



For Socialist Solutions to the Crisis



Jesús Vargas, AVN

Viva La Solidaridad – Latin America's Left stands with Palestine

Logan Williams

During the ongoing war crimes against the people of Gaza by Israel, many governments and social movements across the global south - and most notably from Latin America - have led international efforts to offer solidarity to Palestine and to bring about an end to the war, and Israel's illegal occupation.

In Latin America, several nations have recalled ambassadors from Israel and played a key role in UN debates.

These efforts have been spearheaded by the Lula-led government of Brazil which currently holds the Chair of the Security Council, working to apply international pressure to bring about an end to the war.

Lula's efforts began on October 7th when he called on the international community "to work to immediately resume negotiations that lead to a solution to the conflict that guarantees the existence of an economically viable Palestinian State."

On October 18, the Security Council vetoed a Brazil-led resolution on the internationally backed demand for a ceasefire now, through the key vote of the US against the motion, whilst the UK abstained. The decision by the Security

Council to veto this attempt to create a humanitarian ceasefire was berated at the UN General Assembly by the Cuban representatives who argued that the effect of the US's vote would place obstacles in "finding the path to peace".

Following on from Lula's efforts to create a diplomatic road to peace, countries across Latin America sought to utilise diplomatic power to place pressure on the Israeli government, with the left or centre-left governments of Honduras, Chile and Colombia recalling their ambassadors.

These actions were furthered by Bolivia which formally ended diplomatic relations with Israel, whilst demanding "an end to the attacks in the Gaza strip which has so far caused thousands of civilian deaths and the forced displacement of Palestinians".

We also saw Venezuela seek to provide aid to civilians across Gaza, with the successful delivery of 30 tons of aid

However, it is not just in the actions of governments that we can see solidarity with Palestine. We see it through the actions of socialist and social movements which have organised across the region, with marches taking place in La Paz, Bolivia, vigils in Managua, Nicaragua, and mammoth marches through Caracas,

Venezuela, to give just a few examples.

These actions show how vital it is that every socialist activist in the global north must not only step up solidarity with Palestine but also with the Left in Latin America - which is a reference point for anti-capitalists across the globe - to ensure that their unflinching internationalist policies are not silenced in favour of the neo-liberal agenda and the bad old days of US domination.

• **Logan Williams is an NEU activist and organiser for Labour Friends of Progressive Latin America.**



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Hands Off Cuba

Gemma Bolton, Labour NEC member

There is growing support here and internationally for campaigns demanding the US to remove Cuba from its 'State Sponsors of Terrorism' (SSOT) list, a designation which goes alongside the US's decades-long illegal and inhumane blockade of the island.

Cuba's SSOT listing was implemented by Trump on the eve of his departure but has not been reversed.

The designation has a devastating effect on lives, preventing Cuba from using international banking systems and making it harder to get basic necessities.

According to the Cuba Solidarity Campaign, both the 61-year blockade and the extra sanctions that inclusion on the SSOT list brings "cost lives in Cuba, and contribute to a humanitarian crisis which is fuelling increased migration from the island to the US."

On a trade union delegation, I have seen first-hand Cuba's remarkable achievements in health and education - imagine what could be achieved if sanctions and the blockade were lifted.

• **Show your support for the campaign at <https://cuba-solidarity.org.uk/offthelist>**

Give Venezuela back its gold

With a change of government in Britain likely over the next year, campaigning is stepping up for the return of Venezuela's gold which has been stolen by the Bank of England.

At the time of writing, over 12,000 people have backed a petition reading:

"We condemn the decision of the Bank of England to refuse to return to Venezuela billions of dollars of its gold deposited there.

This echoes the decision of Donald Trump - now maintained by President Biden - to impose tough economic sanctions on Venezuela to try to

enforce unlawful regime change.

The Venezuelan gold deposited in the Bank of England is the property of the Venezuelan people, not British banks. Preventing its return, like all such sanctions, only hurts the poorest in Venezuelan society.

Britain should not be aiding the US administration in imposing sanctions and regime change. Instead it should be promoting dialogue and negotiation to reach a peaceful and longstanding settlement in Venezuela as advocated by the Mexican and other Latin American governments.

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign

We call on the British government to act honourably and make clear to the Bank of England that this gold must be returned to its rightful owners - the Venezuelan people."

With Portugal deciding to give back gold to Venezuela in a similar situation - and other countries easing some sanctions- now is the time to redouble our efforts on this issue.

• **Sign the petition at www.change.org/p/rishi-sunak-give-venezuela-back-its-gold**

Support Argentina's general strike against Milei's far-right offensive

A number of prominent labour movement and cultural figures have endorsed a solidarity statement arguing "The election of far-right Javier Milei as President of Argentina represents a clear and present danger to Argentinian trade unions and indeed the overwhelming majority of Argentinian people."

Warning of "great struggles to come

against a presidency which threatens authoritarianism, climate change denial, extreme austerity and social discrimination", the campaigners declare their support for the Argentinian CGT's strike actions, and pledge to support all those resisting the far-right.

The statement has been initiated by the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom

Matt Willgress

plus Labour Friends of Progressive Latin America. Initial signatories include MPs Apsana Begum, Richard Burgon, Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana, plus union general secretaries Gawain Little (GFTU), Maryam Eslamdoust (TSSA,) and Sarah Woolley (BFAWU).

• **Add your support at <https://bit.ly/argentinageneralstrike>**