



Message from the Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education, Mexican Section

Mexico City, December 1, 2017

To: All Participants and Organizers of the Binational Conference Against NAFTA and In Defense of Labor Rights

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Receive a solidary and combative greeting from the unions, students and academics that participate in the Mexican Section of the Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education.

The privatizing offensive of our social rights has become more acute in recent years. Budgetary restrictions for education, the use of public resources to finance transnational capital through the payment of public debt, the use of “vouchers”, credit scholarships, the elimination of public schools (replacing them with “charter schools”) ... they are just some of the mechanisms that are being used today.

To this we must add the attacks on the teachers of our countries, as well as the students, by limiting the number of places available for them to continue studying.

Especially serious are the policies of criminalization against migrants in the United States, which are directed against the entire Mexican people. That’s why we embrace as our own the following demands:

- **Cancel NAFTA!**
- **No to the Wall! Yes to the solidarity and internationalism of our peoples!**

— **Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education, Mexican Section**

Greetings to the First Session of the Binational Conference Against NAFTA from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas (in the Southeast of Mexico), the Site of the Second Session of the Binational Conference

Coordinating the efforts and struggles of workers and youth on both sides of the border to repeal the criminal NAFTA agreement is a matter of survival for the working class of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In January 1994, the date of the imposition of this NAFTA treaty, an indigenous insurrection broke out in Chiapas against this political and economic assault by the U.S. transnational corporations against the working class of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. At the same time, in various parts of Mexico, the working class sought to reject this treaty that was imposed with the help of the official political parties and the official trade union leaderships.

Twenty-three years later, we can see the perverse and destructive effects of NAFTA against the Mexican nation and people: the industrial and agricultural fabric of the country has been dismantled; food self-sufficiency has been lost; hundreds of state enterprises have been privatized; federal bridges and roads have been privatized, along with the banks, mines and cooperative farmlands (ejidos), beaches, public services, and much of the freshwater sources.

On top of this, the official parties and trade union leaderships, or those subsidized by the regime, have put forward and supported what is really a Pact Against Mexico [not a Pact For Mexico, as it is called officially] that calls for a new generation of structural reforms to deepen the process of privatization and sale to foreign owners of Mexico's oil and telecommunications.

This year, the so-called "renegotiation" of NAFTA began; its aim is simply to impose new clauses to continue deepening the dismantling of the rights and gains of the working class. There are even secret clauses that the three governments and their negotiators are not making public (though some have already leaked out) on account of their aggressive character, in particular against Mexico.

Under NAFTA, there is now a process of rapid privatization of public health systems (ISSSTE, IMSS, SSA) and public education. These attacks are carried out in accordance with the destructive orientations of the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and OECD. All call for increased privatizations of the public services of lighting, security, sanitation ... and now the government is moving quickly to privatize water services in cities and communities in the framework of the so-called Law of Public-Private Partnerships.

Following the dictates of Big Business aimed at destroying the gains achieved during decades of class struggle, in Mexico hundreds of thousands of workers have lost their jobs, while their collective-bargaining agreements and their unions have been destroyed. More than 15 million young people do not have access to education and work; they are left prey to the drugs economy, or to jobs in semi-slavery conditions with miserable wages, or to enlistment in the police and army of containment and repression against the resistance movements. It is in this brutal context that [Mexican President] Enrique Peña Nieto's government has assassinated more than 76,000 Mexican people, as the country becomes ever more the victim of a bloodbath under the pretext of combatting the drug trade. This is the meaning of the Plan Merida, which is similar to the Plan Colombia. It is a plan of war and extermination against the Mexican nation – primarily against the Mexican working class.

In Opposition to this Plan of Destruction and War, the Resistance of the Workers and People Has Intensified

In a process of resistance, as if they were the pieces of a social puzzle, there have been various struggles against these plans. Earlier, the most significant among them were the struggles of the Mexican Electrical Workers union (SME) against the layoffs of 46,000 workers under the privatization plan of the State-run Luz y Fuerza del Centro company. There were massive struggles of teachers against the destructive “educational reform” that seeks to privatize the right to public education, with organized strikes that lasted up to six months, as was the case of the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO). There have also been massive mobilizations of teachers, parents and students with strikes that have lasted up to three months, with occupations of state capitals, in the states of Chiapas, Michoacán and Guerrero.

At the same time, oil workers in the states of Veracruz and Tabasco have sought to resist the process of privatization of Pemex, Mexico’s State-run oil industry. That is not all: Entire indigenous communities have risen up against the privatization of their natural resources. In the healthcare sector, after six months of struggles in Palenque, Chiapas, 156 striking (and then fired) healthcare workers were reinstated with back pay, and the demands of the workers were met. There have been mass mobilizations in Mexico City, such as the spontaneous youth movement called “Yo Soy 132.” There has also been a protracted movement of the San Quintín (Baja California) farmworkers fighting for their independent union and a collective-bargaining agreement, as well as mobilizations in different parts of the country against the “gasolinazo” [the government decree to increase the price of gas].

Another expression of these resistance movements are the struggles in the electoral field, where the absence of a political representation of the Mexican workers has led the masses to turn to Morena and López Obrador in the face of the enormous loss of prestige of all the official parties and their representatives.

The deep anger and solidarity of Mexico’s working people was witnessed in the massive solidarity actions of the youth during the earthquakes in Mexico City, Oaxaca, Chiapas, etc. The most significant organized movements of the working class in this recent period have been — in the realm of trade unionism — the emergence of the New Workers Central (Nueva Central de Trabajadores, NCT) and, at the political level, the Political Organization of the People and Workers, OPT, which is aimed at building an independent political instrument for the working class.

We — activists, trade unionists, and youth from different political tendencies of the workers’ and trade union movements of Mexico — salute this First Session of the Binational Conference Against NAFTA. We call upon you to continue this much-needed internationalist fight on February 3-4, 2018 in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, when we will convene a Second Session of the Binational Conference. We await your presence, just as we hope and request that our sisters and brothers of the New Workers Central (NCT) and the heroic and combative Mexican Union of Electrical Workers (SME) will agree to convene a Third Session of the Conference in Mexico City on a date that they democratically decide.

We also request that your First Session of the Binational Conference send a Letter of Invitation to Professor Pedro Gómez Bamaca, General Secretary of Section 7 of the National Union of Education Workers (SNTE-CNTE), one of the main strongholds of the CNTE-resistance against structural reforms in the state of Chiapas, calling upon him to inaugurate the Second Session of the Conference here in Tuxtla Gutiérrez.

At the same time, we propose that there be a declaration of solidarity from your conference with the Venezuelan people, threatened by the military interventionism of the U.S. government. It is extremely vital that the U.S. working class join with all their might the efforts to unify the working class of the world to reject these economic and war plans, this proliferation of drugs and destruction, that threaten the very foundations of civilization. We also request that you call for the release of the trade union political prisoners of the Maruti-Suzuki factory in India and the Romanian mineworkers.

We greet you fraternally and combatively and, of course, we believe that this Conference should have continuity. We await the resolutions that you have adopted, and we pledge as of now to distribute them and implement them broadly throughout Mexico.

- Long Live the International Unity of the Working Class!

- Repeal NAFTA, Down with the Wall of Shame!

Signed/

ING. FERNANDO SERRANO MONROY, SECRETARY GENERAL, SINDICATO UNICO INDEPENDIENTE DE LOS COLEGIOS DE BACHILLERES DE CHIAPAS (NUEVA CENTRAL DE TRABAJADORES-NCT)

CP. JOSÉ RAÚL CALLEJA, HEALTH SECTOR, MILITANT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS COMMITTEE-COI and NCT

PROFR. MARIO ROLDÁN ROBLERO, POLITICAL DIRECTORATE, CONSEJO CENTRAL DE LUCHA DE LA SECCIÓN 40 DEL SNTE-CNTE, CHIAPAS

DANIEL MARTÍNEZ VELASCO, ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE NEW WORKERS CENTRAL (NCT) IN SOUTH-SOUTHEAST MEXICO AND MEMBER OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORATE OF THE COLEGIADO ESTATAL DE PADRES DE FAMILIA DEMOCRÁTICOS DEL ESTADO DE CHIAPAS

CARLOS MISAEL PALMA, POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PEOPLE AND THE WORKERS-OPT, CHIAPAS, AND MILITANT OF CORCI CHIAPAS

RAÚL DROULLIET PATIÑO, MOVEMENT OF OIL WORKERS OF TABASCO AND MEMBER OF THE NCT ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IN SOUTH-SOUTHEAST MEXICO

MARIO DÍAZ ORTEGA, MOVEMENT OF OIL WORKERS OF THE STATE OF VERACRUZ

(All signatories are members of the Organizing Committee of the Second Session of the Binational Conference in the south-southeast of Mexico.)

Greetings to the Binational Conference from the Assembly of Northwest Mexico

Dear comrades in struggle, dear sisters and brothers:

We have met — women, men, and youth — in the Assembly of Northwest Mexico, on November 25 and 26, in the town of San Miguel, close to the city of Los Mochis, Sinaloa. We shared experiences of struggle, traditions, culture, resistance and collective action. We came together out of the need to move forward together to improve living conditions, in defense of the territories of the indigenous peoples and the sovereignty of our country; for the defense of water, natural resources. We joined together to resist the ravages of neoliberalism, the blows of the rich in power, who day after day, as savage and inhumane predators that they are, plunder and destroy peoples and human and labor rights.

We took note of the increasing lack of access to healthcare and to public education — highlighted by the the lack of responsibility of the governments, since they leave the indigenous communities and the marginalized areas of the cities without access to these basic rights. The government does not represent us. There is a constant lack of government support for the communities, false promises, food items that do not arrive, and programs that are not implemented — even though the hundreds of thousands and millions of pesos destined to all this do exist. The peoples, the youth, those who produce the wealth of our country every day, are the most forgotten and exploited.

In this Assembly we addressed the problem and the need to join forces beyond the Wall that separates us, to link up and strengthen relations, because we know that our problems and experiences are similar. The peoples and social sectors of the Northwest of Mexico are willing to march along the same path with you, to raise and sustain our dignity, to fight for our survival, and to ensure a future for our next generations.

We hope that from your Binational Conference will emanate the best agreements for common struggle, beyond speeches and promises. Let us then jointly aspire to unity, collective action, and resistance among brothers and sisters on both sides of the border. From the Assembly of Northwest Mexico receive a fraternal, combative and solidary greeting.

Fraternally,

**The towns, Collectives, Organizations and Signatory Assemblies
that make up the Assembly of Northwest Mexico**



Greetings from Peru

Dear sisters and brothers:

We have been informed that you will soon be convening your Binational Conference of workers of the United States and Mexico. You are speaking out against the Wall that Trump intends to build, against the deportations that are being carried out, and against NAFTA, among other demands.

From Peru we wish to tell you that your fighting demands are just and that we must add to them the fight against the payment of the foreign debt and against the violence that plagues both countries in different degrees and nature. In the United States it is the violence of white supremacists and their sponsors against the rest of the population or the violence of those who take arms and kill dozens of people without any reason. In the case of Mexico, the violence has its origin in drug trafficking and the generalized repression by State security forces carried out against students, workers, trade union leaders, teachers, journalists, etc.

We give our support and solidarity.

We welcome your efforts, and we wish you every success.

Forward in the struggle for the global unity of workers and peoples against their class enemies.

Signed by the General Secretary of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP); the General Secretary of the Federation of Workers of the Universities of Peru, FENTUP, which have been on strike for thirty days; the General Secretary of the Bank Workers of the Banco de la Nación (two unions), and the General Secretary of the National Health Care Workers Union



JOAQUIN GUTIERREZ



WINSTON HOAMAN HENRIQUEZ



HENRIQUE DOMINGO CHALCOBETZ
SECRETARIA GENERAL NACIONAL

Signature of Genovito Lopez S.
SECRETARIA GENERAL



[C Luis <Peria 'Moquiola';;~>
Z>9cretario OO-v-:"
SI. ITP,D/..:



Message to the Mexico/US Binational Conference

November 28, 2017

Dear comrades and friends,

In the name of the International Workers Committee Against War and Exploitation, For a Workers' International (IWC), which was formed at the outcome of the International Conference against war, exploitation and precarious labour, held in Mumbai in 2016, we address our international greetings to the Binational conference held this coming weekend in Carlson (California). In the Mumbai conference, representative delegations from both of your countries took part. And your meeting this weekend is a concrete expression of the aims that were put forward at that conference: unity, class independence and international struggle of the working class.

U.S. imperialism, as the driving force of world imperialism, and its present political representation — in full accordance on that point with the previous policies of U.S. imperialism — intend to exploit and plunder countries like Mexico in the name of “free trade”, and make use of the heinous conditions imposed on the Mexican working class to reinforce its attacks against the U.S. working class, its rights and its gains.

Today, that takes the form of a brutal attack against the sovereignty of Mexico, of an open war against the Mexican workers and on those who are over-exploited in the United States (as are all migrant workers in the U.S.), and on those who are forced by the conditions existing in Mexico to emigrate in the United States.

That is the meaning of the “Wall of Shame” that Trump wants to build, a Wall that is the concrete implementation of the aims of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The fact that you answer to those attacks by assembling together representatives of the labour movements in the U.S. and in Mexico is of the utmost importance. Only the unity of the working class in both your countries can be the driving force of an effective struggle against capitalism and the barbarism that it promotes.

We are convinced that your conference will constitute a rallying point for the working class struggle all over the Americas, and will also be an inspiration for the struggle of the working class the world over.

Full success to your conference.

Nambiath Vasudevan
Daniel Gluckstein

On behalf of the International Workers Committee
Against War and Exploitation, for a Workers' International (IWC)

GREETINGS FROM CHILE

To the Organizers of the Mexico-U.S. Binational Conference Against NAFTA, For Labor Rights on Both Sides of the Border, Against the Wall of Shame!

We welcome your initiative from Chile because the issues you have raised are common to us as a nation that suffers the effects of the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Our country has been a global example in terms of signing the FTA. It has signed more FTAs than the US and China since the beginning of the '90s. These treaties have been presented as "beneficial" by the different governments that have been in power since the end of the Pinochet dictatorship. However, 27 years of Free Trade Agreements have modified the production matrix of Chile, making it a country that is essentially an exporter of raw materials, with all the disastrous consequences in the political, economic and social spheres for the majority of the population.

Within the limits of this greeting we can point out in general terms that the whole set of Free Trade Agreements signed by the governments of this country are characterized by the elimination of customs tariffs in order to allow the free entry of merchandise. This measure has meant an openly favorable advantage for all countries that have been able to introduce their products duty-free. For Chile, it has meant the liquidation of entire branches of national production, such as the manufacturing sector, textiles, leather and footwear, metalworking, steel, laboratories, etc. The disappearance of entire branches of national production is based on the inability to compete with imported products, which in most cases are subsidized by the signatory States of the treaties. In the area of tax revenue, the Chilean State has stopped receiving a significant part of taxes, which has negatively affected the implementation of social policies.

The FTA signed with the US is without a doubt the most complete instrument of political domination, looting of the economy, and social oppression. Signed in 2003, it went into effect in 2004. The winners are the US State, the transnational companies of that country, and a local minority sector in Chile associated with transnational capital and US interests. Politically, the US government has been able to place Chile in a role of unconditional ally of US foreign policy. The subordination and dependence of Chilean foreign policy has intensified on all levels. Suffice it to recall the statement of President Ricardo Lagos in support of the coup in Venezuela; or the support given to the US military policy delivered by Chilean leaders at the Conference of Defense Ministers of America held in Chile; to mention just a few examples.

In the economic sphere, the FTA represents security for US transnational corporations, which are interested in establishing themselves in Chile as a platform for their business in the region, based on the guarantees and forms of protection that have been obtained. The FTA contemplated the progressive liberalization of tariffs starting in 2005, the elimination of all protectionist barriers, ensuring the free flow of US products and capital, the privatization of services such as education and health, the stated exclusion of reversing the privatizations already carried out.

This would allow companies, as has already happened in Canada and Mexico, to have the same exemptions and privileges as the public agencies that provide them. The underlying reason for the FTA is the security and protection for US investments in Chile, which was one of the main demands of the United States. When comparing US investments and exports in Chile, it is shown that the latter account for a fifth (some 3 billion dollars) of investments (some 15,000 million dollars). In addition, US companies that have investments in Chile control most of the Chilean imports from the United States and also a large part of Chilean exports to the United States.

In the treaty with Chile, the elimination of "barriers to trade" was one of the main US objectives for the signing of the FTA, which means that there are no controls for the comings and goings of US capital, particu-

larly short-term financial capital. Chile tied its hands, because it can now only intervene through the so-called “disaster clauses”, which is nonsensical, because the only possibility of describing an event as “disastrous” is when it has already occurred, and one is hard pressed to understand how they could control capital flight that has already taken place. They cannot.

With the elimination of reserve clause, all the conditions are created so that at any moment strong instabilities can be unleashed – instabilities that will vary depending on the direction adopted by the capital movements, which already with their strong income in the years 1996 and 1997 in Chile were constituted by the imbalances originated in one of the main causes of the recession started the following year. Obviously, the destabilizing effect is even stronger when capital leaves the country.

On the other hand, the “legal” mechanisms were created to white-wash and reinforce the dispossession of our mining deposits, which began in 1983 with the mining legislation of the Pinochet dictatorship that delivered the deposits in “full concession”, which is nothing else than taking ownership of them. This includes the deposits currently under exploitation, and those that arise through the so-called “Chilean-Argentine Mining Treaty”, which places 90% of the country’s mining resources at the disposal of transnational corporations protected on their property at all times. This has allowed foreign companies to lease, sell, destroy, and essentially do whatever they want.

The agro-industrial, dairy and traditional crops such as wheat and sugar are the most affected. In the dairy sector, 3,500 tons of exports per year were authorized to the United States. In 12 years the price protections have been completely lost, even though the governments had committed to defend them.

We have also witnessed the bankruptcy of medium and small companies, and the deindustrialization of the country has accelerated. We have seen the elimination of tariff barriers, the prohibition of any State policy destined to favor the use of national goods or to privilege in any way the local or sectorial development, and the obligation to open purchases or contracting of the State at all levels (national, provincial and municipal) that exceed a minimum amount. This has fostered the disappearance of already beaten-up medium and small companies, and it has deepened the de-industrialization of the economy.

Regarding intellectual property rights and patents, the United States applies the “NAFTA rules” on the monopoly of patents, particularly important in the pharmaceutical sector. It also legalizes genetically modified organisms, with their adverse consequences on the price of medicines and the health of the population. The right of intellectual property and patents is also a business for biotechnology multinationals that see their transgenic products approved and their monopoly in the production and distribution of seeds, fertilizers and insecticides guaranteed. The transgenic, or genetically modified, products do not produce their own seed; the farmers must acquire new seed for each harvest from the multinational producer that owns the patent.

But the bottom line is that the FTA reaffirms a trade of unequal character; it is a kind of absolutely unequal treaty, in which the United States is the big winner because its GDP is US\$9.37 billion — 134 times larger than Chile’s and has a scientific and technological development and considerably higher levels of productivity.

Our primary products that we export are decreasing in value, although production and exports grow. The clearest example is copper. The main goods that we export to the US are refined copper, salmon fillets, pinewood and other wood products. The FTA signed between Chile and the United States is essentially a translation and extension to the entire American continent of NAFTA, an agreement of Free Trade signed by the US, Canada and Mexico in 1994. During all the years that this treaty has been in place, NAFTA has demonstrated the negative consequences it brings to workers, society and the environment.

Let’s present just some data of this situation.

Since NAFTA was created, one million more Mexicans earn less than the minimum wage and 8 million families have been submerged into poverty. On the other hand, in the area of the maquiladoras (pass-through sweatshops), along the US-Mexico border, there has been the huge growth of pollution and chemical waste, the result of the supremacy of commercial interests sanctioned in NAFTA. These have dramatically increased the rates of hepatitis and birth defects.

The experience of NAFTA has demonstrated how the most basic labor rights and the interests of women workers have been eroded by these free trade agreements. The women workers of the maquilas in Mexico have wages below the minimum wage, they work more than 12 hours per day, they have no legal protection – and there are limitations on trade union activity, unsanitary working conditions, and child labor.

As for the Chilean workers, the principle applied is the application of the national laws, which means that the Chilean labor legislation imposed by the dictatorship is maintained, which prevents full unionization or the right to free negotiations. The unionization rate, according to official figures, reaches 13.2% of a mass of workers of 8,900,000. Unemployment reaches 7%, a figure that includes workers with occupation as well as all those with occasional work hours and days. 53.2% of workers earn less than 300,000 pesos and only 22% reach 500,000 pesos. (The dollar is quoted at 630 pesos.) Currently mortgage debts reach 15 percent of salaries on average, while household debt reaches 66 percent of revenues, the maximum in 10 years as alerted by the Central Bank. At the same time, according to Equifax data, in 9.7 percent the defaulters increased in the first quarter of the year, a record figure equivalent to 4.03 million people.

The violation of democratic liberties, the systematic plundering of our territory and people is what distinguishes an anti-national regime; we are a country dominated by the US empire and the European and Asian transnational corporations. The ruling class, its governments together with its foreign partners constitute the main enemy of the people of Chile, their communities and native peoples. Evicting them from the conduction of the economy and the State is the only possibility to reverse the disaster; to recover our riches, to restore the constitutional legality and to solve the needs of the workers of the countryside and the city; of indigenous peoples and nationalities, of small and medium businesses, of women, of youth.

On this point, we point out that our unity is an essential instrument. None of the above can become a reality if we do not help to build the conditions of resistance that can lead to the formation of a government of the people and for the people. The struggle for a new government, the determined support given to the organization and mobilization of all the people, communities, local and regional organizations, trade unions, social and political, however modest they may be or seem, around a Sovereign Constituent Assembly is a burning need today. Such an Constituent Assembly would be, unicameral, chosen under the principle of proportionality and the free presentation of lists without prerequisites; That is, a way to a new popular national representation that is the expression of a true majority that will displace the servants of imperialism and financial groups. From these processes is how we will build the democratic and social power that will replace the political regime of the elites wedded to imperialism. A Constituent Assembly that adopts measures to end over-exploitation, national oppression, that imposes the end of the AFPs, that takes effective steps in social justice, in the nationalization of natural wealth, in the annulment of the Free Trade Agreements, of all the treaties harmful to the sovereignty and interests of the country.

We salute and wish your Binational Conference full success, considering it a hope for the continental organization of the peoples of America in order to put an end to political, economic and social oppression. The broadest unity is indispensable.

**Circulo “Soberanía y Justicia Social”
November 21, 2017**

Solidarity Message from Haïti Liberté Newspaper

Haiti Liberté, the largest progressive Haitian Newspaper, salutes the Binational Conference in the name of the courageous Haitian People.

The Trump administration is waging war on all immigrants to the U.S. constitute an assault not only against immigrants, but against the working class as a whole. One of its principal targets are the 300,000 immigrants from 10 nations who enjoy Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Renewed every 18 months, this protection allows them authorization to live and work in the U.S. On Nov. 6, Trump's Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke cut off TPS for 5,000 Nicaraguans. On Nov. 20, she did the same for 60,000 Haitians. For the Haitians, they will be deported if they are still in the U.S. after July 2019. They have about 27,000 U.S.-born children, as well as jobs and businesses.

Today many Haitians workers point to the irony of Trump's final words in Miami 14 months ago. "I really want to be your greatest champion, and I will be your champion".

There is a bipartisan bill moving through Congress to provide avenues for TPS recipients to become permanent residents or U.S. citizens. This would be the logical, humanitarian pathway; because the conditions that led the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to designate Haiti for TPS continue to exist. The country continues to be plagued by poverty and lack of infrastructure, with Hurricane Matthew in 2016 leaving vast destruction in its wake. Instead, the Trump administration has chosen to upend peoples' lives, tear apart families, and slash the principal source of foreign exchange for Haiti, remittances from expatriate Haitians. It comes to about \$2 billion annually.

This is just one more proof of the racist, xenophobic, and repressive essence of the Trump regime. We must rise up to resist it.

Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are the victims not merely of natural catastrophes, but more fundamentally a century of oppression by US imperialism, punctuated by American invasions and occupations, US-backed dictatorships and CIA-orchestrated civil wars and coups.

Workers throughout the world must come forward in defense of immigrants, refugees and to support workers' struggles in the US & Mexico.

No Trump, no wall !

Berthony Dupont
Director of Haiti Liberté

GREETINGS FROM BRAZIL

Dear Mexican and U.S. sisters and brothers present at the Binational Conference,

First of all, we welcome your initiative to hold a conference of this nature against the Trump “Wall of Shame and for the repeal of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

In Brazil, in 2002, the workers, youth and people’s movement in Brazil rejected the Bill Clinton administration’s drive to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). And this was done through a wide mobilization that culminated in a popular plebiscite with the participation of more than 10 million people, which, together with the resistance in other countries, made it impossible to implement this free trade agreement on a continental scale.

Today, with the coup government of Michel Temer, a vassal of the financial markets and imperialism, an effort is being made to associate Brazil — along with Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay – with the “free trade” agenda on a global scale through the signing of a “Free Trade Treaty between MERCOSUR and the European Union”. This Treaty is not happenstance; it is expected to be signed within the framework of the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which will take place between December 10 and 14 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

According to an expert on the issue, Jeferson Miola, the Mercosur-EU Treaty will allow:

“that any other world economic power — the United States, China, Japan — can invoke the WTO Most Favored Nation Clause to receive the same treatment as European corporations, representing an even greater process of economic, commercial, technological and cultural colonization.”

And he further states:

“The effects of the agreement for MERCOSUR will be much worse than the original FTAA project, the ambitious strategy of political, cultural and economic annexation of the Western Hemisphere that the United States failed to impose. The consequences of this treaty, besides promoting unemployment on a greater level on a sub-continental scale, will be rampant deindustrialization; it will condemn the MERCOSUR countries to productive reprimarization.”

Has not “productive reprimarization” been what we have witnessed in Mexico with NAFTA? Have we not seen NAFTA promote the relocalization of U.S. corporations to Mexico to take advantage of the super-exploited labor force?

Temer’s country-selling government and the corrupt majority of the National Congress in Brazil have just carried out a deep “labor reform” that practically eliminates all legal guarantees, removing all workers’ rights in relation to the bosses. Immediately after imposing this law, the government now seeks to approve the “social security reform” that in fact does away with the possibility of workers to retire through the public social security system.

All this creates an attractive environment for the Free Trade Treaty between Mercosur and the European Union, and by extension for the large U.S. transnational corporations.

As you can see, we are greatly interested in the discussions and conclusions of your Binational Conference as we believe it is necessary to promote the broadest resistance of workers from all over the

Americas to all the schemes concocted by Big Business that seek to give the bosses more freedoms to deepen the exploitation of the workforce and to restrict even further the rights of workers and peoples.

Wishing you a successful Conference,

Greetings,

Angelo Vanhoni - Secretary General of the Workers Party (PT) of Paraná

André Machado - President of PT of Curitiba / Paraná

Aguinaldo Garcez - Director of the two Bank Workers Unions of Florianópolis and region / Santa Catarina

Ney Jansen - Delegate to the Mumbai World Conference; Director of Curitiba Sul Nucleus of APP-Sindicato, Paraná

Júlio Garcia - Lawyer and activist - Rio Grande do Sul

Leonardo Araújo - Historian, Rio de Janeiro

Ualid Rabah - Institutional Relations Officer of the Palestinian Arab Federation of Brazil - FEPAL

Antonio Battisti - President of PT of São José / Santa Catarina

Pedro Carrano - Militant of Consulta Popular and Frente Brasil Popular, Paraná

Ana Clara Zalasik - Director of the Academic Center for Psychology of Univali, Santa Catarina

Anísio G. Homem - State Executive Committee of PT of Paraná

Cláudio Ribeiro - Lawyer, founder of PT, Paraná

Mônica de O. Giovannetti – Retired, public sector worker, ex-union leader of CUT, Paraná

Johnson G. Homem - Lawyer, PT Florianópolis / Santa Catarina

Mateus Branco - Student of International Relations of Univali, Santa Catarina

Boanerges Zulmires Elias Neto - President of Núcleo Curitiba Norte of APP-Sindicato, Paraná

GREETINGS FROM CANADA

Comrades and friends,

You hold this Conference in order to organize the fight to cancel NAFTA and to prevent the construction of the Wall of the Shame, a policy led by US imperialism against the working class and peoples of the three countries, United States of America, Mexico and Canada.

Comrades and friends,

Through NAFTA, which entered into force on 1994, Canadian and Mexican markets are forced to open wide for American products (spare parts for cars and trucks, agriculture, clothing, electronics and services), to relocate American factories, especially in the automotive sector, to these countries, to privatize economic and social sectors and to question workers rights.

Concerning Canada: on average, Canadian exports to the United States are 80% of total Canadian exports, while the exports from the United States to Canada are less than 60% of their total exports. American factories and business have been outsourced to this country firing American workers and imposing low wages for Canadian workers; at the same time Canadian factories and businesses have been outsourced to right-to-work states in the US, and to Mexico.

The ongoing NAFTA negotiations are aimed, according to the Trump administration, at reducing the trade deficit with these countries. In reality, it is about amplifying the attacks on the working class and the peoples of our countries.

In Canada, recourse to special laws has become the rule to counter the mobilisations and strikes for the satisfaction of workers' demands, as happened recently in Quebec in the construction industry and at Ontario colleges.

Comrades and friends,

We were unable to attend the Conference, which could have been Trinational; rest assured that your fight is ours and we will look for ways to join you.

Full success at the Conference.

Signed:

B. Ross Ashley; retired hospital worker, former member of the Executive Council of Local 204 SEIU; member of the executive of the Toronto-St Paul's New Democratic Party, supporter of the NDP Socialist Caucus

Paul Nkunzimana; Correspondent, International Workers Committee

REPLY TO A MESSAGE FROM ARGENTINA

Motion To Denounce the Repression of the Mapuche people in Patagonia, Argentina

The Binational Conference learned through a message sent to it by a press worker in Bariloche, Argentina, of the brutal police repression that is targeting the indigenous Mapuche people. This repression has so far fatally killed two young men, brutally murdered by police forces: Santiago Maldonado and Rafael Nahuel.

The president of Argentina, Mauricio Macri (not by chance someone who was once a business associate of Trump), when he spoke for the first time about the deaths of the activists supporting the Mapuche cause, referred to the Mapuches as a "minority group of violent people" who are seeking to impose an agenda of violence.

We are familiar with such false arguments that seek to criminalize the victims. In Mexico this is a constant. In the United States, immigrants from Mexico and Central America are portrayed as potential criminals. This is true as well of Black youth, who are portrayed as violent and misguided, all for the sake of justifying the police killings and repressing of these youth.

We have been informed that what is provoking the Mapuche people to take action is the greed of wealthy landowners seeking to take control of the extensive Patagonian lands. The Benetton corporation owns hundreds of thousands of acres in the region, while British billionaire Joe Lewis claims to own tens of thousands of hectares, including a huge lake that he considers to be his own.

For us, this is a struggle against the land grab by the billionaires of land that is the basis for the existence and survival of the Mapuches. Those who are perpetrating the violence are those who seek to rob the Mapuches of their historic lands and who unleash the repression against activists fighting on the side of the Mapuches.

This is why we commit ourselves to:

1. Take this denunciation to affiliates of our organizations in the United States and Mexico;
2. To submit in the United States and Mexico motions in our organizations calling on the Argentine government to cease the repression of the Mapuche people, for their right to the land where they have always lived, and to carry out a rigorous investigation and conviction of those responsible for the deaths of the two young activists Santiago Maldonado and Rafael Nahuel;
3. Establish contact and solidarity with union bodies in Argentina supporting this struggle.