



## Hands Off Venezuela!

The International Workers' Committee Against War and Exploitation, For a Workers' International (IWC) calls upon workers, activists and all organisations linked to the international workers and democratic movement:

The Trump administration, since the 22nd of January 2019, is openly interfering in the internal affairs of Venezuela, trampling upon the most basic foundation of its sovereignty, by giving its support to Juan Guaidó, who has self-proclaimed himself "president of Venezuela".

The Trump administration — with the full support of the European Union, through its "European Parliament" — has recognized Guaidó as the "legitimate president" of Venezuela.

The Trump administration is also supported by the most reactionary regimes in Latin America (Bolsonaro in Brazil and Macri in Argentina), but also by Macron in France, Merkel in Germany, May in Great Britain, and by the so-called "left" governments of Spain and of Portugal.

Two days after his self-proclamation, Guaidó announced his intention to "name new boards of directors of the state oil company PDVSA and the U.S. refining subsidiary Citgo", as reported by Reuters (January 25), i.e., to start the privatisation and plundering of the state-owned oil company PDVSA, which had been nationalised as a result of the mobilisations of the people of Venezuela in 1976.

As was the case in Iraq, and more recently in Libya and elsewhere, the U.S. government is threatening once again the sovereignty of a nation in the pursuit of plundering its oil and other natural resources, to the point of not excluding a direct military intervention, as proposed by the arch-reactionary Bolsonaro.

The IWC hails the position adopted by the U.S. trade union coalition US Labor Against the War, which stated that:

*"The U.S. has no legitimate claim to intervene in the internal affairs of other countries, to take sides in internal political disputes, or to undermine governments elected by the people. We have seen the disastrous consequences of recent U.S. interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, and, through its alliance with Saudi Arabia, in Yemen. U.S. intervention in Venezuela can only bring further hardship and suffering, as followed U.S. support for the 2009 coup in Honduras that overthrew the elected government there and contributed to the stream of asylum-seekers now on our southern border seeking relief from that disaster. ... We strongly condemn the tacit support given to President Trump's intervention by leaders of the Democratic Party. ... This interference in Venezuela's internal affairs serves the interests of wealthy elites and multinational corporations, not the interests of the Venezuelan or American people. It is always the people who end up paying for these interventions in suffering, blood and treasure."*

And the USLAW statement ended, correctly, with the call: "Hands off Venezuela!"

The IWC invites activists and workers and democratic organisations all over the world to express their opposition to any intervention by the U.S. government its allies, such as the European Union, in matters that regard only the Venezuelan people. The IWC calls upon all to stand by the side of the workers and people of Venezuelan in defence of their national sovereignty.

Nambiath VASUDEVAN, Daniel GLUCKSTEIN,

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