

Anti-Imperialist News Service

Print Edition, February 13, 2012

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P.O. Box 25716,
Chicago, IL 60625

U.S. "Protests" Syrian Sovereignty

On Monday, February 6, The U.S. withdrew its ambassador and embassy staff from Syria in protest of the fact that Syrian President Assad has not capitulated to demands of the U.S. backed "dissident groups" calling for "nothing less than regime change."

A clear picture of U.S. policy on Syria was given by Jeffrey D. Feltman, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, in testimony given to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs on November 9, 2011: "What we have to say to President Assad can be summed up very briefly: step aside and allow your people to begin the peaceful, orderly transition from authoritarianism to democracy. Bashar al-Assad has proven that he is incapable of reform. Our advice is to President Assad is that he leave now. He may want to study the recent examples of other Arab autocrats who have been confronted by populations that have overcome the barrier of fear to demand their universal rights. If Assad truly has

Syria's interests at heart, he will leave now. We will relentlessly pursue our two-track strategy of supporting the opposition and diplomatically and financially strangling the regime until that outcome is achieved."

The Obama administration has claimed the "right" to decide who will take part in the Syrian government and who will not.

This colonial agenda is "justified" by a continuous chauvinist propaganda vilifying the Syrian people as "backward" and extolling the "U.S. mission" to "civilize" the country with "American values" and "American democratic institutions." The Obama administration is trampling underfoot the entire edifice of international law, international norms of peaceful relations between countries and the sovereign right of the Syrian people to determine their affairs for themselves without outside interference.

U.S. imperialism aims not only at subjugating Syria but at using that country as another strategic base in its struggle for world domination.

Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity with Syria

On February 5, the heads of state and government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) (Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Venezuela) issued the following Communiqué:

The heads of state and government of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) reiterate their condemnation of the systematic policy of interference in and destabilization of the brother Syrian Arab Republic, the aim of which is to impose, by force, regime change on the Syrian people.

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ALBA Summit Breaks New Ground

In early February, the 11th Summit of the Bolivarian Alliance of the People of Latin America (ALBA) took place in Caracas, Venezuela. Heads of State and top officials from the 8 member countries discussed the efforts of the alliance.

The focus of the meeting was regional trade and economic association efforts based on the principles of "solidarity, cooperation, complementarity, reciprocity, sustainability, technological sovereignty and economic union" and designed as an alternative to U.S. imperialism's "free trade" agenda and its program of neo-liberalism which aims at U.S. penetration and domination of the economies of Latin America.

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Widespread Torture by U.S.-NATO Backed Libyan "Revolutionaries"

One feature of the U.S.-NATO inflicted tragedy befalling the Libyan people has been the widespread practice of torture by the "revolutionary government" of the Libyan "National Transitional Council."

A report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, to the UN Security Council on January 25, revealed that some 6,500 people are being held in 60 secret detention centers run by NTC "revolutionaries." She admitted in her report that the majority of the detainees are being subjected to "torture and ill treatment."

The international medical aid organization "Doctors Without Borders" (Medecins Sans Frontieres) recently suspended its operations in Libyan prisons in the city of Misrata

ALBA

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Among the many remarkable fruits of the 11th summit:

–a Communiqué declaring full support for the Syrian people and government against foreign interference

–agreements on steps to be taken for the creation of a common economic zone for the "fair and equitable development for our people and not for foreign capital"

–reaffirmation of ALBA condemnation of the U.S. blockade of Cuba

–plans to provide reconstruction assistance to Haiti in line with the ALBA principles of solidarity and respect for self-determination

–A declaration of solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico affirming that "the people of Puerto Rico have the unalienable right of self-determination." The declaration recalls that Puerto Rico's right to self-determination and full independence has been violated by the colonialism imposed by the United States for over a century.

–a declaration of support for Argentina in its just struggle in defense of peace and sovereignty in the face of British occupation and militarization of the Malvinas islands

because of the refusal of Libyan authorities to stop the torture of prisoners. Spokesmen from the organization say that they have treated 115 torture victims since April 2011 and that they reported all of the cases to Misrata authorities but that their demands that the torture stop fell on deaf ears. According to Christophers Stokes, the organization's general director, "No concrete action has been taken. Instead, our team received four new torture cases. We have therefore come to the decision to suspend our medical activities in the detention centers." Stokes also said, "Some officials have sought to exploit and obstruct MSF's medical work." Stokes said, "Patients were brought to us in the middle of interrogation for medical care, in order to make them fit for further interrogation. This is unacceptable. Our role is to provide medical care to war casualties and sick detainees, not to repeatedly treat the same patients between torture sessions."

The on-going turmoil in Libya and the atrocities being carried out by the U.S. and Western backed "revolutionaries" are the direct result of the U.S.-NATO war on Libya which bombed Libya to its knees in order to install such "revolutionaries" by force.

Solidarity with Syria

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The ALBA member states condemn the acts of armed violence that irregular groups supported by foreign powers have unleashed against the Syrian people. The member states hope that the Syrian society will return to calm and develop in peace.

The ALBA countries reiterate their support for the policy of reforms and national dialogue promoted by the government of President Bashar al Assad, seeking to find a political solution to the current crisis, respecting the sovereignty of the Syrian people and the territorial integrity of that brother Arab country.

Caracas, 5 February 2012

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