



The Coup in Bolivia

by Christy Breihan

On November 10, 2019, the democratically elected president of Bolivia, Evo Morales, was forced by the heads of the military and the police to resign from office. Originally reported as “a voluntary resignation,” it quickly became clear that this was a military coup that used threats and brutality against Morales, Vice-President Alvaro García, their families, and other leaders of Morales’s Movement for Socialism Party (MAS).

Donald Trump wasted no time in announcing his support for the coup, also using it to threaten the governments of Venezuela and Nicaragua, calling the developments in Bolivia a “strong signal” of what may lie ahead for them.

Evo Morales had engendered the wrath of the imperialist forces shortly after his election as the first indigenous president of Bolivia. In 2006, he led the re-nationalization of Bolivia’s large gas reserves. Morales expelled the US Drug Enforcement Administration, USAID, the Peace Corps and the U.S. ambassador because of their agendas of political intervention in Bolivia’s domestic affairs. Instead, his administration has been a force for the advancement of indigenous, environmental, women’s, and workers’ rights. The result has been one of the most stable economic growth rates in the Americas, between 4% and 5% in the last few years, along with a dramatic drop in poverty among millions of Bolivians, from 59% to 39%, according to official data from the World Bank.

Most recently, attention has been focused on Bolivia’s vast reserves of the mineral lithium, used in the batteries of electric cars. Several transnational corporations had sought to extract the lithium under contracts that would return very little of its value to the people of Bolivia. In response to protests by the people

in the region of the deposits, Morales had been moving toward a more equitable partnership between a Chinese firm and two nationalized Bolivian companies. This further alarmed the multinationals that wanted to control the lithium, and they decided it was time for Morales to go.

US Role Once Again

It is believed that the US embassy in La Paz helped coordinate a deliberate campaign of street violence and media disinformation in order to destabilize the country and force Morales out. The Organization of American States, a pro-Washington agency which has vehemently opposed all left-leaning governments in Latin America, alleged “irregularities” in the October re-election of Morales, in a move intended to stir up opposition to Morales and provide cover for the coup on the world stage.

This has long been Washington’s standard procedure for instigating coups or regime changes against governments it disapproves of. The Bolivian general



Indigenous people rise up against the coup. Continued on pg. 2

demanding Morales's resignation, Williams Kaliman, was, in fact, trained by the United States at its School of the Americas, notorious for turning out military leaders associated with violent human rights abuses throughout Latin America.

Massive demonstrations in support of Morales have been viciously attacked by forces supporting the self-proclaimed extreme right wing "presidency" of Jeanine Añez, a senator with a history of racist attacks against Bolivia's indigenous majority. At this writing, at least 26 protesters have been killed, with many more wounded, and several MAS leaders have been imprisoned.

Evo Morales himself has been granted asylum in Mexico, which has joined Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, and Argentina in condemning the coup. In the US, AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka has also condemned it, along with Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Ilhan Omar, and Senator Bernie Sanders.

Morales has called for an international truth commission to examine the role of the US-dominated Organization of American States in the military coup.



Bolivian President Evo Morales.

Struggles Throughout Latin America

It is important to place the events in Bolivia in the wider context of what is unfolding across Latin America. Bolivia's neighbor to the south, Argentina, just rejected the right-wing agenda of the Macrismo movement at the polls. To the west, Chile is in revolt against a billionaire agenda and president, Sebastián Piñera. Further north, Colombia rejected right-wing leader Uribe in local elections. Lula - the most popular politician in Brazil - is free after 19 months as a political prisoner. Millions of Haitians are in the streets demanding an end to US-led exploitation and occupation. In Ecuador, there is a popular movement against Lenín Moreno's hard turn towards the neoliberal economic model. And in Mexico, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador leads a new



party which aims at building a post-neoliberal order for the country. Venezuela and Cuba continue to fight back against an all-out U.S. diplomatic, military, media and economic offensive.

Right now, the primary concern for those of us in the US is the role of our own government. We know our government intervenes on the side of the oligarchs in Latin America, and we know it has played a part in this coup. President Trump, Secretary of State Pompeo, and Senator Marco Rubio have openly praised it.

We should demand that our politicians retract their support for this military coup, and end all financial and military support to the right-wings groups that carried it out.

We call on the US Government to stop meddling in the internal affairs of other countries and to respect the right of all nations to self-determination and independence from outside interference. US HANDS OFF BOLIVIA!

- Christy Breihan is Co -Chair of Peace Action of WI.



Anti-Drone Activists Arrested at Volk Field

by Joy First

Seven peace activists walked onto the base at Volk Field Nov. 12, wearing black veils, carrying limp dolls and posters of children killed by drones, and reading a statement mourning the children who have died in attacks through drone warfare. They were arrested by Juneau County officers, handcuffed and taken to the station in Mauston, WI, where they were cited for trespassing and released.



The action was organized by the Wisconsin Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars. This group of dedicated activists has been holding a monthly vigil at the gates of Volk Field since 2011. This is the sixth action leading to arrests at the base.

Volk Field is an Air National Guard base that trains personnel to operate the RQ-7 Shadow Drone, which is an integral part of the United States drone program and used for reconnaissance, surveillance, and acquisition. The drone program started under President Bush, got worse under President Obama, and worse still under President Trump. Tens of thousands of people have been killed, including many children, with only an estimated 2% being people who were targeted.

Our government is using drones to kill people in over eight different countries in the Middle East and Africa. Though the reasoning is to kill terrorists, the program actually has the opposite effect, and as loved ones are killed by drones, their friends and family can be recruited into what we call terrorist groups to retaliate. Drone warfare is illegal by standards of our U.S. constitution and international law, and has been condemned by the United Nations, yet our country persists in this devastation.

The seven people arrested are Bonnie Block, Joyce Ellwanger, Joy First, Bob Graf, Jim Murphy, Phil Runkel (all of Wisconsin) and Brian Terrell of Chicago.

Peace Action of WI will be supporting these peace activists when they go to court in January. We are grateful for their courage and commitment.

"We come because we mourn the children who have died from attacks by U.S. military drones.

...We come because the United States is solely responsible for the deaths of many thousands of people from drone attacks, including thousands of children who have been killed by drones."

Annual Membership Meeting

2020 Steering Committee Chosen

Beautiful music by violinists Glenn and Laurie Asch opened our annual membership meeting on Nov. 19, 2019. The 2020 Peace Action of Wisconsin Steering Committee was chosen by consensus. They are returning members Tom Seery, Christy Breihan, George Martin, Mary Laan, Chris Jeske, Dan O'Keefe and new members Bruce Ware and Sean O'Reilly. Their diverse experience and talents will serve Peace Action very well.

Updates and changes in our bylaws and financial procedures were approved by the members present. The meeting closed with the exceptional video "The Dove of Peace" by Harvey Taylor and Susan Ruggles.

Volunteer of the Year Award - Dan O'Keefe was awarded for his countless hours of work as a CPA in keeping our accounting in order and enormous help with his computer skills.

Special Awards went to poet/musician Harvey Taylor and his performing partner Susie Krause for their many artistic contributions to Peace Action events over the years, and to Susan Ruggles for her incredible photography and videos of our peace demonstrations and events, documenting our work for now and the future.



Economic Sanctions: Weapons of War

by Pam Richard

Currently, there are over 33 countries (15% of all countries in the world) that are suffering under illegal, unilateral sanctions imposed by the US government and its European allies. Contrary to their narrative, these sanctions are not a diplomatic way to apply pressure, but they are a weapon of war. The objective is to force the people to rise up against their government or face mass starvation and deprivation. Sanctions are a cold, calculated strategy to force regime change without negative public opinion.

Sanctions are as deadly as war itself. The people under sanctions are suffering from hunger, lack of medicine, joblessness, homelessness, and children are unable to attend schools. In Iraq, half a million children perished from malnutrition and disease from 15 years of US sanctions in the 1990's. North Korea has been under sanctions for decades, destroying their economy and causing thousands of deaths, many of them to children under 5 years of age. Recently, sanctions on Venezuela have caused the deaths of over 40,000 people. Sanctions have devastated the countries of Iran and Syria. An economic, financial blockade of Cuba has devastated their economy for decades. Even though the UN has voted for 28 years in a row to have the US end the blockade, it continues.

For too long the UN has bowed to pressure of the US-European bloc to approve the economic sanctions they wish to impose. A resolution against sanctions is now being considered by the United Nations as a Crime Against Humanity and against the Charter of the UN. The G-77, a UN coalition of (now 134) developing nations, along with China, is urging the international community to adopt measures to eliminate economic and trade sanctions.

Sanctions could be targeted to end repressive regimes like the government of Saudi Arabia over its human rights violations and genocidal war in Yemen. Indeed, sanctions played a role in toppling the apartheid government in South Africa. However, as sanctions are currently being used as a weapon of war, Peace Action of WI opposes all coercive measures and sanctions that target civilian populations.



Wis. Governor Evers Signs Bill Criminalizing Pipeline Protesters

DEMOCRACY NOW! NOV 22, 2019

Wisconsin's Democratic Governor Tony Evers has signed a bill making it a felony to trespass on the grounds of an oil or gas pipeline. Critics say the bill was inspired by ALEC — the American Legislative Exchange Council — and pushed through the Wisconsin legislature by the American Petroleum Institute.

Opponents of the law include members of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, whose reservation is crossed by the Enbridge Line 5 tar sands oil pipeline. The tribe's chair, Mike Wiggins, said, "Over and over, we've seen peaceful, nonviolent protests met with militarization, threats of violence and actual violence from some of these corporate mechanisms."

[This is part of a broad legal attack on oil and gas pipeline protestors around the country. More on the Criminalization of Dissent in our next newsletter.]

Trump “Protects” Syrian Oil

by Julie Enslow

Wars for control of oil - oil to fuel the wars. Another huge reason why the world desperately needs to move to fossil fuel-free energy.

The movement of US troops into the oil fields of eastern Syria is part of the ongoing saga of military control of fossil fuels. President Trump said on Oct. 27 that ExxonMobil or another US oil company should operate Syrian oil fields.

The next day he announced at a cabinet meeting: “I always said if you’re going in, keep the oil. We’ll work something out with the Kurds so that they have some money, so that they have some cash flow. Maybe we’ll get one of our big oil companies to go in and do it properly.”

Shortly after, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif remarked, “Well it seems that the United States is staying to protect the oil. And at least President Trump is honest to say what the United States intends to do.”

US Defense Secretary Mark Esper confirmed Oct. 25 that Washington would leave military forces in Syria to maintain control of the country’s principal oil and gas fields.

The US government says US troops are being deployed to the oil fields to prevent them falling into the hands of an already defeated ISIS. The real purpose of the US deployment is to deny these resources to the Syrian government and stymie any attempt to reunify and reconstruct the war-torn country.

As a matter of fact, Syria’s natural resources actually do belong to Syrians. Those resources should be used by Syria to rebuild its country after a long and very destructive war. They should not be stolen by the United States or any other government.



Instead of removing US troops from Syria, the escalation of the US military presence in the oil fields, located in Syria’s eastern province of Deir al-Zour, makes it appear that the Trump administration is committed to continuing the more than eight-year-old war for regime change that has claimed the lives of over half a million people, while forcing nearly half the population, some 11 million people, from their homes.

In addition, the threat of a direct confrontation with Russia with its larger presence in northeast Syria will now be greater than ever.

Source: Bill Van Auken, Wsws.org, 10/31/19

\$\$ for War or Medicare for All?

Michael Arria, Mondoweiss.net 10/23/19

The Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) has released research detailing how Medicare for All could be funded by slashing the United States military budget. Medicare for All was a hot topic during a recent debate as Warren and Senator Bernie Sanders were both criticized by the other candidates for endorsing such a plan despite its costs.

Addressing the findings in a New York Times op-ed, IPS’ National Priorities Project director Lindsay Koshgarian writes that the necessary money for Medicare for All could be freed up via moves like a nuclear weapon ban, the end of military partnerships with private contractors, and production cuts for the F-35.

“Over 18 years, the United States has spent \$4.9 trillion on wars, with only more intractable violence in the Middle East and beyond to show for it,” points out Koshgarian. “That’s nearly the \$300 billion per year over the current system that is estimated to cover Medicare for All (though estimates vary). While we can’t un-spend that \$4.9 trillion, imagine if we could make different choices for the next 20 years.”

There are certainly indications that such a plan might be more popular among voters than most lawmakers might think. Let’s tell them how we feel about this.

PEACE CALENDAR

December 2019/January 2020

Dec. 6 & 7 Friends International Gift Shop. Friday, 4pm-8pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 3224 Gordon Place, Milwaukee. Shop at our Peace Action table.

Dec. 6, Fri. Climate Strike - 10:30 am, gather at Zeidler Park, 301 W. Michigan. 11am March to Water and Wis. to demand the Chase and Wells Fargo Banks stop funding the fossil fuel industry. Sponsored by People's Climate Coalition of Milwaukee (350 MKE, Nextgen, Extinction Rebellion, Youth Climate Action Team, Gaia Coalition, Sunrise Milwaukee).

Every Friday at Noon Protest the funding of fossil fuels in front of Chase Bank & Wells Fargo Bank on Water & Wisconsin. They are the 2 largest funders of fossil fuels on Earth. Sponsored by 350.org Milwaukee.

Dec. 7, Sat. Weekly Stand for Peace. Noon to 1pm. Sponsored by Peace Action WI. See ad for weekly locations.

Dec. 14, Sat. Celebration of International Human Rights Day, 10:30am - 1pm, Ambassador Inn, 2301 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee. Sponsored by the City of Milwaukee Human Rights Commission, co-sponsored by the United Nations Association of Milwaukee.

Jan. 15, Wed. End the Wars Coalition meeting, 7pm, Peace Center, 1001 E. Keefe.

Jan. 20, Mon. Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Program and March, 1pm, St. Francis of Assisi Church, 4th & Brown.

See our web site and look for email updates for more calendar items in Jan.

www.peaceactionwi.org

Stand for Peace

Saturdays Noon-1 PM



Dec. 7: Locust & Humboldt
Dec. 14: 76th & Layton
Dec. 21: Port Washington & Silver Spring
Dec. 28: St. Paul & Water

Jan. 4: 27th & Oklahoma
Jan. 11: Cesar Chavez(16th) & Greenfield
Jan. 18: Hawley & Bluemound
Jan. 25: King & North

Get On Our E-Mail Alert List!

Make sure we have your email address, so you can receive our action alerts and calendar updates. Our newsletter is published every two months and a lot can happen in that time. Keep up to date with calls to our elected officials, visiting speakers, special demonstrations and other events. ALSO if you prefer to receive your newsletter on-line instead of a paper copy, let us know.

DON'T BE OUT OF THE LOOP!
SEND US YOUR EMAIL AT:
INFO@PEACEACTIONWI.ORG



The Dove of Peace is you and me...
yes, who else did we think the Dove could be?
That means there's no stopping, no we won't cease
'til we've turned the tide from war to peace.

Remember, we're the Dove of Peace...
we're the Dove of Peace—

by Harvey Taylor

Thank You Volunteers

Annual Meeting:

Music - Glenn and Laurie Asch

Set up and clean-up - Ray Cary, Chris Jeske, Sean Reilly, Pam Richard, Tom Seery, Chris Breihan, Bill Breihan, Julie Enslow, Rosemary Huddleston, Mary Lou Stebbins.

Chili - Julie Enslow, George Martin, Mary Laan, Pam Richard, Laura Kukor-Shea, Chris Jeske, Dan O'Keefe, Trish Beausong, River Kaster

Salad - Chris Breihan

Desserts - Tom Seery, Marsha Vila, Dan O'Keefe

Servers - Julie Enslow, Pam Richard, Mary Lou Stebbins,

Greeters - Marsha Vila, Mary Laan, Dan

Tabling - Pam Richard, Sue Cottrell

Bread and Desserts donated by City Market on Capitol.

Coffee donated by Stone Creek Coffee on Oakland.

Thanks to all who stepped in to help at the event.

Mailings: David Lindberg, Julie Enslow, Mary Alice Martinez, Mary Laan, Christy Breihan, Dan, Laura Kukor-Shea, Babette Grunow, Tom Niebler, Jan Watson, Barbara Markoff, Sky Schultz.

Donations: All who renewed their membership and gave donations, especially Jan Watson and Al Lustig.

JOIN US / RENEW



____ New Member ____ Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

____ \$30 individual ____ \$10 limited income

____ \$50 household ____ \$100 supporter

____ \$1000 lifetime membership

Additional donation of support \$ _____

Make checks out to Peace Action of Wisconsin

1001 E. Keefe Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212

Call office for information on monthly sustainers.

Work for Peace!

Get Involved in 2020

As a grassroots, volunteer organization, Peace Action Wisconsin has opportunities for our members to participate in many ways.

- Join our Stand for Peace each Saturday noon. Check out our schedule and come to a location in your area. Join us afterward for coffee and conversation. We have been standing each Saturday since 2003!
- Join our Program Committee to help plan speakers, films, our summer picnic and other events.
- Join our Communications Committee if you have writing skills, computer skills, social media skills.
- Join our Lobbying work.
- Help plan fundraising events.
- Make phone calls from home to our members.
- Volunteer with our mailing crew for newsletter and other mailings. Coffee, treats and good company.
- Table at outreach events with another Peace Action volunteer.
- Assist our office manager with basic office tasks.

Call our office to volunteer: 414-269-9525, or email: info@peaceactionwi.org

The Mobilizer

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End Military Intervention, Transfer Military Spending to Human Needs, Abolish Nuclear Weapons & Power, Oppose Racism & Sexism, Protect the Environment.

Peace Action Wisconsin
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Milwaukee, WI 53212

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DATED MATERIAL

19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Justice Program and March



Monday, January 19th, 2020 1pm
St. Francis of Assisi Church
1927 N. Vel Phillips Ave. (4th and Brown)

1pm - Program
2:30 pm - March to Dr. King's Statue (3 block walk)
Open microphone to reflect on Dr. King's message

Sponsored by Martin Luther King Justice Coalition

(Look for more details on Peace Action's website: www.peaceactionwi.org)