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ALBA Demonstrates an Alternative to Imperialism Can Be Done

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Voice of Revolution salutes the member countries of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) on the successful conclusion of their 7th Summit. Despite U.S. efforts to organize coups and assassinations and generally denigrate ALBA and its member states, the alliance has developed and grown with great determination and courage. Member states of ALBA from South America include Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, from Central America Nicaragua and Honduras, and from the Caribbean Cuba, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Together they comprise a total population of more than 73 million people. What stands out is their fighting spirit and drive to develop relations of mutual respect and benefit and to stand shoulder to shoulder with the peoples rising against imperialism and war. This can be seen in the various programs undertaken, such as the firm stand in support of resistance in Honduras, programs to provide free operations for correcting vision, oil at lower costs, programs eliminating illiteracy, opposing the U.S. Fourth Fleet and military bases in Colombia, and more.

ALBA has developed in opposition to the interference and domination of U.S. imperialism, especially its imposition of free trade agreements and the brutal embargo and blockade of Cuba. ALBA reflects the desire of peoples everywhere to be sovereign and free from interference and domination by the big powers. The success of ALBA in resisting U.S. imperialism and fashioning its own institutions and finding a way forward is a concrete contribution to humanity and an inspiration to all those struggling for a pro-social alternative. ALBA has shown in practice that if those first brave steps are taken an alternative to the imperialist system of states can be done.



U.S. imperialism instigated the coup d'état in Honduras, a member state of ALBA, to thwart the development of the alternative and send a warning to all other countries of the Americas not to attempt to break free from U.S. dictate. The U.S. is striving to block everyone, including Americans, from taking the path of democracy and empowerment of the people. It is precisely the demand of the Hondurans to have a constituent assembly where the peoples themselves write a constitution that favors them that brought about the coup and the continued U.S. support for the coup government. ALBA stands as a block to these efforts and an arena where the peoples of the region can express their united stand.

Together with the coup d'état in Honduras, U.S. imperialism is strengthening its military grip on the people of Columbia. It has announced plans for seven U.S. military bases, meaning more troops and weapons of mass destruction will be used against the Colombian people. The U.S. military occupation of Columbia is in part to protect U.S. economic plunder of Colombia through a free trade agreement signed in 2005. The annexed regime in Colombia is also being groomed as a U.S. military beachhead to threaten and control the rest of South America.

The Obama administration is also following war criminal Bush in activating the U.S. Navy's Fourth Fleet in the waters of the Caribbean and Central and South America. The aggressive U.S. military actions and Honduras coup d'état are meant to terrorize the peoples of the Americas and stop them from joining and developing an alternative to oppression and imperialist exploitation, to intimidate them and convince them to abandon any thoughts of independence and freedom and give up their efforts to build the new.



The 7th ALBA Summit condemned this intimidation and war maneuvers and elaborated their plans to carry on with actions that favor the people and thus undermine U.S. imperialism. There is an internationalist spirit that refuses to submit to imperialist bullying and organizes for a pro-social, anti-war program.

On the economic front, ALBA members are strengthening their social solidarity through the Trade Treaty of the Peoples (TCP). They have pledged to practice trade amongst themselves based on mutual benefit and cooperation to build and develop the economies of each other. A great step in this direction is to free themselves from the tyranny of the U.S. dollar by establishing a virtual common currency amongst themselves to be used to resolve trade transactions. This means concretely that each country will require fewer U.S. dollars in reserve, a feature that will become a beacon for others worldwide. By objectively looking at trade as an institution of social solidarity and trust and for mutual benefit with the aim of developing the economies and living standards of all, the members of ALBA are able to pool their strong points and pass on those strengths to all members without exploiting the weaknesses of others but rather building each other up collectively. This is in sharp contrast to the unequal terms of trade and economic aggression within the imperialist system of states where weaker countries are at the mercy of the U.S.

Voice of revolution calls on all to oppose all the U.S. free trade agreements, including NAFTA and those imposed bilaterally and to join in supporting and defending ALBA and all efforts to reject U.S. annexation and defend sovereignty. We demand all U.S. troops home now and the immediate removal of the Fourth Fleet, an instrument of aggression and war.

We extend our congratulations to the member states and peoples on the 7th Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance for the People's of Our America and the Trade Treaty of the Peoples. The success of ALBA proves that an alternative to imperialism can be done!