel to the fire of global disorder, inter-imperialist clashes and worldwide bourgeois political instability. A prime example of how far Trump has gone with his policy of riding roughshod over other imperialist powers is the backlash provoked by his attempt to seize Greenland by any means necessary, a territory that is an autonomous part of Denmark and a member of the EU and NATO. This widespread condemnation was expressed at the Davos meeting in January 2026, forcing him to back down for the time being.

He took office in 2025 under the banner of “America First” and announced that with him, “the decline of the US” would end and the country’s “golden age” would begin, with the slogan MAGA, “Make America Great Again”. This then gradually transformed into a movement supporting Trump. Trump himself acknowledges, in his own terms, the decline currently being experienced by the imperialist capitalist system and the US.

Trump seeks a new imperialist realignment, disregarding the strategic agreements adopted since 1945, primarily with European imperialism, including the political-military agreement of NATO, founded in 1949, and the “spheres of influence” with the

bureaucracy that dominated the USSR.

This was confirmed, upon taking office, by Secretary of State Marco Rubio: “The post-war world order is not only obsolete... It is now a weapon being used against us”, he declared at his Senate confirmation hearing (Macarena Vidal Liy, *El País*, 9 March 2025).

It was within this framework that Trump launched his imperialist counter-offensive. With it, he seeks to subordinate Chinese imperialism, the world’s second-largest power, the lesser imperialisms, such as the European Union (EU) or Russia, and the semi-colonies. And, on the other hand, he seeks to defeat the struggles of the mass movement, to roll back the gains of the fourth wave of women’s rights and the rights of gender dissidents. This is coupled with a racist and anti-migrant offensive in the US and worldwide. He ignores the capitalist environmental crisis, breaks almost all international treaties and withdraws from organisations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO).

But Trump’s economic and political comings and goings have done nothing but fuel the global economic crisis, intensify inter-bourgeois friction and fuel struggles in the US and around the world – what we have been describing as capitalist global disorder. And, for now, Trump has failed to establish a capitalist “new world order”.

The war of aggression against Iran, provoked by Trump and Netanyahu, kicked the global board

US military aggression against Iran, alongside Israel, is the clearest demonstration that Trump’s counter-offensive is increasing global political disorder and chaos, as well as the crisis and inter-bourgeois tensions.

To the extent that, given the fact that the EU and the Vatican do not support the war of aggression against Iran, Trump went so far as to call NATO a “Paper Tiger” and to question Pope Leo XIV, of American origin, for calling for “peace”. Trump described him as “weak”. “I don’t



Putin bogged down in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine was not resolved in 24 hours, as Trump promised

Not only was it not resolved in 24 hours, but it continues, and by February 2026, it had been going on for four years, despite Trump being committed to Putin's side and advocating for Ukraine's surrender. The war is at a standstill and is an element that contributes to the economic, political, and military crisis of the capitalist-imperialist system.

The Ukrainian people are resisting the Russian imperialist offensive. At a huge cost in troops, Russia is advancing very slowly in Donbas. Trump's arrival at the White House revealed that Ukraine was nothing more than a bargaining chip between imperialist powers and that Trump was willing to hand over a large part of Ukrainian territory to Russia in exchange for Russia not obstructing his numerous US operations in other areas. Hence, Putin's abstention on Trump's plan for Gaza and his inaction in the face of the US attack on his ally Venezuela and its president, Maduro. Meanwhile, Trump was forcing Ukraine to hand over some of its rare earth resources as payment for the military equipment delivered. The negotiations that US

imperialism wanted to impose are at a standstill, as for now, Zelenskiy's government cannot accept the territorial concessions that Russia is demanding.

On the other hand, the economic policy of Zelenskiy's capitalist government, at the service of the big oligarchs and with strong elements of corruption, objectively weakens popular resistance.

Putin, in an attempt to break Ukrainian resistance, has increased attacks on civilian infrastructure, particularly energy facilities. In the four years of war, the attrition on both sides is enormous, with difficulties in recruiting troops on both sides. The Russian economy, converted into a war economy, is beginning to deplete its reserves, and Putin is implementing tax increases for the next two years. This has led to Putin facing his lowest approval ratings since the start of the war, which was supposed to last only a week. Only 32.1% support his government, compared to 48% two years ago. Among the causes of this decline are war fatigue, the economic crisis, and the government's repressive internet censorship.

want a Pope who criticises me" or "he needs to get his act together". The Pope replied, "I am not afraid of the Trump administration". At the same time, Trump posted an image on social media, in the style of a devotional card, in which he appears as Jesus Christ surrounded by wounded soldiers, nurses and the US flag. He later had to delete the image due to the wave of indignation it sparked among his own religious right-wing base, who spoke of "blasphemy". The unprecedented attack on the Pope led an ally such as the Italian far-right politician Meloni to describe Trump's criticism of the Pope as "unacceptable". Trump replied that he "thought (Meloni) was brave". Even his far-right allies are distancing themselves from Trump. There is, for now, no better example of the imperialist political crisis and inter-bourgeois political chaos.

What Trump and Israel intended as a "blitzkrieg", similar to Venezuela, has now, after over a month, turned into a regional war with attacks on the Gulf countries (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE)) plus Israel's new invasion of Lebanon. At the time of writing (15 April), there was a fragile and uncertain truce, with the possibility of negotiations resuming in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Israel continued to attack Lebanon. The crisis remains unresolved. Nothing is certain with Trump. Further military clashes cannot be ruled out.

It is Trump who came out looking bad from the failed attempt at the first round of negotiations, as Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz again, given that Israel was not complying with the ceasefire agreement by continuing its attacks on Lebanon. So far, Trump has not dared to resume bombing Iran, even though he kept the Strait of Hormuz closed. He merely announced a US naval blockade, which does nothing more than ensure the strait remains closed and that no ships carrying oil, gas or fertilisers can pass through.

The war on Iran failed, and Trump had to back down

When Trump launched the aggression against Iran, he considered it a foregone conclusion. But everything suggests that it is Trump and US imperialism that are backing down and failing to achieve any significant military, political or economic objective against Iran.

When the ceasefire was agreed on 7 April, it was the Iranian people who were celebrating victory in the streets of their country. They had managed to withstand the criminal bombings by the US and Israel for more than a month. They responded with daily missile strikes on Israel and on US bases in Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. And with the powerful political-military measure of closing the Strait of Hormuz, which Trump never dared to try to open with military action by his navy.

Furthermore, Iran would emerge strengthened as a nation, having refused to yield to imperialist ultimatums and threats. Trump had threatened that he would “wipe out” Iran, that “an entire civilisation will die tonight”, that they would “go back to the Stone Age” if they did not “open the f***ing strait”. The world waited with bated breath to see what would happen, wondering if some sort of apocalypse was coming. Finally, with just an hour to go before Trump’s ‘ultimatum’ expired, he announced that he was *declaring* a two-week ceasefire to open negotiations. And that he was doing so in response to a request from the Pakistani government.

In other words, there was no prior agreement with Iran, which stood firm in the face of the “ultimatum”. Nor had Iran announced that it was opening the Strait of Hormuz, which was Trump’s demand. Once again, Trump backtracked.

On the other hand, Trump faces another contradiction. He claims the opening of the Strait of Hormuz as a victory. But the Strait of Hormuz had always been open until Trump and Israel launched their military aggression on 28 February. Its opening would not



The “holy card” of Trump as Jesus Christ that caused a worldwide scandal

more.

On the other hand, Iran confirmed that, although weakened, it has missile capabilities that penetrate Israel and that it even launched two missiles at the military base on Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean, which is 4,000 km away from Iran.

Israel’s Iron Dome did not collapse, but it is partially overrun. Israeli cities were hit by missiles as never before, and the air raid sirens were constantly sounding.

Trump repeatedly said that Iran was finished! And that militarily, “we wiped them out”. Events showed that it was not so. To the point that Iran managed to shoot down two US fighter jets.

They believed it would be a very short war, but it hasn’t been. Everything indicates that it was Netanyahu who

like Venezuela would be very good — that is, to make a deal with the regime. Later, he indicated they wouldn’t stop until they had finished off the regime. Then he said it was necessary.

The war triggered a surge in the crisis of the global capitalist economy

Another reason for Trump’s attempt to withdraw as soon as possible from the war against Iran has been the debacle it has caused in the already convalescent global capitalist economy. *The Economist*, for example, published an editorial stating that “the war is an attack on the world economy”. And this disaster falls on Trump.

Trump and his advisors did not

foresee that Iran could use the Strait of Hormuz as a means of warfare. Iran's military strength lies in the control of the Strait of Hormuz. Although it's no more than 40 km wide, it's crucial, as 20% of the world's crude oil passes through it. An estimated 20 to 21 million barrels per day normally pass through there. Also, 25% of the world's liquefied natural gas and 35% of agricultural fertilisers pass through it.

Iran's closure of the Strait has dealt a blow to the global economy. Oil is now between US\$90 and US\$100 a barrel, whereas before this action it was US\$70, and it reached US\$120 and could go even higher; nobody knows. The consequences are higher inflation for the US, but the effect will be global. In the US, fuel prices have risen by 25%, and food prices are starting to climb. Fertilisers for American agriculture have increased by 30%.

To this, we must add the consequences of the decline in tourism, air transport, and the destruction of infrastructure in the region, as well as future losses, among other calamities that the peoples of the world will suffer.

Even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is concerned. In a speech, Kristalina Georgieva, the IMF's managing director, raised concerns about three points: "inflation, famine, and reduced growth due to the war" (*Clarín*, Argentina, 10 April 2026).

Of course, the ones who benefit are the multinational oil and arms companies. But the global outlook is uncertain. The economic crisis of capitalism may worsen, affecting the mass movement. The decline in living standards will increase due to the rising cost of necessities worldwide.

Majority rejection of the war in the US and differences within MAGA

Trump's weakest point is not military but political. For starters, there is no support for this war in his own country.

Polls show that 59% of Americans reject the action and only 27% approve of it. And especially, there is rejection



"No Kings" protest draws tens of thousands to St. Paul-Minnesota, 28 March 2026

among his electoral base and the MAGA movement since Trump campaigned saying he came to end military spending on US wars, to focus on "America First".

Against this backdrop, on 28 March, a record-breaking march of eight million people took place in the United States, with more than 3,300 protests in 50 states, under the slogans "No Kings" and "No to War", surpassing last year's march of seven million.

Moreover, Trump pushed for a law to increase the defence budget by 40%, proposing cuts to social spending on health, education, and other programs. This worries even his own legislators in the context of an election, with voting in November, and fuels the growth of the opposition, because Trump had promised not to get involved in new wars.

Critical voices have been raised among Republicans and within the MAGA movement itself. Among those dissenting voices, the director of the National Counterterrorism Centre, Joseph Kent, made a strong statement, resigning and denouncing that they are in the war due to pressure from Israel and that "Iran is not a security threat to the US". This represented a major political blow for Trump. Kent is highly respected within MAGA, having served as a Green Beret and Iraq War veteran, and his wife was killed in an attack.

There were also strong expressions of dissent from far-right media figures.

While the majority of MAGA supports Trump in the war, these voices, due to their influence, carry particular weight.

"MAGA is Trump", the president retorted, dismissing two of the dissenting voices that have bothered him the most: those of Tucker Carlson and Megyn Kelly, two far-right media stars and loyal propagandists of Trumpism with millions of followers on social media. They have severely criticised him for the incursion into the Middle East and for no longer being the president who never got the US into a war, as he boasted. (...)

Former Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, from Georgia, who has become an influential media figure since her bitter break with Trump over the Epstein case, declared on Kelly's podcast that she was furious about the US military action. 'Make America Great Again', Greene said, 'was supposed to be 'America First', not 'Israel First'' (quotes from *La Vanguardia*, 3 March 2026).

This war deepened the imperialist political disorder and chaos

Inter-bourgeois clashes increased around the world. We already noted the violent clash with the Pope, which forced Meloni and the rest of his far-right government (Matthew Salvini) to repudiate Trump's statements.

The US president launched this



war without even notifying his old imperialist allies in Europe. He demanded an alliance with Europe and NATO for a joint naval intervention in the Strait of Hormuz. The response was “it’s not our war”. Trump responded by calling NATO “stupid” and a “paper tiger.”

Pedro Sánchez, the Spanish Prime Minister, opposed the use of US bases located on his territory. Trump has already announced the severing of trade agreements and ties. Mark Carney, the Prime Minister of Canada, is once again confronting Trump and questioning the legality of the US and Israeli attacks against Iran. The Canadian Prime Minister stated that the military actions “appear incompatible with international law”, lamented the lack of consultation with allies, and called for a swift de-escalation (*La Nación*, Argentina, 3 March 2026).

On the other hand, amid the oil crisis, Trump authorised the purchase of oil from Russia, which was under sanctions for the war in Ukraine. This favoured Putin, who is in need of millions of dollars for his economy and the war. As a result, Trump managed

to get Zelensky to speak of “betrayal”. In other words, the political chaos is complete.

The IWU–FI responded immediately, condemning the imperialist-Zionist aggression and supporting the Iranian people. We stand with the attacked nation, Iran, and we stand for its military victory. Some leftist currents define this aggression as an “imperialist war”, which is incorrect because this is not a clash between imperialist countries. It is a “war of imperialist aggression” by the US against a non-imperialist country, along with its Zionist ally, which is taking advantage of the situation again to invade Lebanon as part of its colonial project.

In this war, we stand with the attacked nation without giving any endorsement or political support to the theocratic dictatorship that rules Iran. We have always denounced and fought against this regime, unconditionally supporting the struggles of its working people, women, youth, and the oppressed peoples within its borders (such as the Kurds, among others).

Now we call for the mobilisation of

the peoples of the world in solidarity with the Iranian people and for the military defeat of imperialism and Israel. (see IWU–FI Statement “We strongly condemn the aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran” 28 January .2026)

From the IWU–FI, we call for the mobilisation of the peoples of the world in solidarity with the Iranian people and for the military defeat of imperialism and Israel. (see IWU–FI Statement “We strongly condemn the aggression of the United States and Israel against Iran” 28 January 2026, uit-ci.org)

Three months into the war of aggression, Trump remained bogged down, unable to get Iran to accept his demands or open the Strait of Hormuz. Iran, on the other hand, has grown stronger. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz went so far as to say that Iran had “humiliated the US” and that it had to find a way out to “avoid another Afghanistan.” In other words, another military defeat. The only clear thing is that Trump and American imperialism have still not overcome their global crisis and capitalist chaos.

May 2026

Trumpism: an attempt at authoritarianism in the US and the world

The crisis of the capitalist-imperialist system and the global disorder are so profound, both in the US and globally, that they have brought an ultra-right-wing figure like Trump to power to attempt a Bonapartist project — that is, national and global authoritarianism — in the face of the rising mass movement.

Trump heads the fascist wing of US imperialism and has taken over the Republican Party. He pursues a policy of alliance with the entire international far right. First, by giving his full support to Israeli Zionism and ethnic cleansing, but also by openly endorsing neo-Nazis in Germany. He also endorses and supports the Argentine far-right figure Javier Milei and Bukele in El Salvador. In this sense, the attempted deal with Putin also has a political and ideological dimension. Putin heads a repressive, far-right dictatorial regime. He is a murderer who represses in his country and supports similar regimes like Lukashenko in Belarus. Trump also has no qualms about negotiating and making deals with Stalinist-bourgeois regimes like the Chavista regime in Venezuela, but at the cost of criminal actions such as the kidnapping of Maduro and the consequences of over one hundred deaths.

The Trump administration attacks democratic freedoms in its country and around the world. It respects no laws or norms whatsoever. It seeks to advance and limit bourgeois democracy. This is a far-right bourgeois government. Trump is a fascist, and his cabinet is composed of Nazi-fascists and declared white supremacists, racists, Zionists, misogynists, anti-immigrants and anti-workers.

A far-right government is not the same as a fascist regime

Despite these fascist-leaning tendencies under Trump, fascist or counter-revolutionary regimes have not yet triumphed either in the US,



Minneapolis: Protests drove out anti-immigrant police

Argentina, or other countries. Fascism, as a system, is very different from bourgeois democracy. A fascist regime imposes itself through the physical crushing of the working class, with a military coup that eliminates political, union, and all kinds of freedoms, even for sectors and institutions of the opposition bourgeoisie, such as their parties or the parliament.

A clear example that bourgeois democracy remains in force in the US, despite its limitations, is evidenced by the striking Supreme Court ruling that overturned Trump's tariffs. This was a qualitative blow to Trump's national and international economic policy. The Court's decision left open, for example, the possibility that the government may have to return a large portion of that money to the affected companies. "I am ashamed of certain members of the court", Trump declared. It's important to remember that this is a conservative Court with some judges appointed by Trump, the same justices who facilitated the overturning of abortion rights some time ago.

The fact that Trump has not yet been able to impose regime change

in his country or the world does not diminish his repressive and totalitarian actions, nor the need to continue confronting him in the streets to defeat him. We maintain that "fascism is not debated; it is defeated through mobilisation".

This is what the American people are doing, for example, with the great struggle in Minneapolis. That is why he has not been able to implement and sustain a good part of his major announcements since he took office in January 2025.

Trump has been backtracking on his "tariff war". Even American multinationals criticised and protested. Finally, in August, for example, he reached an agreement with China to lower tariffs from 149% to 25%. Elon Musk, the designed "adjuster", ended up resigning in June 2025 amidst popular protests against him. It was a scandalous, soap opera-style public falling out, with Musk accusing Trump of being involved in a paedophilia case and Trump accusing Musk of being "crazy" and a "drug user".

And, for now, neither the Panama Canal nor Greenland nor Canada have passed into US hands.

Is Trump seeking to establish “zones of influence” with Russia and China?

Trump is breaking or questioning all existing imperialist alliances (NATO, UN) and agreements, but he has not yet achieved a new imperialist "deal", much less brought "order" to the global capitalist crisis and the rise of the struggles of the world's peoples.

Much has been discussed, even among sectors of the left, that the core of US imperialism is the clash with China and, to a lesser extent, with Russia, and that this dynamic could lead to a third world war. Even within broad sectors of the left, contrary to our opinion, the war in Ukraine is seen as the beginning of that “inter-imperialist war” (which began in 2022) allegedly instigated by NATO and the US.

At the IWU-FI, we have always held a different view of this conflict. For our current, war in Ukraine is not inter-imperialist. Rather, it originates from an invasion by Russia, an imperialist country, of a semi-colonial capitalist country. And for this reason, following Marxist traditions, we consider the war against imperialism a just national cause, and we support the Ukrainian people in their resistance to the invader Putin, without supporting the bourgeois government of Zelensky. Events have shown that European imperialism (EU), NATO, and the US never committed to providing military support to Ukraine. Now this becomes brutally evident when Trump, since taking office, praises Putin, seeks to reach agreements with him, harasses Zelensky and insists that he accept the handover of the territories taken by Russia.

The crisis of the capitalist-imperialist system could, of course, lead to new regional wars, as happened with the aggression against Iran. And the risk of a third world war will remain as part of the decline of

imperialist capitalism.

But, for now, negotiations between the US and China take precedence over the danger of a third war. The Asian power is still far from being able to challenge the political, economic, and military power of the US. And even less so when, in addition, large American multinationals (technology, automobiles, footwear, toys) have their factories producing in China.

This is why it's no coincidence that Trump, in his statements and in the new "national security" documents, only mentions Russia and China in passing. Meanwhile, the brunt of his harsh criticism is directed at the European Union and NATO.

Trump and the Pentagon speak of "spheres of influence", placing their focus on "America First" and the revival of the Monroe Doctrine. Everything indicates that this definition of "spheres of influence" would be a bridge to Russia and China and their "spheres of influence." For Trump, Ukraine (especially Donbas and Crimea) would be a sphere of influence for Russia. And, strikingly, in the latest Pentagon security document, when they speak of having a policy of “deterring” China, they don't mention Taiwan, a former US ally, which the Asian power claims as part of its historical territory.

This was reflected in the summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Donald Trump in May 2026 in China. After the summit, Trump was



Trump and Xi Jinping in front of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing during the May 2026 summit

careful to say, "I don't intend for anybody to declare independence", alluding to Taiwan, in an interview with *Fox News* (*BBC News*, 15 May 2026).

It's unclear whether or not there will ultimately be a "new world order" of imperialism, in the sense of new or different from the established inter-imperialist pacts.

Everything indicates that Trump is embracing the historical objective of US imperialism to be the “world's cop”, but what is new is that he doesn't want controls or agreements with anyone. To put it more bluntly, he wants to do whatever he wants without disguising it with UN or NATO “agreements”, without respecting the very bourgeois imperialist rules they imposed on themselves since 1945.



Trump and Epstein, friends in the 1990s

The Epstein case adds to the global disorder

What was missing from the global crisis of imperialist capitalism and the world disorder and chaos was the reappearance of the Jeffrey Epstein sex offender case.

The massive release of documents about Epstein's network exposes something deeper than a judicial scandal. It reveals the degree of moral decay of capitalism and its ruling bourgeois class.

Millions of pages of documents from the so-called "Epstein Files", released by the US Department of Justice, have revealed the magnitude of a sexual exploitation network.

In this context, the name of Donald Trump inevitably reappears. Photographs, old statements, and social connections linking him to Epstein during the 1990s and early 2000s have returned to the centre of public debate. But there are hundreds of names and individuals implicated from the global capitalist leadership, from Democrat

Bill Clinton onward.

Prince Andrew, Duke of York, was formally implicated in a civil lawsuit in the United States that ended with a multimillion-dollar out-of-court settlement and his withdrawal from public duties. But the issue resurfaces, putting the British monarchy and the UK government itself in crisis.

New revelations about former Prince Andrew have raised questions about whether King Charles should abdicate. Peter Mandelson, a prominent Labour Party leader and ambassador to the US, appeared on the list and was required to resign his post in early 2026. The former ambassador was arrested, questioned, and then released on bail with travel restrictions in a case linked to his relationship with Jeffrey Epstein. The episode deepens the Labour Party's political crisis.

Kathryn Ruemmler, the chief lawyer for investment bank Goldman Sachs, abruptly resigned from her position.

Ruemmler's resignation came after a series of recently released documents revealed that she had given Epstein advice on how to respond to sex crime charges, while also referring to him as "darling" and "Uncle Jeffrey".

In Norway, police charged former Prime Minister Thorbjørn Jagland with "aggravated corruption" due to his close ties to Epstein. Nor does the Norwegian monarchy appear to be spared. There is a growing debate in Norway about whether Crown Princess Mette-Marit has the right to become queen, after a series of recently released files revealed her extensive and affectionate relationship with Epstein.

And the list seems endless. All those involved seek to maintain their impunity. The Epstein case reaffirms our commitment to the fight for women's rights and to ending this patriarchal and decadent system of capitalist exploitation.

Let's defeat Trump and his plan of aggression against the people!

We must reaffirm that the central political campaign of the IWU-FI remains global solidarity with the Palestinian resistance in Gaza and the West Bank. This is coupled with the condemnation of the fascist Trump for his imperialist, anti-Palestinian, and anti-immigrant policies, for his murderous aggressions in the Middle East, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, and for his threats to the peoples of the world.

Within the framework of “fascism is not debated, it is defeated through mobilisation”, this is a very important campaign, especially among young people, using social media. We must adapt our slogans to each country where the far right is growing or active, as in the case of Argentina with Milei.

In the case of support for Palestine, the IWU-FI argues that to defeat the invading Zionism and its apartheid regime, and to stop the bombings and ethnic cleansing that Israel is attempting with imperialist support, the best support for the heroic Palestinian resistance is to increase and broaden the mobilisation of all the world's peoples. It is necessary to corner Israel in all areas and sectors, increasing its isolation, which will contribute to exacerbating the political crisis unfolding within the Zionist enclave.

Against Trump, we call for unified actions worldwide to condemn the US and Israeli bombings of Iran and Lebanon! Solidarity with the Iranian and Lebanese people in the face of imperialist-Zionist aggression! In support of the marches and protests in the US against deportations! Down with ICE repression! No to Trump's Board of Peace to colonise and militarily intervene in Gaza! No more support for Israel's genocide! Stop the criminal bombings in the Caribbean and the Pacific! Stop the oil blockade against



Thousands protest for the Palestinian cause in front of the Colosseum in Rome, Italy

Cuba! Trump out of Latin America and the Middle East!

We are part of the global movement for a Free Palestine, from the river to the sea

The positive aspect of the Palestinian struggle is the growth of a unified and massive movement worldwide in support of the Palestinian cause and in repudiation of the Zionist genocide. It has already reached dimensions similar to the anti-imperialist mobilisation against the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 70s.

It is highly progressive that mobilisations are growing in Europe, the US, and throughout the world. There is increasing support from artists at concerts and performances, and demands to exclude Israel from sporting and artistic events. Participants range from environmentalists like the Swedish Greta Thunberg and Thiago Avila, to politicians, bourgeois leaders, and democratic personalities (such as former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau), UN members (like Francesca Albanese), NGOs, Doctors Without Borders, Palestinian National Authority consulates and embassies, and sectors from across the left. The IWU-FI, as

a Trotskyist left, is part of this broad, democratic, and multi-class movement for Palestine. We are the revolutionary socialist wing that participates with its own political independence.

We encourage the growth and expansion of this united movement, which clearly aims to defeat the Zionist genocide and, in practice, has an anti-Nazi character. This movement exerts significant pressure on governments, demanding that they sever relations, stop sending or financing weapons to Zionism, and implement an economic, sporting, and cultural boycott.

Part of this movement has been and continues to be the Sumud Global Flotilla. This marked a step towards becoming a global coordinating group in support of Palestine.

Regarding the fight against Trump, we also promote unity of action, as we do with Palestine. The same applies to the governments and movements of the far right. We consider ourselves part of the anti-imperialist, anti-fascist, and democratic movement that, in fact, exists. We advocate for the broadest possible unity of action while maintaining our political independence. This is why we say we are the revolutionary socialist wing of the movement.



Protests Grow in Opposition to Kushner's \$4 Billion Luxury Resort

The "Flamenco Revolution" Against the Trump Family

Thousands of protesters took to the streets in Albania, since 31 May and for several days running, against the resort that Ivanka Trump, daughter of the US president and her husband, Jared Kushner, want to build.

They are facing two real estate megaprojects linked to the Trump family, primarily the US president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, considered by thousands of protesters as a threat to the environment. The symbol of Albanian resistance was linked to the silhouettes of the pink flamingos, which is why the protests are known as the "flamingo revolution".

Shouting "Albania is not for sale!", thousands of Albanians protested in Tirana, the country's capital, for the fourth consecutive day against the tourism project led by Jared Kushner's investment firm, Affinity Partners.

The demonstrators denounce the construction of the complex as harmful to the environment. Some banners called for the resignation of Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, while others showed a drawing of Rama handing over keys to Ivanka Trump, the daughter of the US president.

Albania is a country located in

southeastern Europe with 2,770,000 inhabitants. It is located on the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, within the Mediterranean Sea. In 1991, capitalism was restored, and since then, foreign investment has grown. Poverty affects almost 20% of the population.

According to the plan presented two years ago, the project plans to transform the island of Sazan — a former secret communist military base — into a luxury tourist destination, an operation valued at about US\$1.2 billion. There were also plans to build luxury hotels in the protected coastal area of Vjosa-Narta, located in the southern community of Zvernec.

These territories are adjacent to a protected coastal area where there is a wetland with abundant native wildlife, including sea turtles, monk seals and flamingos that have become a symbol of the protests.

"Albania is not for sale" and "Cancel the project". Others also complain against outside actors, such as "Ivanka, go home" and "hands off Vlora-Narta".

The young people of Albania are the standard-bearers of these demands in defence of their quality of life and the fauna and flora of the disputed territory.

The demonstrations in Albania are characterised by the colour pink, either in the clothing of the protesters or in other objects in the shape of the flamingos that inhabit the area. The importance of the animal in the protest even led to the modification of the country's flag as a form of protest: examples appeared where the two-headed eagle of the Albanian flag was replaced by a pink flamingo, also double-headed.

The Albanian conflict is not only aimed at the Trump family, but the protests are also aimed at some local politicians. The environmental marches came to question both Edi Rama, the Social Democratic prime minister who governs Albania, and Sali Berisha, a veteran opposition leader of great importance since the 1990s. "Branch to jail, Berisha to jail", asks one of the slogans chanted in the mobilisations. The demonstrators, both in Tirana and Zvernec, consider that Rama and Berisha are "two faces of the same exhausted system" and that they only answer to the national and international elites.

IWU-FI Press, 8 June 2026



Massive demonstration in Minneapolis

Protests are Trump's Achilles' heel

Everything indicates that it is in his own country where Trump has his weakest point in implementing his policy of internal restrictions on democratic freedoms and attacking immigrants with police raids, via ICE, to deport them. Popular protests against the repressive policies toward immigrants are growing, Trump's popularity is falling in the polls, and he is suffering electoral defeats in by-elections in traditionally Republican states.

Trump has begun to feel the rejection of his policies in the polls: "According to an average of RealClearPolitics polls, 55% of Americans today disapprove of his overall performance, while 42% approve. The lowest ratings appear in economic management: 56% consider it negative, particularly his management

of inflation, with 61% disagreeing." (Paula Lugones, *Clarín*, Argentina, 19 January 2026). To this, we must add that almost 70% of the population rejected the war with Iran.

From the outset, the reactionary policy and repressive attacks on immigrants have managed to have their negative effects. In 2025, authorities deported 622,000 people, according to information obtained by *The New York Times*, and almost two million self-deported (data from *Clarín*, Argentina, 30 January 2026).

But resistance and street protests against this policy have not stopped throughout 2025 and the beginning of 2026. The point of maximum confrontation has been in Minneapolis (Minnesota) and has forced Trump to backtrack, after defending criminal

police officers, on the actions of ICE, being compelled to remove Gregory Bovino, the head of the operation, from his post, and in early February, he had to withdraw ICE forces from the state. Later, Trump had to fire Kristi Noem, his reactionary head of Homeland Security.

ICE attacks are not limited exclusively to the immigrant population, but also extend to all those who show solidarity with them. In Minneapolis, ICE murdered Alex Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse and US citizen. The scene was broadcast on millions of cell phones in horrific detail. Three weeks earlier, they had murdered another US citizen, Renee Macklin Good, also a resident of Minneapolis.

The massive mobilisation in Minneapolis forced Trump to back down.

The sheer strength of the popular mobilisation in Minneapolis was immense and is paving the way for a massive unity of trade unions and popular action. Some churches supported with their priests. The sheer size and power of the protests are what are transforming these struggles into Trump's Achilles' heel. And they could potentially lead to his defeat, either through protest or combined with the electoral process. Trump is beginning to fear both.

The strikes and protests in Minneapolis arose from the grassroots. They were not called for or organised by the Democratic Party, even though they govern the city and the state of Minnesota. We reproduce below the excellent description of the first Minneapolis strike by the magazine *New Politics*:

"The Minneapolis general strike against ICE on January 23, the day before Pretti's murder, was supported by labour unions, religious groups, and community organisations mobilising under the slogan 'Day of Truth & Freedom' and calling for 'no work, no school, no shopping'. It virtually stopped economic activity in the city. The idea of a general strike arose from the ranks of activists who saw it as the necessary next step. While many unions and union members participated, none of the unions called a strike, which would have been a violation of their collective bargaining agreements with employers and could have led to legal and economic penalties. Many workers called in sick, using one of their sick days to take the day off, while in other cases, hundreds of small businesses closed down to support the strike, releasing their workers for the day.

"Thousands of Minneapolis and St. Paul residents participated in dozens of self-organised committees that responded to the ICE and Border Patrol in their workplaces and communities. Local groups have been organising for months. Neighbourhood groups come

out with shrill whistles when ICE agents are spotted on the streets, and some use their cars to block streets. Teachers organised in their schools and then helped organise parent groups so that both could respond to ICE officers who shot chemical agents at students and arrested teachers. In a few cases, these informal networks have created neighbourhood or workplace assemblies, though such assemblies are not yet common.

"On the day of the strike, one

hundred clergy members who gathered at the airport and blocked the facility were arrested for failure to comply with police and then released, while tens of thousands marched through downtown Minneapolis in sub-zero temperatures. Everywhere, people shouted, 'ICE out'. There were also protests in other cities across the country, many demonstrating in that half the country in sub-zero temperatures, with snow, sleet and ice." (26 January 2026, newpol.org/minneapolis-general-strike-as-federal-



Demonstration on 28 March, 2026

Eight million on the streets

These mobilisations were fuelled by the 50501 Movement (www.fiftyfifty.one), which, intending to cause simultaneous mobilisations in every state (50 states, 50 mobilisations; hence the coalition's name), brought together diverse organisations since Trump's inauguration for his second term to confront the authoritarianism, repression, and austerity measures promoted from Washington. On 17 February, there was another mobilisation toward Congress on a "National Day of Direct Action".

The demonstrations were the largest since the outbreak of popular uprisings in several California cities last year against mass deportations. What is extraordinary is that a large

part of the participants were not migrants, but American citizens "in good standing". On 14 June 2025, one of the largest mobilisations in US history took place under the slogan "No Kings". Millions of people took to the streets in more than 2,000 cities following the Los Angeles uprising against deportations and the city's military intervention. The second "No Kings" march took place on 18 October. It was even larger, with seven million people marching in 2,700 cities across the US. The third national "No Kings" mobilisation was on 28 March 2026, amidst the aggression against Iran, and added the slogan "No to War", reaching a record eight million participants in 3,300 US cities.



Puerto Rican singer Bad Bunny at the Super Bowl

agents-murder-another-person/)

It is worth noting that general strikes are not common in the US, either nationally or in individual states or cities. Partial strikes in various cities, with Minneapolis at the centre, were a significant response to the actions of federal agents, ICE, and the government's immigration crackdown. The result was the closure of businesses and tens of thousands of people taking to the streets in 200 cities across the country. "No work, no school, no shopping" was the rallying cry. Chants and banners with slogans like "Abolish ICE" and "No ICE, no fascist USA" stood out among the crowds.

Protests from the arts and sports worlds

Repudiation of Trump is also growing among personalities from the arts and sports worlds. This sentiment was strongly expressed in response to the events in Minneapolis and against ICE. The union representing NBA players showed its support for the protests in Minnesota: "Now more than ever, we must defend the right to free speech and stand in solidarity with the people of Minnesota who are protesting and risking their lives to demand justice", the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) said in a statement. Bruce Springsteen released the song "Streets of Minneapolis" and performed at the marches. The highlight was the performance by Puerto Rican

singer Bad Bunny, transforming the traditional Super Bowl halftime show into the biggest Latino statement in history, amidst Trump's raids and his call for people not to watch or listen to him. It was the first Super Bowl halftime show spoken entirely in Spanish. It broke all audience records with 143 million viewers, dethroning Michael Jackson's 1993 halftime show and Kendrick Lamar's 2003 halftime show. It had more viewers than the game itself (127 million).

Bad Bunny's performance and actions blended the ongoing demands, just as he had done weeks earlier when he won the 2026 Grammy Award and declared "ICE out". Bad Bunny didn't perform alone; he was joined by Ricky Martin and Lady Gaga, who had denounced ICE and Trump at her recent concert in Japan.

Donald Trump, who obviously missed the event, didn't wait for the show to end before venting on social media: "Nobody understands a word, and the dancing is disgusting, especially for children... It was the worst show ever, a slap in the face to America." His racist anger demonstrates his contempt for Latino life, and that the blow he received is not an isolated incident.

Trump's electoral defeats

All this repudiation adds to the electoral defeats that Trumpism has been suffering in midterm elections. The most resounding was, undoubtedly, the

victory of Zohar Mamdani, an activist who defines himself as a democratic socialist and pro-Palestinian, in the New York City mayoral race (November 2025). His victory reflected the advance of the pro-Palestinian movement, with its camps and mobilisations against the genocide, as well as its resistance to and rejection of Trump's mass and racist deportations.

But the most notable aspect was the electoral defeats in by-elections in traditionally Republican states where the Republicans had swept the presidential election, such as Texas and Louisiana. In Texas, for example, the Democratic candidate won by a margin of 14 points, whereas in 2024, Trump had won by more than 17 points.

The final straw came in March when Democrat Emily Gregory won the special election for the state House of Representatives in a Palm Beach district that includes Mar-a-Lago, President Donald Trump's Florida residence. There, Trump had comfortably won the 2024 presidential election by an 11-point margin.

Trump's concern is immense because legislative elections are on 3 November, where his majority in the Senate and House of Representatives will be at stake. So far, the polls do not favour him. Faced with a possible electoral defeat in November, Trump has begun to question the elections and the voting process, calling them "fraudulent." He is calling on Republicans to seek a change in the rules in at least 15 districts to remove them from the control of the respective state authorities, as mandated by the Constitution, and place them under the control of the federal government. All of this exacerbates the political crisis in the United States and constitutes a new anti-democratic threat from Trump within the framework of the current bourgeois-democratic regime.

Under Trump's mandate, there will be greater social unrest, more bourgeois political crisis, and more disorder within the capitalist-imperialist system, with new inter-bourgeois friction and clashes.

The pact with Trump is the height of Chavismo's capitulation to imperialism

The events that unfolded in Venezuela following the US military aggression of 3 January have shocked millions around the world, especially anti-imperialist fighters. Just days after Trump's criminal aggression and the kidnapping of Maduro and his wife, a deal, an agreement between Trump and the Chavista government, was finalised. This fulfilled the warning issued by our movement, led by the Socialist and Liberty Party (PSL), the Venezuelan section of the IWU-F.¹ The steps of the deal are evident in its most salient point: the amendment to the hydrocarbons law, which affects oil, Venezuela's most important resource (See PSL statement "We reject the reform to the Hydrocarbons Law", 25 January 2026).

On 22 January, the National Assembly hastily approved a partial reform to the Organic Hydrocarbons Law. The most significant change in the new law is the elimination of the control that the country exercised through PDVSA over crude oil operations and marketing. It opens the door for private partners, both national and transnational, to participate directly in oil exploration and extraction through the so-called "Productive Participation Contracts" (CPP). These contracts grant them operational and management autonomy in the oil business, without PDVSA's control. It will no longer be mandatory to operate in partnership with PDVSA through joint ventures.



Trump and Delcy: An Unexpected Friendship

This system was established by Hugo Chávez in 2006, through which he negotiated deals with multinational corporations.

Furthermore, the royalties that transnational corporations and national companies must pay to the Venezuelan state are being reduced from 33.3% to 15%, and in some projects, to 20%. Royalties were a tax that companies were required to pay to the state; their reduction means higher profits for oil companies and fewer resources for the country.

The political and ideological fraud of "21st-Century Socialism"

Thousands upon thousands of activists have been shocked and confused by this co-governance deal between imperialism and Chavismo, a government of a supposed or false left.

The political shift of the far-right Trump, who forged a deal with the Chavista government, which

he once accused of being a "narco-dictatorship" and "communist", is particularly striking. This is explained by their cynicism and also because the multinational oil companies, always present in the country, have opposed direct military intervention in Venezuela, preferring the stability of a dictatorial regime, whatever its ideology or rhetoric, to the possibility of political destabilisation that could jeopardise their businesses. This was confirmed by Ali Moshiri, currently an investor in Argentina's Vaca Muerta shale formation, who spent 40 years as a top executive at Chevron, the only US oil company that remained in Venezuela: "It's important that it be someone from the current system, whether people like it or not, because that person has to balance everything and be capable of dialogue. If someone completely new is brought in, a power vacuum is created, and that vacuum generates insecurity, and nobody will invest" (*Clarín*, Argentina, 8 January,

¹ See the statement "No to a pact with Trump to deepen the surrender of our oil and resources", 11 January 2026, uit-ci.org.

2026).

This deal, scandalous in some ways, is also explained by the definition we have been developing for over 20 years: that the so-called “Socialism of the 21st Century” was a political and ideological fraud, also encouraged by Castroism, to keep Venezuela within the framework of capitalism (and consolidate capitalist restoration in Cuba). This is why Chavismo has always been predisposed to negotiate with US imperialism.

The definitions held by bourgeois analysts, shared by sectors of the global reformist left, that Chavismo was socialist, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperialist, were never accurate. Even sectors of the Trotskyist left encouraged the idea that it could radicalise and advance towards socialism, in the style of Cuba in the 1960s, when real progress was made in expropriations and the break with the bourgeoisie and imperialism.

The IWU-FI, together with our comrades of the PSL of Venezuela, always said that Chavismo, with Hugo Chavez and later with Maduro, was not going to break with capitalism or move towards socialism. Our Trotskyist left current, founded by Nahuel Moreno (1924-1987, see nahuelmoreno.org), was always independent of the

Chavista government and warned about the dangers that brought about its conciliation with the multinationals (Chevron, Total, Repsol and other oil and non-oil companies) and big businessmen (see Chapter IX of the book, *Why did Chavismo fail?*, CEHuS, 2018).

Another failure of a bourgeois reformist project

We define the Chavista regime as bourgeois Stalinist. With a capitalist economy in the country, with a repressive regime, with a false socialist and anti-imperialist discourse: “Socialism of the 21st Century”. It is a capitalist dictatorship, but with the peculiarity that calls itself “socialist”, “revolutionary”; they claim to support Palestine and sometimes even quote Lenin and Trotsky, as Chávez used to do. This is what our characterisation of the regime as bourgeois Stalinist consists of to distinguish it from counter-revolutionary bourgeois dictatorships like Videla or Pinochet, Nicaragua and Cuba, with their particularities, are also Stalinist-bourgeois regimes.

The deal between Chavismo and Trump is, probably, the final chapter of its capitulation to imperialism and a new failure of a bourgeois reformist

project.

This is nothing new, but it is part of the dynamics of other bourgeois projects of class conciliation. In the second half of the 20th century, “different experiences of bourgeois nationalist governments also failed, like those of Lázaro Cardenas (Mexico, 1938), Peron (Argentina, 1946), Nasser (Egypt, 1952) or Paz Estenssoro (Bolivia, 1952), which had strong clashes with imperialism and even advanced in some nationalisations, but supporting capitalist exploitation. In the long run, its leaders and movements ended up capitulating to imperialism and reversing the initial conquests achieved by their peoples” (Epilogue, *Why Did Chavism Fail?*, page 92, CEHUS Editions, 2018).

In Latin America, along with Chavismo, other bourgeois projects were declining in the face of the mass movement, such as centre-left projects like the MAS of Evo Morales in Bolivia, Rafael Correa and his “Citizen Revolution” in Ecuador, Lula’s PT in Brazil or the Peronist governments guided by Nestor and Cristina Kirchner in Argentina.

In Europe, the bourgeois government of the neo-reformist alliance of Syriza (Coalition of the



Multinational



Spain



United States



United Kingdom



Russia



France



Italy



Japan



China



Norway



Brazil



Chevron Bajo Grande oil refinery, Maracaibo, Venezuela

Some of the transnational oil companies that have formed joint ventures with PDVSA since 2006

Radical Left) in Greece, which won the elections in 2015, led by Alexis Tsipras, faced failure.

Venezuela is on its way to becoming a US semi-colony again

Venezuela, under the governments of Chavismo (Chávez and Maduro), as a capitalist country, had a relative political independence from US imperialism. Everything indicates that its current capitulation will lead Venezuela to become a semi-colony of US imperialism once again.

The process of a deal with the United States has just begun and still leaves many unknowns as to what its political dynamics will be and whether there will be a change in the class struggle. We cannot rule out, for example, friction and clashes with Trump. Or that there is a division within Chavismo. Will there be a change in the dictatorial Chavista regime? The “three-phase” plan leaves a call for elections until the end (it could be years, according to Trump). The wing of María Corina Machado, from the opposition right, demands elections much earlier. Is the amnesty law, the release of prisoners and the lifting of political-electoral disqualifications part of a real bourgeois reconciliation or

mere delaying tactics by Chavismo to remain in power?

There are other aspects, from this perspective, is whether a favourable change in the struggles will occur. The context in which this political shift took place is the defeat of the workers’ and popular movement since the mass mobilisations of 2017, at the hands of the Chavista repression and the demobilising policy of the right. Since then, and following the electoral fraud of 2024, due to impotence and hatred of Maduro and his government, broad sectors of the working and popular classes, especially oil workers, have mistakenly fostered the expectation of an imperialist intervention. This is the harsh reality. This explains why there were practically no mobilisations in the streets of the country, repudiating the US military aggression. These are the dire consequences for the working class and popular consciousness that Chavismo created with its double



Chavez and his successor, Maduro

discourse of false “socialism” and its austerity plans, hunger, and repression.

This is why there are expectations among the masses about the “Trump plan”. Expectations that, with private investments in oil, there will be more work and a change in wages. On the other hand, the Delcy Rodríguez-Trump agreement, with the lifting of sanctions, brings in hundreds of millions of dollars from the release of oil sales, which are shared between imperialism and the Chavista government. In response, the government seeks to reaccommodate itself amidst the massive discredit it suffers, creating two oil funds, as announced, for a plan of improvements in public health and wages. Contradictorily, all of this could lead to a partial economic reactivation that could also produce a union reactivation linked to demands for wage increases.

There are already several symptoms of this with union and assembly meetings (university workers, oil workers, construction workers). In February, the first National Union Day for wages was held. In March, another day of action took place, and in Caracas, 5,000 workers were mobilised, something that had not happened for years. These are the first changes in the political situation in Venezuela that will need to be verified for their dynamics.

In this context, the PSL operates with a policy of class independence with a system of slogans that start from “No to the Trump-Chavista government deal” and others (wages, right to strike, freedom to protest, 100% state-owned oil, among others) to promote workers’ and popular mobilisation.

The Gaddafi case in Libya

There was also the case of the nationalist-bourgeois government of Muammar Gaddafi, in Libya (North Africa), which became very popular. In 1969, Colonel Gaddafi rose to power after a military coup against King Idris I. Gaddafi expropriated and nationalised foreign oil companies and dismantled British and American military bases installed in the country. For this reason, the Libyan nation became the target of trade sanctions from imperialism since 1986. Finally, Gaddafi capitulated to imperialism and, in 2004, signed with England the “Deal in the Desert”, which provided for billions in oil exploration contracts in the country. In 2006, the United States removed Libya from its list of states that sponsor

terrorism. With this, Gaddafi opened the way to the exploitation of Libyan oil by oil companies in the USA and other countries. They entered Libya as follows: Amerada Hess (USA), Canadian Occidental, Chevron-Texaco, CNPC (China), Indian Oil Corp, Liwa (UAE), Nimr Oil (Saudi Arabia), OMV (Austria), Occidental Petroleum (USA), ONGC (China), Petrobras (Brazil), Petro Canada, Red Sea Oil Corp (Canada), Repsol (Spain), Shell (British, Dutch), Verenex (Canada), Total (French), Wintershall (Germany), Woodside (Australia). In the North African revolution of 2011, the Libyan community rebelled and ended up executing the dictator Gaddafi.

Cuba in the face of Trump threats

After Donald Trump's military aggression against Venezuela and his deal with the Chavista government of Delcy Rodríguez, US imperialism is strengthening its imperialist counteroffensive by imposing a criminal oil blockade on Cuba. Trump seeks to subordinate Cuba to his deals in favour of his multinational corporations.

First, Trump agrees with Chavismo on a reform of the Hydrocarbons Law to hand over the oil to transnational corporations. Then, he uses this deal to paralyse oil shipments to the island. This policy is leaving Cuba without energy resources, severely exacerbating the crisis that has been plaguing the Cuban people for years.

Cuba has been running out of fuel and electricity to guarantee the functioning of the most basic social services. The lack of energy, for example, forces families to resort to firewood to cook their food. Public transport is paralysed, airports are closed, and hospitals, schools, and food production and preservation may collapse, leaving the people without food.

There is a danger that, like Chavismo, the one-party government of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), with its false socialism, will make deals with Trump behind the backs of the Cuban people to deepen the capitalist restoration in favour of American multinationals.

The island's energy crisis is not solely a product of the reprehensible embargo the United States has imposed on Cuba since 1962. While the blockade and Trump's current measures are pushing the energy crisis towards permanent collapse, the lack of energy is also a consequence of the policies implemented by the dictatorial regime of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and the dismantling of the socialist gains of the 1959 revolution, following the capitalist restoration driven by the Castroist bureaucracy. Since the 1990s, Fidel and Raúl Castro have been restoring capitalism by making deals with Spanish, Canadian, and other multinational corporations, creating joint ventures in tourism, nickel, tobacco, and food. They have imposed starvation wages of US\$10 to US\$20 on the working



The lack of energy leads to the massive use of firewood

people. This has led to the neglect of the obsolete energy generation system, while luxury hotels, which the government operates through joint ventures with transnational corporations, consume significant resources from the national budget. In 2024, for example, an energy meltdown left all of Cuba without power for three days. In that same year, the Díaz-Canel government announced a 112% increase in investment in luxury hotels, while simultaneously reducing spending on education, construction, and public administration by 20% (data from *Diario Hotelero*, in *Infobae*, 21 August 2024).

The Cuban government's response to Trump's ongoing threats and pressure is to acknowledge that they are negotiating with the US and to offer to advance new pro-capitalist measures for US residents. In March, Díaz-Canel spoke of the importance of "taking advantage of economic partnerships between the state and private sectors, (...) and promoting business with Cubans residing abroad" (*El País*, 4 March 2026). In other words, the PCC government is promoting new regulations that would allow Cubans in Miami, for example, to own businesses and invest in private companies.

Starvation wages and repeated austerity measures led to massive protests like those in July 2021. Power outages led to pot-banging protests in

neighbourhoods, a student protest at the University of Havana, and on 13 March 2026, a shocking event occurred when protesters set fire to the local headquarters of the Communist Party (PCC) in Morón, Ciego de Ávila province, during protests against blackouts lasting more than 12 hours and food shortages. The announcement of the release of 2,000 political prisoners may be linked to the government's need to try to appease social pressures.

From the IWU-FI, we categorically repudiate the oil blockade imposed by Donald Trump, just as we have always fought against the overall US blockade. While we will continue to warn about the danger of a repeat of the sell-out deal with imperialism that Chavismo enacted, we call for the broadest possible mobilisation of the world's peoples to demand an end to the oil blockade and the immediate shipment of oil so that the Cuban people can have access to vital electrical energy.

Meanwhile, we will continue to warn against the danger of a repeat of the sell-out pact with imperialism that Chavismo enacted. Beyond our differences with the Cuban government and its authoritarian regime, we call for a broad mobilisation of the world's peoples against Trump's threats.

China Strengthens as an Imperialist Country



Xi Jinping's cheerful toast

China and the government of Xi Jinping are a prominent component of the global imperialist capitalist system. There are sectors of the reformist left or global centre-left that consider China, despite their criticisms, as a progressive force against US imperialism. It is spoken and written that China is part of the so-called "Global South", opposed to the "Global North" led by the US. Many include Russia and Putin in the same bloc that "confronts" the US and, in doing so, endorse the invasion of Ukraine.

For us, there is nothing progressive about the role of either China or Russia. China is an imperialist country, the second largest capitalist power, which exploits millions of workers under a one-party dictatorship (see

"China and the Definition of an Imperialist Country", 18 March 2021, *International Correspondence* No. 46).

Those sectors of the reformist left, including neo-Stalinists, approach it as if China or Russia had a point of continuity with the former USSR or Mao's China. The opposite is true. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the collapse of Stalinism, and the definitive restoration of capitalism in China and Russia, both countries have become part of the capitalist world. They ceased to be bureaucratised workers' states, countries where the bourgeoisie had been expropriated, and became capitalist countries where capitalists and capitalism returned. The former USSR and Mao's China, while maintaining bureaucratic and treacherous regimes, kept those

countries from being dominated by the bourgeoisie and multinational corporations.

China is not an irreconcilable enemy of the US, but a strategically against the working class

The trade war with Trump is anything but progressive. The fight between Trump and China over tariffs, which also happens with other imperialist and non-imperialist countries, is about competition between two capitalist powers. These are typical clashes and frictions between the bourgeoisie amidst the economic debacle that the capitalist economy is suffering globally.

For example, there is no fight with Trump for China supporting the Palestinian resistance. China makes statements at the UN criticising Israel,

but they have never ceased to maintain trade and diplomatic relations with Zionism.

China abstained from voting on Trump's Gaza plan, just like France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, yet Chinese companies are working on the construction of joint power plants with the Zionists in Israel. They also maintain a strong trade exchange. In December 2025, for example, the year-on-year growth of Chinese exports to Israel was primarily driven by exports of electric and hybrid cars, coated flat steel, and electric batteries. Meanwhile, in the same month, the increase in Chinese imports from Israel was mainly due to imports of integrated circuits, potash Fertilisers, and gas turbines (data from oec.world).

“China Harbour has worked on the Kesem power plant (...). The contracts include both construction work and equity stakes in power plants, such as P MEC, which owns up to 33.3% of the Alon Tavor power plant with Israeli partners, consolidating the presence of Chinese capital in critical facilities under the Zionist occupation.” (*Resumen Latinoamericano*, 22 November 2025). China also acquired part of the Port of Haifa, which has been managed by Shanghai International Port Group since 2021.

In reality, China is a major ally of the United States on a key issue: the exploitation of millions of workers in China. Just one fact: there are more than 70,000 US and European multinational corporations operating in China.

China is the head of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), which was founded in 2006 as a supposed alternative to the US and EU-dominated “globalisation”. But 20 years after its founding, despite its significant population and GDP, it has not played any progressive role for the people of the world. To the extent that each of its members clashes with and negotiates trade agreements with the US individually. In 2024-2025, six new members were admitted (Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia,



Chinese mega-port in Chancay, Peru

and the United Arab Emirates), and notably, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt, close US allies in the Middle East, joined.

A major beneficiary of the crisis created by Trump

In recent years, China has emerged as the major beneficiary of the global crisis and disorder caused by US imperialism. This does not mean that the Chinese capitalist dictatorship does not have its own elements of crisis, visible both in the political superstructure (due to purges and displacements, especially in the military top brass) and in the strictly economic sphere, where traces of the bursting of the real estate bubble of years ago remain, with a stock market that has yet to fully recover to pre-pandemic levels.

In 2025, China broke its own record for trade surplus (21.7% higher than the previous year). Trump's tariffs caused a 20% drop in Chinese exports to the United States, but since China simultaneously reduced its soybean imports from the US, it still maintains a massive trade surplus with the United States. Furthermore, China has upped the ante and is exporting more than ever to Southeast Asia and Europe, but also to Africa and Latin America. In addition to traditional Chinese industrial exports, automobiles, solar panels, and electronics are experiencing exponential growth. At the same time, Chinese companies are shifting the final assembly of their products to Southeast Asia, Mexico, and Africa. From there, they ship their finished products to the United States (thus partially circumventing Trump's tariffs).

And there are contradictions

among the bourgeoisie, such as Trump, who had banned the export of AI chips to China, being forced, under pressure from Jensen Huang, CEO of Nvidia — the large US multinational — to authorise the export of its H200 artificial intelligence chips to China. There is an inter-imperialist technological race for AI dominance, but Nvidia's pressure is understandable because a multinational corporation is interested in selling more. China is not only a competitor of the US, but also one of the world's largest markets. Companies such as Alibaba, Tencent, and ByteDance have placed orders for more than two million of these chips, exceeding NVIDIA's inventory (data from *Infobae*, 8 December 2025). ByteDance, Alibaba, and Tencent have received authorisation to acquire more than 400,000 H200 chips in total, a transaction valued at approximately US\$10 billion. (*Xataka*, 26 January 2026)

China continues to reflect the global crisis of world capitalism

As an imperialist country, it has both strengths and weaknesses. Among its strengths is its continued progress, for example, in its investments outside of China, despite the global crisis.

In Peru, China has secured the first deep-water port in South America with majority Chinese investment (60% Cosco Shipping and 40% the Peruvian mining company Volcán) in Peru. The megaport of Chancay, on the Pacific coast, was inaugurated in November 2024 by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Located 80 km north of Lima, it will be a key logistics hub, reducing travel time to Asia by 12 days.



BYD workers on the electric car battery assembly line

This continues China's advance in investments in Latin America. However, it is important to clarify that it remains far from the US's investment dominance. There is much exaggeration regarding China's investment growth in the region. According to the 2025 ECLAC's *Report on Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean*, the ranking is: United States 38%, EU 15%, and China only 2%. In Africa, China remains the leading investor.

The Chinese company BYD, which manufactures electric and hybrid cars, is in full international expansion. "In 2024, it sold a record of 4.3 million cars, with a %41 increase in sales. It now stands comfortably ahead of Tesla in the general category of new energy vehicles, (...) it is reasonable to expect BYD to overtake Toyota as the world-leading car firm within the next decade. Chinese EV firms are expanding their production around the world, at an unprecedented scale and speed. Chinese electric vehicle factories—some of which can produce more than 200,000 vehicles a year—

have sprung up in Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, Turkey, Hungary, and Brazil" (Paolo Gerbaudo, 24 April 2025, *Phenomenal World*, "The international expansion of Chinese electric vehicles", www.phenomenalworld.org/analysis/global-byd/). BYD owns eight ships to transport its production to different markets. The vessel is 200 metres long and 38 metres wide, and can carry up to 7,000 vehicles.

But China also has its weaknesses. China's industrial activity fell in October 2025 for the seventh consecutive month, amid trade uncertainty caused by the trade war with Trump, according to official figures. (*Infobae*, 31 October 2025).

Domestic demand is cooling. The slowdown in retail sales and the drop in fixed asset investment have led Chinese authorities to announce new measures to stimulate consumption and stabilise the economy in the coming years (*Infobae*, 15 December 2025). Domestic consumption is falling due to a persistent real estate crisis that is reducing household wealth, a weakened

labour market, low incomes, and a growing preference for saving over spending.

In 2025, China's population declined for the fourth consecutive year while the birth rate plummeted to a record low, and experts warn of a further decline. Despite the dictatorship relaxing its laws to allow families to have up to three children and even providing subsidies for raising them, the birth rate continues to decline. This social phenomenon is linked to growing social instability due to the fall in the standard of living of Chinese working-class and popular households in China.

The country's population decreased by 3.39 million to 1.405 billion, a larger drop than in 2024, while the total number of births fell to 7.92 million in 2025, 17% less than the 9.54 million in 2024. The number of deaths increased to 11.31 million, compared to 10.93 million in 2024, according to data from China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). This poses a serious problem for China going forward. Experts estimate that if this trend continues, by 2100 the



General Zhang Youxia, dismissed and arrested

population could drop from 1.4 billion to 633 million (*Clarín*, 20 January 2026). There would be increasingly fewer workers available for production.

Purges and crises in the regime

The dismissal and arrest of General Zhang Youxia, announced on 24 January 2026 — on charges of corruption — has had a major impact on China and the world. It is indicative of serious problems at the highest levels of the CCP's dictatorial regime.

Zhang was the highest-ranking general in the army and the senior of the two vice-chairmen of the powerful Central Military Commission (CMC). He is the latest figure to fall in a long purge of military officers.

Zhang was considered untouchable given his supposed closeness to Xi Jinping. Both were part of the so-called second-generation "red princes", a term that designates the descendants of CCP leaders from the revolutionary era. Zhang Zhongxun, Zhang Youxia's father, was one of the generals in the People's Liberation Army during the 1949 revolution.

The Central Military Commission (CMC), also chaired by Xi Jinping, has lost five of its seven members. This purge reaffirms Xi Jinping's personal

power. The true reasons for Zhang's dismissal are unknown, but it is widely believed that he belonged to a faction within the CCP that demanded to be included in political and military decisions.

At the last Communist Party Congress in October 2022, a system of rotation after two terms, established by Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to protect the bureaucracy from attrition and maintain consensus among its various factions, was abolished in the functioning of the regime and the Communist Party. At that congress, Xi Jinping's all-powerful and personal leadership was ratified.

The Chinese dictatorship is what we call a bourgeois Stalinist regime. This type of regime has the peculiarity that a single political party or movement leads a bourgeois state, fraudulently maintaining and using the red flags and the word "socialism". In this case, a single-party regime of the Communist Party.

The dismissal and arrest of General Zhang Youxia reflect that, although all issues in CCP events are voted on unanimously and by acclamation, factions and currents exist within the ruling party.

The current purge may be reflecting,

directly or indirectly, infighting over responsibility for the real estate crisis that erupted five years ago, whose profound social effects continue to be felt. Significant sectors of the middle class have been ruined by investing in buildings under construction, having purchased lots in cities where construction was never completed or in residential developments whose value has plummeted.

The country is experiencing demographic aging. Social inequality is growing. Young people are resisting Xi Jinping's orders to procreate or to work without breaks and with miserable wages.

In the future, new conflicts could erupt within the regime amid an escalation of the economic and social crisis, or in internal struggles within China that could lead to future change and significant political instability.

From the IWU–FI, we raise clear slogans against the regime in order to mobilise the Chinese working class and masses for their most deeply felt demands under the central slogan of "Down with China's capitalist dictatorship" and towards a new socialist China with democracy for workers and the popular sectors.

Social protests in China



BYD Company. Workers protest wage cuts

Although these struggles are not reported in the mainstream global press, they exist in China, especially among the working class. They are an expression of the levels of exploitation and repression imposed by the CCP dictatorship. In China, it is estimated that there is a wealthy bourgeois sector, along with high-ranking government and party officials, and a middle class with a good standard of living, which may number around 500 million people. But there are approximately 900 million urban and rural working people who live on very low wages and suffer high rates of exploitation.

We reproduce highlights from Andrea Ferrario's work, "China Under Pressure: Popular Mobilisations and Systemic Breaks" (Left Renewal Blog, 5 June 2025).

"An analysis of the social protests that took place in China between late May and early June 2025 reveals a picture of systemic tensions across the entire country. Far from being isolated phenomena, these events highlight deep fractures in the current social situation in the country, where economic difficulties are intertwined with

structural political problems and growing violations of fundamental rights. (...)

"Wage arrears emerge as the common denominator in the vast majority of documented protests. According to data from the *China Labour Bulletin*, in 2024, as many as 88% of collective protests were related to non-payment, highlighting how this issue has become endemic in the Chinese economy. The organisation reports that 'wage arrears account for 76% of events on the strike map since 2011', indicating that the phenomenon has persisted for a decade. (...)

"Particularly significant is the case of protests at Foxconn factories, one of the world's largest manufacturers supplying iPhones to Apple. At the Hengyang factory, workers went on strike to protest against cuts in subsidies and overtime, while at the Taiyuan factory, they protested against plans to transfer production facilities from Taiyuan to Jincheng, a three-hour drive away. Workers shouted 'We want our rights respected!' during street demonstrations. (...)

"BYD, China's leading electric car manufacturer, also faced

significant unrest. On 28 March, more than 1,000 workers at the Wuxi plant went on strike to protest against wage cuts, the end of birthday bonuses and other subsidy cuts. A few days later, workers at the Chengdu plant also protested, demanding job security, transparency in relocation and fair compensation. (...)

"Unfinished projects are a particular source of social tension, as they affect not only workers in the sector but also citizens who have invested their savings in buying homes. For example, in Xianyang, Shaanxi, on 30 May, owners of unfinished buildings in the Sunac Shiguang Chenyue project demonstrated in front of the local petition centre, accusing the government of misappropriating funds intended for construction, resulting in multiple arrests by law enforcement."

Although the strikes and protests are still partial and isolated, they indicate a social crisis and growing discontent. These, combined with other forms of protest by artists, writers, and students on social media, leave open the possibility of new strikes or rebellions of greater magnitude.



More than four weeks of mobilization

For the triumph of the workers', peasants', and people's uprising

Humberto Balderrama,
leader of the PT and member of the IWU-FI

La Paz, the seat of government in Bolivia, is surrounded by road blockades organised by the Bolivian Workers Central (COB), peasant unions, indigenous peoples' organisations, residents, and trade unions (commerce workers), among other sectors. This protest demands the resignation of President Rodrigo Paz, cornering his right-wing government and his regime, which serves the country's landowning oligarchy and transnational corporations, just six months into his term. The widespread mobilisation, involving more than a million workers, has now lasted four weeks.

Two weeks of brutal repression by combined police and military forces have been completed, aimed at breaking the blockades and crushing the mobilisation. Arrest warrants have been issued for Argollo, a leader of the COB, Condori, an independent senator and teacher by profession, and other sector leaders. But the repression

has so far failed, as the blockades and mobilisation not only continue but are expanding throughout the country, with more and more sectors joining the struggle. However, the repression has already claimed the lives of several people, with nearly a dozen deaths reported, while the regime, which tries to downplay this, has been forced to acknowledge two fatalities.

The COB and the unification of struggles

This mobilisation, which has become increasingly radicalised in recent weeks, has been building strength from various sectoral struggles. The Great National Assembly organised by the COB on May Day unified the main demands in its resolutions, also voting to initiate a General Strike with Road Blockades. Subsequently, the COB continued seeking unity among the struggles, signing unity pacts between the different sectors and strengthening

the unified list of demands. The central unified demands included, among others, the repeal of Law 1720, which sought the free commercialisation of the lands and territories of peasant communities and indigenous peoples, currently protected by the Constitution. The struggle achieved the repeal of this law, but the regime included a transitional provision stating that the same law would be reapproved within 60 days with some modifications and its public consultation; in other words, a deception. Other demands included the rejection of the privatisation of public companies and the suspension of the anti-blockade bill, which seeks to eliminate the right to protest and limit freedom of expression. They also demanded a supply of quality fuel, given that after the gasoline price hike implemented by this government, supply problems persisted, and the government put into circulation "junk fuel" that damaged vehicles nationwide.

The demand for respect for education and health as central priorities (rejection of decentralisation) and an increase in staffing levels and budgets was also part of the unified platform. Finally, they called for the elimination of the lifetime pensions for former presidents, which were increased under this administration and of which the current president's father is one of the beneficiaries.

The mobilisation achieved the repeal of Law 1720 and forced the oligarchy to face the music.

An Indigenous and peasant march from the lowlands of eastern Bolivia, which travelled 1,000 km to reach the seat of government in La Paz, spearheaded this struggle, and this



La Paz, Bolivia: Protesters demand president's resignation

demand was also embraced by the COB and other organisations. After a month of arduous struggle, the law was finally

repealed.

Along the way, the landowning oligarchy, through the Eastern

Congresswoman Mercedes Trimarchi in Bolivia

“The struggle of the Bolivian people is the way”

Mercedes Trimarchi, a legislator from Izquierda Socialista (Socialist Left)/FIT-Unidad coalition, elected for the City of Buenos Aires (Argentina), arrived in Bolivia on Saturday, 23 May, to deliver international solidarity from the IWU–FI. She participated in the massive mobilisations in La Paz alongside the Workers Party of Bolivia and IWU–FI militants from that organisation.

During Trimarchi's visit, José Ormachea, a right-wing Bolivian senator, called for her expulsion from the country for being an “agitator”.

On 23 May, Trimarchi participated as a guest in the Expanded Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Bolivian Workers Central (COB) in La Paz, where she offered greetings. The event was held at the Federation of Mining Workers Unions.

Trimarchi said in her greetings:

“As part of Izquierda Socialista and the International Workers Unity – Fourth International, I am making this trip to learn more about this struggle. I also bring you greetings from two members of parliament, Mónica Schlotthauer and Juan Carlos “Gringo” Giordano, from Izquierda Socialista, two comrades who travelled to deliver

humanitarian aid to Palestine, aid to Gaza. And they were kidnapped by the Israeli army. I simply want to share that it is this international solidarity that must unite us as Latin American peoples.

“The struggle you are waging is very significant; it is a beacon for Argentina. Yesterday I was at the march in Buenos Aires by the entire Bolivian community to the embassy, and it was truly massive; it was impressive. And one of the things they were chanting was that “the Bolivian people are the way.”

“We came to support the heroic workers’ and people’s uprising.

“So, we want to leave you with all this solidarity, all this strength. The unity of the workers, of the Latin American people, against these

governments that are plunderers, that are extractivist, and that want us to live in increasingly worse conditions. So, much strength to you, comrades!”



Trimarchi speaking to the COB



Miners and farmers are calling for Rodrigo Paz to resign

Agricultural Chamber (CAO), came out in direct defence of the law, even threatening forceful measures to prevent its repeal. This was highly significant, as this sector hadn't been seen directly addressing the issue since the period of 2006–2008, when a radical agrarian reform was demanded following the successful uprisings of 2003 and 2005. After significant conflicts, Evo Morales ultimately made a pact with the oligarchy in 2008, allowing them to retain their vast landholdings and enshrining this in the new Constitution. Therefore, seeing the oligarchy directly addressing the issue demonstrated, on the one hand, their strong interest in this land usurpation law and, on the other, their fear of popular mobilisation.

Given the magnitude of the mobilisation that they were facing, and after intense pressure in the streets, the Chamber of Deputies was forced to approve the repeal, sending the matter to the Senate. Finally, the oligarchy convened the heads of the executive and legislative branches to instruct them to approve the repeal, but stipulated — as a trap — that a new law with the same content would be issued within 60 days, but with the respective formal consultations with Indigenous peoples and peasant communities, so that they could not later challenge the law. With disciplined obedience, both the parliament and the president followed the oligarchic orders, repealing the law with the aforementioned condition, thus revealing the true power behind the institutions of the capitalist state.

Despite the government buying off leaders to divide the struggle, the mobilisation continues to grow.

The recourse to patronage among leaders is a constant practice of the various governments that have succeeded one another in Bolivia, and Paz is clearly also employing it. Evo Morales, in his time, divided and controlled many organisations through patronage, and these same leaders are the first to agree with Paz and withdraw from the mobilisation. However, it is the rank and file who are breaking with these corrupt leaderships and carrying forward the mobilisation, even against these same leaders. This, on the one hand, refutes the extensive media and state propaganda claiming that Evo Morales is behind the mobilisation, when in reality he plays a very peripheral role. But above all, it demonstrates

the sentiment of the working-class, peasant, and indigenous communities, who are fully committed to ridding themselves of a neoliberal government. Thus, leaders of transport workers and teachers reached agreements with the government, agreements that were rejected and disavowed by their rank and file, who continue to mobilise.

It is also important to mention the establishment of the first hunger-strike picket line with three housewives, in support of the popular mobilisation for Bolivia, respect for human rights, and the basic food basket.

Paz invests millions trying to stay in power

For a government that tirelessly repeats that there is no money and that everything is bankrupt, the millions it spends on repression to remain in power are remarkable. It gave a loyalty

The international far right supports Paz

Amid the terrible isolation of Paz's government, he requested international diplomatic support and received it from the governments of Trump, Netanyahu, and Milei. It is no coincidence that these are precisely the governments most committed to the genocide perpetrated by Zionism against the Palestinian people. They later garnered further support for this interference

by right-wing governments in Bolivia's internal affairs.

It is important that workers' organisations internationally show solidarity with the Bolivian popular uprising. This has already been done by the Ecuadorian CONAIE, the mobilisation in Buenos Aires on 22 May, and the mobilisation in Chile on 27 May, for example.

bonus to the police totalling BOB\$111 million (approximately US\$16 million at the official exchange rate) for the initial days of the repression. In addition to the indiscriminate use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and the acquisition of drones — these are public expenditures — there are also millions more in discretionary spending. Despite this, the regime has failed to defeat the powerful popular mobilisation.

Although Paz lacks popular support, what sustains him is the complicity of all branches of government — legislative, judicial, and electoral — which close ranks with the executive and its repression. Behind them all is the parasitic landowning oligarchy that also controls the country's main banks and companies. And the current situation in Bolivia makes it clear that the main support of power is the police and the armed forces, exposing the true nature of the Bolivian capitalist state.

Out with Rodrigo Paz!

From the Workers Party, which includes the Bolivian militants of the IWU–FI (ARPT), we call for struggle until the fall of the right-wing government of Rodrigo Paz and the entire regime of the landowning oligarchy and transnational corporations. We fight for the formation of a transitional government of the COB together with all organisations in struggle, and for the calling of free elections, with the



Humberto Balderrama and Mercedes Trimarchi, IWU-FI leaders at the marches in La Paz

perspective of a workers', peasants', indigenous, and popular solution. Revolutionary changes are necessary in the country to end this disaster of growing poverty for the working people, to end the domination of

the agribusiness oligarchy that takes wealth and foreign currency out of the country, and to end the domination of transnational corporations that are also plundering the country.

26 May 2026

Background to the Weaknesses of Paz's Government

Rodrigo Paz came to power with the support of Edmand Lara, a former police officer who gained notoriety by denouncing corruption within the force, which led to his dismissal. He capitalised on this situation to become a prominent political influencer on social media. In the elections, this duo presented themselves as a popular alternative to the traditional neoliberal right wing of the other candidates and the MAS factions, which were utterly worn down by corruption and the economic situation they were leaving the country in, as well as being deeply

divided. Many people voted more for Lara than for Paz, considering him a popular figure, and Lara also promised to guarantee that Paz would not betray them. In this way, they won the election, but once in power, Rodrigo Paz got rid of Lara, practically eliminating the vice presidency, cutting its budget, and stripping it of most of its functions. This left Lara as just another figurehead, dependent on the Ministry of the Presidency. For his part, Paz abandoned all his campaign promises to implement the program of the traditional neoliberal right, naturally with their support.

He launched a package of austerity measures through Decree 5503 on the eve of Christmas 2025. This package was met with a general strike by the COB and road blockades, which ultimately defeated him and led to its abrogation, dealing a severe blow to the government at the very beginning of its term. Paz then continued to gradually introduce the components of his package through new decrees and laws, generating increasing discontent and rejection, culminating in the current situation.



In Hungary, Orbán, a stronghold of the European far right, has fallen

Orbán's Defeat Strikes a Blow to the Global Far-right

After 16 years in power in Hungary, the far-right Viktor Orbán suffered a crushing defeat in the 12 April elections.

Orbán's downfall has been a major political blow to Trump and the entire global far right. The standard-bearer and bastion of the European far right has been defeated. This, coupled with Trump's declining popularity in the US and Meloni's electoral defeat in the Italian referendum (March 2026), demonstrates the limitations of the far right's growth.

The opposition, led by Péter Magyar of a centre-right party, swept the vote, winning 138 seats in parliament compared to Orbán's 55.

Orbán headed a government that repressed freedoms, attacked workers, was misogynistic, and persecuted gender non-conforming individuals and migrants. And above all, a pillar of the murderous Putin. Orbán supported

and continues to support the invasion of the Ukrainian people by Russian imperialism. He is a partner and supporter of the European far right, including Abascal of Vox, Meloni in Italy, Le Pen in France, the neo-Nazis in Germany, and a great sympathiser of Trump and the far-right Milei, president of Argentina.

This is a defeat, especially for Trump, who gave him his support until the very last moment. Secretary of State Marco Rubio travelled to Ukraine in March, and Vice President Vance travelled there in the final stretch of the campaign in April. Javier Milei, the far-right leader from Argentina, had also travelled there in March. This represents a defeat for the entire global far right.

This defeat also begins to show that Trump's electoral support is becoming a "lead life jacket", particularly in Europe, with the growing evidence that he is another genocidal criminal, anti-

democratic rights figure, and someone who has declared that the "solution" for the people of Europe is to vote for people like the neo-Nazis in Germany.

A massive protest vote

The Hungarian people's rejection of Orbán meant that, despite his manoeuvres with the electoral laws, 80% of the electorate went to the polls to ensure his removal. It was also a protest vote, because Orbán not only attacked freedoms but also lowered the standard of living of the working people with the highest inflation in the European bloc. Food prices had risen by 40%, and inflation reached 22%. The effect was a drop in real income, a collapse in consumption, and a serious deterioration of the state healthcare service.

The massive mobilisation of June 2025, for the rights of gender dissidents, also demonstrated Orbán's weakening.



In June 2025, more than 200,000 people took part in the Pride Parade in Budapest, the capital of Hungary

It is estimated that more than 200,000 people gathered for the Pride March in Budapest, despite a police ban, to defy Viktor Orbán's legal threats against LGBTQ+ rights activists.

Orbán's government was yet another corrupt capitalist regime. According to the Corruption Research Centre in Budapest, by 2025, 75% of government contracts went to companies associated with Orbán's friends, almost double the figure for 2022. Lorinc Meszaros, a childhood friend of Orbán, rose from being a humble gas pipe fitter in his village to the richest man in Hungary, according to Forbes magazine.

Péter Magyar, the victorious leader, heads a bourgeois centre-right party, which we anticipate will be another government hostile to the Hungarian working class and the popular sectors. The Hungarian working people and their youth must now mobilise for their demands against Magyar's new government. But this doesn't diminish the understandable celebration by millions at the end of Orbán's government and the defeat of Trump, Milei, and the global far right. It's a positive step in continuing the fight against the far-right governments.

The ups and downs of the far right

Orbán's fall does not mean the far right has disappeared or has no new expressions.

In May 2026, the far right triumphed in local elections in the United Kingdom (UK). Labour, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, suffered a resounding electoral defeat at the hands of the far-right Reform UK party, headed by Nigel Farage, a Trump ally. Farage led the successful 2016 campaign for the UK to leave the European Union. He broke the traditional British two-party system between Labour and the Conservatives. Starmer's government has continued to lower the standard of living and deepen the social crisis for the British working class.

The far right and the centre-right also gained ground in Latin America in 2025. This growth stemmed from a rejection of the governments of both old and new reformist centre-left projects. The rise of the far-right Javier Milei to power in Argentina in December 2023 had already foreshadowed this.

In Chile, the far-right Pinochetist José Antonio Kast, a close ally of Milei, triumphed in December 2025. This was

a consequence of the failure of Gabriel Boric's government, led by the Broad Front-Communist Party coalition. Boric failed to meet expectations after the 2019 popular uprising by imposing austerity measures on the working class.

In Bolivia, in the October 2025 elections, after 20 years of centre-left government by the MAS, the centre-right Rodrigo Paz Pereira triumphed. In Ecuador, in April 2025, the right-wing Daniel Noboa was re-elected. In the Dominican Republic, the right-wing businessman Luis Abinader, of the Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM), was re-elected in 2024.

But these electoral victories have their contradictions. The vote is not entirely solid. The capitalist economic crisis and the continuation of the class struggle led some of these governments to suffer electoral defeats. This happened with Bolsonaro in Brazil.

A stark example of these contradictions can be seen in Bolivia. Just a few months after the right-wing Rodrigo Paz took office (November 2025), a popular uprising erupted in May 2026, marked by large-scale workers' strikes, peasant marches, and road blockades. The protests were against the austerity measures and demanded Paz's resignation.

There is also a search towards the left

In various elections, votes for the left have been reflected, some victorious, such as in New York or Ireland. Still a minority, and mostly directed toward various forms of reformist left. But it shows that segments of the population are seeking a political alternative to the left. This is also reflected in recent events such as the formation of a new left-wing party in the United Kingdom, led by Jeremy Corbyn.

In New York City, on 4 November 2025, Zohran Mamdani won the mayoral election, identifying himself as a socialist, pro-Palestinian, and of Muslim origin, in one of the centres of global Zionism, with Trump campaigning against him. In a historic election, he became the youngest mayor of New York City in the last one hundred years, at just 34 years old. Mamdani is a member of the reformist left-wing organisation Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which is part of the Democratic Party.

His victory, bolstered by the youth vote, was resounding with more than one million votes, 50.4% of the total, far surpassing former Democratic Governor Andrew Cuomo (41.6%), who ran as an independent after losing the Democratic primary to Mamdani, and Republican Curtis Sliwa (7.1%).

His victory is also in some ways a reflection of the advance of the pro-Palestinian movement, with its encampments and mobilisations against the genocide, as well as the resistance and rejection of Trump's massive and racist deportations. During the campaign, Cuomo launched repeated racist attacks and promoted Islamophobia, attempting to discredit Mamdani for his Muslim background, but he failed.

The victory of Mamdani, who openly declares himself a socialist, is a striking fact that demonstrates there is no unilateral advance of the Trumpist right in the US, but rather a growing polarisation. The greatest contradiction lies in the fact that Mamdani challenges the Democratic Party, yet has waged the electoral battle from within it, which contributes to giving oxygen to that imperialist bourgeois apparatus. However, it is still interesting that hundreds of thousands of voters from the left cast their ballots for him.

Socialist Core, a group sympathiser of the IWU-FI, voted for him critically, calling on Mamdani and the DSA current to break with the Democrats and promote an independent left-wing party.

In Ireland, a centre-left coalition won the presidential elections in November 2025. Ireland's new president, Catherine Connolly, is an avowed leftist who supports the rights of the Palestinian people and opposes the militarisation of Europe. The coalition obtained 63.4% of the vote. Her resounding victory was a shock to Ireland's traditional conservative bourgeois leadership. It is worth remembering that despite the Christian influence, the right to abortion was won years ago in a referendum.

In Germany, in the February 2025 election, the far-right, the neo-Nazis of the Alternative for Germany (AfD), advanced, but Die Linke (The Left) also grew. Die Linke, a centre-left alliance comprised of former Communist Party members, Maoists, Trotskyist groups, and independents, garnered 8.5% of the vote, a significant increase that confirms the polarisation and the search for more radical options. It secured an important bench of 64 MPs. Interestingly, Die Linke obtained 25% of the vote among young people, a majority of whom were women who condemn the far-right's attacks on their rights and those of sexual minorities. Die Linke ultimately won more votes in Berlin than any other party (with 19.9%).

In the French municipal elections of March 2026, the reformist left (the Socialist Party, in some cases in alliance with the Communist Party and in others with La France Insoumise-LFI) remains strong in major cities like Paris, Marseille, and Lyon. Meanwhile, Marine Le Pen's far-right party achieved some victories, but without making a significant leap forward. They added Nice to their historical strongholds like Perpignan. Mélenchon's La France Insoumise triumphed in Saint-Denis, on the outskirts of Paris, reinforcing its strategy of gaining strength among Muslim and migrant voters. Sectors that identify as Trotskyist were marginalised compared to their past influence. The remnants of Mandelism are now part of Mélenchon's LFI. Permanent Revolution,

the organisation linked to the PTS of Argentina, expelled from the NPA about three years earlier, ran for the first time, fielding nine slates in as many municipalities. It performed well in Saint-Denis, winning two council seats.

In Argentina, the performance of the Left and Workers' Front-Unity (FIT-U) is noteworthy. Izquierda Socialista, the Argentine section of the IWU-FI, was a founding member of this alliance in 2011. It is the electoral alliance that brings together various Trotskyist parties, which is unique in the world, for now. In the last legislative elections in October 2025, it garnered almost a million votes, despite an electoral landslide in favour of Milei and the far right. This represents a broad vote from the working-class and youth vanguard, but a very significant one. On the other hand, in polls from March 2026, for the 2027 presidential elections, Myrian Bregman, the leader and former candidate of the FIT-U (2023), appeared, obtaining a surprising 11.4% of the vote intention, behind Milei and Axel Kiciloff, a Peronist pre-candidate. This led many bourgeois analysts to highlight this intention to vote for Trotskyism. The FIT-U has four national deputies and several more in the legislatures of the City of Buenos Aires and provincial states such as Buenos Aires, Córdoba, and Neuquén.

For the first time in history, millions of working-class people, youth, and other popular sectors are looking toward the revolutionary left, although it cannot yet be guaranteed that this will translate into votes at those percentages or into conscious adherence to the entire revolutionary program of the FIT-U. This represents a growing sympathy among millions for the figure representing the left, grouped in the FIT-U. Izquierda Socialista joins in supporting Myrian Bregman under the slogan "the left can and must govern".

This opens an opportunity for the revolutionary left to capitalise on the break between a broad sector of the working class and the Peronist leadership, both in terms of electoral support and in the struggles for fundamental change in the country.



The great popular uprising in Nepal (2025) had no leadership

Building a New Leadership Is Not Easy, but It Is Essential

It is confirmed once again that large mobilisations of all kinds, workers' strikes, and semi-popular insurrections continue to occur, but the great weakness of the workers' and mass movement is the lack of revolutionary socialist leadership. This is the weakest link in the class struggle.

The crisis of the old and new political and union leaderships and their governments creates an enormous political vacuum. Thousands upon thousands of workers and popular sectors, in their struggle, seek leadership, but never quite find it.

The great contradiction is that significant events in the class struggle take place, in many cases, without

any leadership whatsoever, not even bourgeois or bureaucratic reformist. Immense revolutionary mobilisations like the popular rebellions of the so-called Generation Z in Nepal, Indonesia, and Morocco. Similar rebellions had occurred before, such as those in Sri Lanka (2022) and Bangladesh (2024).

What we are pointing out is that despite this vacuum of revolutionary leadership, major events in the class struggle continue to unfold. This is the contradiction inherent in the dynamics of the class struggle in this period.

All of this confirms that the great task is to continue fighting for the building of revolutionary socialist parties in each

country and an International.

The causes of the delay in the emergence of the revolutionary leadership

From our current, we have been pointing out that there is a combination of causes for this enormous delay.

We can summarise them in three points. First, the weight of over 70 years of Stalinist bureaucratic counterrevolution in the former USSR caused a colossal backwardness in the consciousness of the masses and their vanguard. Stalinism managed to erase from the historical memory of the world proletariat the teachings of revolutionary Marxism and Leninism, from its origins

in the mid-19th century with Marx and Engels, internationalism, to the 1917 revolution and the early years of the first revolutionary government led by Lenin and Trotsky. It continued to falsely raise the revolutionary banners of socialism and communism, perverting the meaning of those words, to inoculate its counterrevolutionary poison. It destroyed an entire revolutionary vanguard between the two world wars, including the Trotskyists and Trotsky himself. Contrary to expectations, Stalinism strengthened after the fall of Nazism in 1945. Its counterrevolutionary conception of the two-stage revolution, with alliances with the “progressive” bourgeoisie to govern and the “socialism in one country” doctrine, prevailed for 70 years. Maoism and Castroism perpetuated this tremendous backwardness in consciousness and betrayed revolutions. Social democracy and bourgeois leaderships were able to maintain their grip by attacking Stalinist sham “communism”, thus contributing to this backwardness and diverting sectors of the working class under their influence from the revolutionary path.

Second, when the Stalinist apparatus finally collapsed after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, further confusion arose in the already underdeveloped political consciousness of the masses. A contradiction emerged. On the one hand, the fall of Stalinism was the result of a revolutionary mass mobilisation, which led to the triumph of sweeping away this counter-revolutionary apparatus. But on the other hand, with Trotskyism not existing and no revolutionary mass movements emerging in the countries where the bourgeoisie had been expropriated, the process of capitalist restoration initiated by the bureaucracy continued. The masses, in their hatred of the bureaucracy, its mendacious caricature of “socialism” and “communism”, and its repression, harboured high expectations throughout the first stage that a return to capitalism would bring

them well-being and progress. And globally, confusion and backwardness in the consciousness of the masses and the vanguard also took a leap forward.

The imperialist campaign of “socialism has failed”, the “end of history”, or “utopias are no longer viable” penetrates the political landscape. Scepticism about the socialist revolution grows, as does electoralism and movement-based politics within the ranks of the left and Trotskyism. Anti-party sentiment, horizontalism, and confusion about the true nature of socialism increase.

Third, the crisis of the Trotskyist movement leaps, hindering the revolutionary, combative vanguard that emerges from struggles, rebellions, and major strikes from developing revolutionary currents and a socialist consciousness that connects with a revolutionary party.

The struggle to unite revolutionaries

The global reality of the class struggle offers us new possibilities to continue fighting. We must seize, with concrete policies and tactics, the opportunities presented by the class struggle (strikes, popular rebellions, student or youth mobilisations) or the political-electoral opportunities, through tactics of unity of action for the various tasks (trade union, political, democratic, anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist) and of left-wing unity in the face of electoral opportunities. The path to building ourselves is that, beyond the forces we have in each country, we must be obsessed with acting, however and wherever we can, in these processes.

Thousands of fighters are emerging around the world, leading mobilisations, strikes, insurrections, and revolutions. These are the raw materials for fighting for the development and building of our revolutionary parties and the IWU–FI, on the path to achieving a new revolutionary leadership. A vast vanguard of workers, the people, and youth is emerging, leading the

rebellions of Generation Z, promoting workers’ strikes in Europe, Latin America, and Asia, and mobilising in their cities and countries in support of the Palestinian people. Thousands upon thousands in the US are taking to the streets or striking and confronting the repression of ICE and the fascist Trump.

We must understand from the outset that we do not act alone. This vanguard, along with broad sectors of the grassroots, in its rejection of traditional apparatuses, tends toward a variety of positions that begin positively with anti-capitalism, anti-system, and anti-imperialism, and often move toward anti-party stances.

The apparatuses do not withdraw either; rather, they attempt to recycle themselves. We challenge this vanguard with the remnants of the old apparatuses, with neo-reformists or neo-Stalinists.

In this sense, we must remain far removed from any sectarianism. We continue to promote diverse tactics for unity of action, including in this call, the various sectors of the left and Trotskyism. Through common points of union, democratic or anti-imperialist mobilisation (such as, for example, unity of action in support of the Palestinian people, in repudiation of Trump, for a workers’ strike or in an anti-bureaucratic union front) or political units of the left (electoral or not), such as the case of the Left Front (FIT-U) of Argentina or other political variants towards class independence.

From our current, the IWU–FI, we continue fighting for the continuity and reconstruction of the current founded by Nahuel Moreno, fighting all opportunism and sectarianism, without proclaiming ourselves to be the Fourth International.

We strive for the building of revolutionary parties and the re-founding of the Fourth International based not only on our current, but also seeking to unite with other revolutionary sectors in each country and the world.



2006. The then President Hugo Chávez alongside Nicolás Maduro, his then Foreign Minister. Maduro was designated by Chávez himself as his political heir in 2012, shortly before his death.

The Falsehood of Chavista “Socialism”

Miguel Angel Hernandez

With the military aggression of US imperialism against Venezuela on 3 January, the true face of Chavismo and its false socialism was starkly exposed. This makes the fight to spread and struggle for true socialism a top priority.

From that moment on, a parade of US officials began in the country. The meeting on 15 January between the interim president, Delcy Rodríguez and the director of the sinister CIA, John Ratcliffe, the same man who

directed the intelligence operation that culminated in the kidnapping of Maduro and his wife, had a tremendous impact on the country. Later, she received Energy Secretary Chris Wright at the presidential palace with a red carpet and a joropo dance troupe. She also met with Francis L. Donovan, head of the US Southern Command. And recently, the interim president called the far-right Trump a “friend and partner”!

This has only served to generate great unease and deepen the confusion among thousands of activists and fighters both

in Venezuela and in other countries of the world, who had expectations in Chávez and in Chavismo in power, first with Nicolás Maduro and now with Delcy Rodríguez.

While the speed with which Chavismo surrendered to the designs of imperialism is striking, it doesn't entirely surprise us. From the very beginning, back at the start of the millennium, at the dawn of the political project led by Hugo Chávez, our current, the International Workers Unity—Fourth International (IWU-FI), and

its Venezuelan section, the Socialism and Liberty Party (PSL), warned that Chavismo had no real intention of advancing towards socialism.

The failure of so-called “21st-Century Socialism”

In reality, it was all a ruse agreed upon with Fidel Castro and the Cuban leadership to win over popular sectors and the fighting vanguard in Latin America, and to generate expectations of a supposed “21st-century socialism”, which, beyond some political and social reforms, never broke with capitalism and continued to implement harsh austerity measures while waving the historical banners of the left. This double discourse that would become the hallmark of other centre-left movements that began to develop in other Latin American countries during those years.

Delcy Rodríguez’s swift surrender to Trump has further deepened the confusion that already existed within the global vanguard. For 27 years, Chavismo claimed to be building socialism. This proved to be completely false. In reality, even under Chávez, no real and concrete steps were ever taken to break with capitalism. Chavismo, beyond some social reforms, was always willing to make deals with imperialism and its transnational corporations, as well as with large national bourgeois economic groups (such as the Cisneros Group, a conglomerate of mass media and entertainment, or the Mendoza Group, a holding company that includes nearly 100 businesses in sectors like construction, automotive, food (Polar), and cement).

Although many activists from various countries who closely followed the Venezuelan process believed that Venezuela was moving toward socialism, this was never the case. In fact, the transnational oil companies never left; on the contrary, under Chávez, the oil nationalisation that had taken place in the country between 1975 and 1976 was reversed.

On 1 January 2006, he announced, with a grandiose name, the so-called

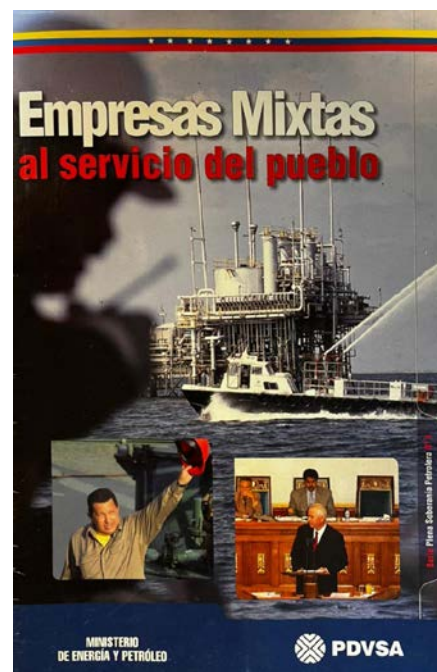


In June 2007, Ali Moshiri, Chevron's president for Latin America, signed the joint venture agreement with PDVSA

Full Oil Sovereignty, which opened PDVSA to transnational corporations through “joint ventures”. Within this framework, PDVSA partnered with Chevron, Repsol, Shell, BP, Total, China National Petroleum, ENI, Statoil, and Petrobras. Only two companies refused to restructure and withdrew: the American companies Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips. They were not nationalised by Chávez. Later, the Japanese company Mitsubishi, the Russian companies Lukoil, Gazprom, and Rosneft, and companies from other countries joined the venture.

Even more recently, Maduro repeatedly called on American investors to invest in the country, and he insisted on this until shortly before his kidnapping. On 31 December, in an interview with Spanish journalist Ignacio Ramonet, he declared: “If they want oil, Venezuela is ready for American investment, like with Chevron, whenever they want, wherever they want, and however they want” (See: Maduro interviewed by Ignacio Ramonet, 1 January, 2026 [“Podcar”]). Chevron never left Venezuela, and today almost 27% of Venezuelan oil exports go to the US, leaving the country through this American multinational.

Just as Chavismo always sought to make deals with multinationals, it also did so with Venezuelan business interests. One need only recall Chávez’s agreement with Cisneros, blessed by Jimmy Carter; or the more recent agreement between Maduro and Lorenzo Mendoza, who went from being labelled a “bigwig” to selling Polar products to the government, products



PDVSA magazine, “Joint Ventures at service of the people”

that are distributed in food bags at many public institutions.

For more than a decade, Venezuela has been mired in a profound crisis that has led the Venezuelan working class to suffer a true social catastrophe: shortages of basic goods, an unprecedented electricity crisis in the country’s history, which reached its most dramatic expression in a four-day national blackout; gas and gasoline shortages in an oil-producing nation; starvation wages — today the minimum wage doesn’t even reach half a dollar. Then, with Maduro in power as a continuation of Chávez’s policies, the authoritarian and repressive nature of the regime intensified.

This profound social tragedy led to the destruction of the Venezuelan people’s standard of living, and seven million workers were forced to emigrate due to the deep economic and social crisis.

Between 2003 and 2013, Venezuela received approximately US\$550 billion to US\$630 billion in oil revenue. This mass of resources was not used to address the serious problems of the working people. It was not used to develop the food and pharmaceutical industries, to improve salaries and pensions, or to strengthen the health and education systems.

Today, Venezuela suffers a severe crisis in public services, particularly water shortages and frequent blackouts, and in those years, these vast resources were not used to repair the electrical grid and restore the water supply.

Most of those extraordinary revenues ended up in the pockets of corrupt officials and national and transnational economic groups. During that same period, some US\$300 billion was stolen or siphoned out of the country. General Motors, for example, received approximately US\$6 billion from the Central Bank during that time.

On the other hand, starting in 2014, Maduro opted to cut imports while prioritising the payment of the foreign debt, paying creditors some US\$70 billion between 2013 and 2017. This created fertile ground for the severe shortages the country suffered during those years.

All of this was happening while the government called itself socialist, with supposedly leftist and anti-imperialist rhetoric. The misery in which the working people lived, with low wages, no access to the most basic products, and no public services, contrasted sharply with the luxuries enjoyed by officials and the continuous corruption scandals, all of which happened in the name of “socialism”. This contradiction produced great confusion and a growing, widespread repudiation of the government among activists and millions of workers and young people from the popular sectors, who at one time had held expectations and believed that the country was indeed moving toward socialism.

This confusion was exacerbated by the media and social networks controlled by the right wing and bourgeois parties, both in Venezuela and abroad, who took advantage of the situation to portray the disaster engulfing the Venezuelan people as having been caused by “socialism”.

The battle for true socialism

In Venezuela, it wasn't socialism

that failed, but rather a bourgeois project of class collaboration that disseminated a false “socialist” discourse. The country remains capitalist. There was never any real progress toward socialism, except in rhetoric.

The imperialist capitalist system, dominated by a minority of transnational corporations in the oil, mining, agribusiness, technology, automotive, and pharmaceutical industries, among others, cannot be improved or reformed. Nor are there any intermediate paths or third ways, as proposed by the various reformist or national-popular movements, whether they call themselves “21st-century socialism”, “citizens’ revolution”, “popular capitalism”, or “Andean capitalism”.

At the IWU–FI, we believe it is necessary to confront this confusion generated by Chavismo and its false socialism, and the propaganda deployed by right-wing-controlled media outlets, which exploit the disaster created by these experiences.

It is urgent to launch a propaganda battle, a major global campaign explaining the falsehood of this so-called socialism and reaffirming the relevance and urgency of a true socialist solution to the crisis facing imperialist capitalism.

We must consider both the new difficulties that have arisen since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the distortion of the term “socialist” that has existed for over 100 years due to the actions of social democracy and the Stalinist counter-revolution in the Soviet Union.

The shift towards true socialism begins with achieving, through the struggle of workers, supported by



Delcy Rodríguez swiftly surrendered to Trump

popular sectors and the oppressed people, the triumph of a revolution to seize power and government in each country. This will allow them to establish a regime of workers’ and people’s democracy, which is the antithesis of the false, repressive, and bureaucratic socialism experienced in the former USSR, Eastern European countries, China, and Cuba.

That is precisely why we, as genuine revolutionary socialists, must accompany the struggles of workers, the people, youth, the environment, and women, patiently explaining that the strategic objective of each of these struggles, in every country, is to advance the fight to replace capitalism with true socialism.

It is a revolution that begins at the national level, but it must extend to other countries and continue on the international stage. The socialism we propose involves the expropriation of multinational corporations and banks, of landowners, large estates, and mineral and oil deposits. It entails planning an economy on a national and international scale, taking into account the needs of the working class and all popular sectors, the diversity of resources in different regions, and seeking a balance with the care of the planet.

Socialist Measures Improved Living Standards

When we speak of true socialism, we are not talking about a utopia or something that has never been implemented. The expropriation of the bourgeoisie and the socialist planning of the economy were already implemented in the 20th century, having a qualitative impact on the living standards of millions of people in some countries. This happened in Russia after the October Revolution of 1917; in China with the 1949 Revolution; and in Cuba from 1959 onward.

Tsarist Russia at the beginning of the 20th century was a profoundly backward capitalist country, mostly agrarian, semi-feudal, with a significant industrial and technological lag compared to other European countries or the United States. In 1897, fewer than 25 to 30% of the Russian population could read and write. The revolution brought about a drastic change with the launch of a massive literacy campaign through the Liszt system (literacy eradication), which raised the literacy rate to 90% by 1930.

In parallel, a universal, compulsory, and free education system was established. Thousands of schools were created, and the enrolment of workers' and peasants' children, who previously had no access to education, was encouraged.

The world's first centralised and free state healthcare system was created, with a focus on preventive medicine. In 1913, there was only one doctor for every 10,000 inhabitants; by 1940, this number had increased by 400%.

Before the Bolshevik Revolution, life expectancy was around 35 years; by the 1960s, it had risen to 66 years, very close to that of the United States and some European countries.

Before the 1949 revolution, China was a country mired in millennia of poverty, subjected to the plunder of various European imperialist powers that divided up its territory and wealth. It was a country ravaged by famine, where poor peasants were forced to sell their daughters into prostitution.



1961. Literacy campaign in Cuba.

All of this ended with the revolution. Before 1949, 80% of the population was illiterate. With the socialist revolution, all of this ceased; literacy reached 96% of the population.

A basic healthcare system was established that covered more than 95% of the population, including basic urban and rural health insurance. In the 1940s, there was one doctor for every 45,000 inhabitants; by the end of 1966, there was one doctor for every 5,000 inhabitants. Average life expectancy increased from around 35 years in 1949 to more than 77 years today. Infectious diseases such as malaria, smallpox, and polio were eradicated or controlled through mass vaccination campaigns and improved sanitation.

Something similar happened in Cuba, where a revolution triumphed in 1959 and progressively advanced socialist measures. Large US multinational corporations and the entire Cuban bourgeoisie were expropriated. Between 1959 and 1963, large estates were expropriated, and land was distributed to peasants.

As a result, free medical services were established, medicine prices were reduced, and private laboratories and pharmaceutical companies were nationalised. In 1960, mass vaccination

campaigns began, achieving coverage of over 99% of children under two years old. Diseases such as polio and typhoid fever were eradicated, and others, such as measles, rubella, mumps, and tuberculosis, decreased.

In 1961, a massive literacy campaign was launched, reducing illiteracy from 23% to 4% in one year, using a system that has even been successfully implemented in other countries.

Free universal education was established from primary school through university. Teacher training and medical schools expanded; Cuba achieved one of the highest per capita ratios of teachers and doctors in the world. Cuba's sporting achievements in the 1960s and 70s were renowned, both in the Olympics and in various regional and world sporting events.

All these great advances in the early years of these revolutions were possible despite the bureaucratic distortions caused by Stalinism and the one-party regimes in the countries where the bourgeoisie was expropriated. Many of these gains, achieved thanks to socialist measures, were reversed and eventually disappeared as a consequence of the restoration of capitalism in the former USSR, China, and Cuba, among others.

MAHv



Batolo, the vessel on which Mónica Schlotthauer and Ezequiel Peressini were travelling, bears a drawing of a key on its sail as a symbol of the Palestinian people's right of return

35 Days of Sailing and Struggle in Support of Palestine



Ezequiel Peressini

The Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) once again sailed the Mediterranean Sea and travelled overland through North Africa alongside the Global Sumud Land Convoy, to strengthen international solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle and denounce the fact that, seven months after the signing of the sham Peace Agreement, over 900 people have been killed in Gaza, over 2,000 have been wounded, and Israel maintains its military occupation of 60% of Gaza.

The new mission, "Spring 2026" (through Europe), took place in a different political landscape than the previous year. The sham Peace Agreement caused a pause in mobilisations, and many of the

countries and their diplomats, who had facilitated the flotilla's progress the previous year, now opposed the initiative. Donald Trump's imperialist counteroffensive opened a regional war with the joint bombing of Iran, shifting the focus of political attention to the Strait of Hormuz, where Trump became bogged down and unable to defeat Iranian resistance.

From Barcelona to Türkiye, and the first interception

Despite the adverse circumstances, the GSF departed from Barcelona on 15 April and, during its 35-day voyage, demonstrated to the world that the genocide continues and sparked international solidarity.

On 20 April, the flotilla carried out another important maritime action against the genocide when 13 small sailing vessels diverted the course of the large vessel "Maya", a 200-meter-long container ship belonging to the MSC company, which was transporting military equipment to the port of Ashdod to fuel Israel's genocidal machinery.

Upon arriving in Sicily, Italy, a significant mobilisation demonstrated the readiness of the dockworkers and stevedores, who had staged a major general strike the previous year. The 57 vessels of the GSF, along with the Open Arms and Greenpeace ships actively participating in the mission, began to show that, together with the vessels

awaiting us in Greece and Turkey, it was possible to assemble the largest flotilla in history, bringing 100 ships and over 1,000 participants to break the blockade. This possibility ignited the wrath of Zionism.

During the night of 29 April, as the flotilla approached the island of Crete, where we hoped to regroup with other vessels from Greece and seek shelter from an impending storm, Israel unleashed open repression against the GSF. Around 9 p.m., dozens of drones flew over the boats, and a few hours later, Israeli occupation forces intercepted 22 vessels and kidnapped 178 participants, who were imprisoned on the Zionist navy's large warship, the "Nachshon".

This illegal kidnapping, executed as a true act of international piracy, more

than 1,100 kilometres from occupied Palestine and in Greek territorial waters, demonstrates the complicity of the Greek government and the European Union (EU) with Israel. Thanks to the mobilisation, the participants were released on 1 May, but Israel abducted leaders Thiago Avila and Saif Abu Keshek to try and imprison them, seeking to break the GSF and prevent it from continuing its voyages.

However, Israel failed in its first attempt. Despite having sunk 21 vessels and kidnapped their leaders, dozens of ships continued their voyage amidst the repression and reached the coast of Crete, where they regrouped with the Greek delegation's vessels. The numerous large-scale demonstrations around the world demanding the release of Thiago and Saif provoked widespread

condemnation of the Zionist enclave, which was forced to release them on May 10 after 10 days of imprisonment, beatings, and mistreatment.

Israeli violence did not break the resolve of the flotilla and its hundreds of participants. In the port of Marmaris, in southwestern Türkiye, after days of deliberation and regrouping, a general assembly, attended by the recently released leader Saif Abu Keshek, resolved on May 12 to resume their voyage with a single objective: to reach Gaza.

The final leg to Gaza: Repression, torture, and growing mobilisations

Despite demonstrations of its military might, Israel was unable to politically demobilise the GSF. On

The IWU-FI in the Sumud Global Flotilla

After actively participating in the 2025 mission with comrade Juan Carlos Giordano, National Deputy and leader of the Socialist Left of Argentina, and Ezequiel Peressini, also from our Argentine party, the IWU-FI once again played an active and consistent role in this important mission.

We participated with comrade Gorkem Duru, leader of the İşçi Demokrasisi Partisi (Workers Democracy Party, IDP), the IWU-FI section in Turkey, who distinguished himself through his important role as organiser of the local delegation, his coordination work with trade union organisations, ensuring the safety and safe return of the kidnapped individuals, and as organiser of the Gheia vessel. Also participating was comrade Mónica Schlotthauer, Deputy of the Province of Buenos Aires and national leader of Izquierda Socialista (Socialist Left) in the Left Front–Unity (FIT-U), who was the only sitting deputy. Mónica sailed the Mediterranean on the Batolo, a vessel organised by Ezequiel Peressini,

a leader of Izquierda Socialista and the IWU-FI, which is participating in the GSF for the second consecutive year.

The IWU-FI also contributed significant grassroots activism that was fundamental to the mission's success. Comrades from Lucha Internacionalista (Internationalist Struggle) of Spain were active members of the Spanish delegation and, along with other organisations, have been sending humanitarian aid to Gaza for years (see sidebar). Comrade Cristina Mas was part of the coordination team for public events and is a long-standing public figure in support of the Palestinian people. In Brazil, our sister party, the Corrente Socialista



The IWU-FI delegation. From left to right: Görkem Duru, Mónica Schlotthauer, and Ezequiel Peressini at the port of Augusta, Sicily, Italy.

dos Trabalhadores (Socialist Workers Current, CST), and comrade Lorena Fernandes are part of the important Brazilian delegation. They contributed their activism from the ground to the mobilisations in that country demanding the release of comrade Thiago Ávila and the leaders.

14 May, nearly 60 vessels once again set sail for the final leg of the mission. This time, strengthened by the global mobilisation and the triumph of having secured the release of their leaders. On 15 May, solidarity with the flotilla was expressed in large-scale global mobilisations held in various parts of the world to condemn the expulsion of more than 800,000 Palestinians, 78 years after the Nakba and the creation of the State of Israel.

As the flotilla approached Gaza, the Zionist enclave again resorted to its only available weapon: interception and seizure. For 35 hours of continuous repression, between the morning of 18 May and the afternoon of 19 May, it unleashed an unprecedented military intervention against the Gaza Strip boats. With dozens of fast-approach boats and two large warships, Israel illegally intercepted all the vessels of the flotilla in waters near Cyprus and then in international waters.

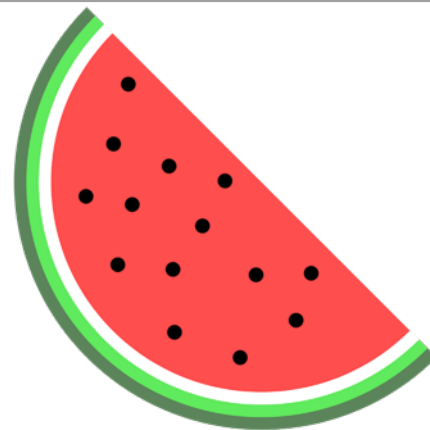
This time, the use of violence was outrageous. The Israeli occupation forces used live ammunition to board our small sailboats and even deliberately rammed the Sirius, the last GSF vessel, which reached within 150 kilometres of the Gaza coast. After spending days imprisoned on the floating jails, the

participants were forcibly transferred to Ketziot prison, where some of them suffered violence and torture.

Images of Israeli Security Minister Ben Gvir threatening and harassing the participants, and reports from the human rights organisation Adalah denouncing serious human rights violations, caused shock and sparked global condemnation. On 18 May, mobilisations and major strikes erupted in Italy, and large marches took place in dozens of cities, forcing several countries, including Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Canada, to condemn Israel's actions and demand the release of the participants. The divisions deepened, and even Netanyahu hypocritically stated that Ben Gvir's actions were not "in line with Israel's values", concealing the fact that Israel's repression is not a mistake, but rather a historical method by which they are currently threatening to kill more than 9,500 Palestinian prisoners.

The triumph of the release and the steps forward

The global mobilisation triumphed, and on 21 May, it secured the release of the 428 kidnapped individuals. After being transferred to Istanbul, they returned to their countries of origin,



knowing that the fight is not over.

The GSF is promoting a global movement and coordinated actions against genocide, to break the blockade, and to fight for a free Palestine from the river to the sea. With these objectives, and following the heroic "Spring 2026" mission, a GSF world congress will be organised to define the next steps to confront the genocidal plan of Trump, Netanyahu, and their allies, who seek to perpetuate the colonisation of Palestine. The IWU-FI will continue to call for unified mobilisation to end the genocide, for the freedom of the more than 9,500 Palestinian prisoners, and for the immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. We reject ethnic cleansing in Palestine; enough of Zionist apartheid! For a single, secular, democratic, and non-racist Palestine! Free Palestine from the river to the sea!

May Day greetings from Gaza

Comrade Fayez of the Independent Union of Palestinian Workers Committees has sent us May Day greetings from northern Gaza.

The Independent Union has been active in Gaza for many years and today distributes the solidarity aid it receives from the organisation International Workers Aid, which includes Lucha Internacionalista, the Spanish section of the IWU-FI. In March 2026, the 24th delivery took place.

"Comrades of the International Workers Unity – Fourth International, on this historic date, 1 May, (...)

"We address you from occupied Palestine. From a Gaza devastated and subjected to suffering by Israeli

aggression and the genocidal war of occupation against our people. We wish to express our deepest respect and appreciation for your courageous and noble stances in support of the struggle of our Palestinian people (...)"

"This workers' commemoration comes as our workers continue to suffer under the practices of the Israeli occupation. The genocidal war has claimed thousands of lives among our brave workers and among members of the Palestinian trade union movement. (...) Likewise, the occupation has destroyed factories, workshops and farms, has imposed systematic destruction in all spheres of life, has paralysed productive activity and

dismantled our entire economy. Thus, our workers have been turned into a vast army of the unemployed, battered by the scourge of unemployment and poverty.

"(...) We are deeply grateful for your support and your unwavering solidarity, which are essential to strengthening our resistance against the unjust occupation. We are stronger thanks to your support and the justice of our cause. (...) Long live May Day! Long live the struggle of our Palestinian people!

"Your comrades from the Union of Independent Workers' Committees. Gaza Strip, Palestine."

Sumud Global Flotilla



With Thiago Ávila in Barcelona before departing from Port Forum



Mónica Schlotthauer and Ezequiel Peressini on the Batolo



Gorkem Duru, along with Saif, at the port of Marmaris, Türkiye, after their release



Comrades from the IDP in Turkey welcoming the IWU-FI delegation at Istanbul Airport



Deputy Mónica Schlotthauer, along with Gorkem Duru, expresses gratitude for the welcome in Turkey and calls for mobilisation for the freedom of Thiago and Saif



The moment the GSF members arrive at Istanbul Airport, Türkiye, after their release. Gorkem Duru, Mónica Schlotthauer, and Ezequiel Peressini are seen on the steps



Even on the shores of Gazpideron, they called for the freedom of Saif and Thiago. In the centre is Comrade Fayez (see inset on page 40)



The day before the flotilla was intercepted, Mónica Schlotthauer interviewed Saif on the Batolo, before he changed boats (See uit-ci.org)

Towards the 9th World Congress of the IWU-FI

The 9th Congress of the International Workers Unity-Fourth International (IWU-FI) will be held in the first half of November 2026. This was decided at the meeting of its International Executive Committee (IEC) on 29 March. The IEC was in session with representatives from the sections of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, Türkiye, and Venezuela. The 9th Congress will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

We are a world revolutionary socialist organisation, founded in 1995. The IWU-FI recognises itself as part of the international Trotskyist movement, continuing the political and theoretical legacy of Leon Trotsky and Nahuel Moreno, one of its main leaders after the Second World War, who died in 1987.

The IWU-FI comprises organisations, activists, and supporters in more than 20 countries in Latin America and

the Caribbean, the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

This Congress will be open to all, with invitations extended to revolutionary organisations, groups, and activists worldwide who share the IWU-FI's vision of uniting revolutionaries to overcome the crisis of revolutionary leadership. This solution will not come from a single organisation.

We reject any self-proclamation in the path to a refounding or reconstruction of the Fourth International. For this reason, the IWU-FI, on its way to its 9th Congress, is focused on seeking agreements based on minimum revolutionary points that can bring us closer to and unite us with revolutionary organisations, currents, and sectors from other political traditions and experiences.

The 9th World Congress will be another step in the struggle against imperialism, the genocidal state of Israel, the IMF, multinational corporations, and capitalist governments, to achieve workers' governments to build socialism with workers' and people's democracy throughout the world.



1. Members of the Workers Democracy Party (IDP), the Turkish section of the IWU-FI, marching for Palestine in Istanbul.

2. In April 2025, a conference was held in Barcelona, Spain, to discuss the merger of Internationalist Struggle (LI), the IWU-FI section, with the group of comrades from Andalusia and Madrid who had been active in Red Current.

3. Column of the Socialist Left (IS), the Argentine section of the IWU-FI, in mobilisation for Palestine in Buenos Aires.

