JUNE 1ST TO OCTOBER 15 – MOBILIZE FOR IMMEDIATE TROOP WITHDRAWAL

Shut-down MINUSTAH and end all occupation of Haiti!
Demilitarize our America!

The people of Haiti are strengthening their resistance in the face of US imperialism and its allies. Popular mobilization throughout 2015-2016 put in check the plans of the "international community". It forced the departure of former President Martelly and the repeated collapse of run-off elections, demanded from powers outside Haiti - even though there was only one candidate. Despite direct rejection by the US, grassroots forces have also been able to secure launching of a verification process of the 2015 elections, understood by all to be fraudulent. The outcome is still pending.

In this context, the UN Security Council is preparing to decide on the future of the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Haiti, or MINUSTAH. This multilateral force, composed mostly of troops from Latin America, has occupied Haiti since June 1, 2004, following the first coup of this millennium in our America against an elected government. MINUSTAH’s current mandate expires on October 15, 2016.

Haiti is not a threat to hemispheric security, as the Security Council continues to affirm. The Haitian people are, rather, an example of resistance against the occupation that manifests itself as ignoring democratic institutions; squandering collective resources through the model of over-consumption; grabbing peasant lands; destroying the commons and eco-systems; deepening food, financial, trade and energy dependence; and commodifying life.

Important social and political sectors are increasingly denouncing foreign interference, the failure of MINUSTAH’s announced objectives, and indeed its role in worsening the Haitian crisis. Nevertheless, the US now seeks to extend its mandate and Canada is ready to assume command of a new stage, unabashedly linked to the "protection" of foreign investments in mega-mining, luxury tourism, sweatshops, export agribusiness, and the creation of a tax haven.

Haiti is a laboratory of new formulas that US imperialism is using to regain political control and rebuild its continental hegemony in the face of the grave crisis of the capitalist system. Thus, withdrawal of foreign troops from Haiti - starting with those from Latin America - and ending the MINUSTAH should be central elements of a unified wave of popular protests. These must be unleashed in order to stop this offensive; unmask current models of economic, media, judicial, and military occupation; and advance the construction of emancipatory alternatives.

We call, therefore, for a Continental Day of Solidarity Action on June 1, 2016, and for the continued strengthening of popular mobilization through October 15, to stand with the people of Haiti in their struggle. Together our aim is to achieve:

✓ immediate withdrawal of the troops now occupying Haiti;
✓ complete dismantling of MINUSTAH, which undermines Haiti’s sovereignty and has brought immense suffering to its people;
acknowledgement by the UN of its criminal responsibility in introducing cholera, and compensation to Haiti and the families of the 9,000 men, women, and children killed by this epidemic;

investment by the UN in sufficient resources to eradicate cholera and to provide the infrastructure for universal access to potable water;

respect for the development of the electoral process, according to the provisions of local administrative bodies, without external pressures for meeting deadlines that only serve the interests of interventionist agendas;

al respetar el desarrollo del proceso electoral, de acuerdo a lo establecido en las instancias administrativos locales, sin las presiones externas para el cumplimiento de los plazos que solo responden a los intereses de las agendas intervencionistas;

the dismantling of all imperialist military bases in the continent, and respect for Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace; and

reversal of current destabilization processes and anti-democratic coups, of the criminalization of social struggles, selective assassinations, and violation of the rights of individuals, peoples, and nature throughout the region.

On June 1 and continuing through October 15, we call for actions to be organized in every corner of our continent, to make visible and strengthen solidarity with popular struggles in Haiti, and to press for the fulfillment of those struggles’ demands. We call on organizations and movements everywhere to organize, among other things:

• Demonstrations, pickets, and marches;

• Open radios, conferences and roundtable discussions, and video presentations;

• Petitions, letters, and statements;

• Meetings with leaders of parliamentary and executive powers; and

• Local, national and regional events.

We call also to support the Peoples’ Anti-imperialist Tribunal to be held in Haiti in five sessions from July 28th to December 17th, 2016, focused on both the criminal consequences of the 100 years of occupation, and the strengthening of popular responses.

For more than 200 years now, the people of Haiti have continued to offer transformative alternatives of liberation and equality. Let us offer our respect and solidarity.

Long live the self-determination of peoples!
Down with the neoliberal war!
Long live the protection and defense of our commons!
Long live food, energy and financial sovereignty!
Long live agroecological peasant agriculture!
Long live Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace!

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