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## Fidel Castro Compares NATO to the Islamic State

By Telesur

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Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro during a meeting with Cuban and foreign intellectuals in Havana. (Photo: Reuters)

Castro accused the U.S.-led Western alliance of promoting a “war of extermination” against the Russian Federation.

The former president of Cuba, Fidel Castro, this Wednesday accused the new NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg of promoting a “war of extermination” against Russia and described the military alliance as being “more extreme” than the Islamic State group.

“Yesterday I listened to the statements of the new Secretary-General of NATO, a former Prime Minister of Norway, who took office six days ago,” the former leader, 88, wrote in a column published in Cuban state media. “How much hatred he has in his face!”

He also highlighted the “incredible efforts (by NATO) to facilitate a war against the Russian Federation! Who can be more extremist than the I.S. (Islamic State) fanatics? What religion do you practice? After all this, would you be able to enjoy eternal life in God’s hands?”

Stoltenberg took office as NATO chief October 1, and in recent statements he said that the Western military alliance's plan to beef up its military presence in eastern Europe does not violate a post-Cold War deal struck with Russia on military force levels in the region.

Tensions have recently increased between Russia and NATO because the U.S.-led alliance accused Moscow of meddling in the Ukrainian situation, a claim that the Kremlin has repeatedly denied. NATO boosted its military presence close to Russia's borders, following Crimea's reunification with Russia in March, specifically in Poland and the former Soviet Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia.