

# **PEACE 4 THE PEOPLE**

## **NEWSLETTER OF ILPS COMMISSION 4**



Issue 10, Nov. 2020



## **MARK ARMISTICE DAY WITH ANTI-IMPERIALIST ACTION! BUILD THE PEOPLES' GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR JUST PEACE!**

Armistice Day falls on the anniversary of the conclusion of World War One on November 11 in 1918. It was a foolish war for domination among European empires for which millions of people were forced or misled into sacrificing their lives, homes, livelihood and peace. Thus, 10s of millions of people perished if not in battle as soldiers or civilians in the line of fire, as victims through starvation, cold or wet weather and disease--all for the pride, status and wealth of the aristocracies. A high number of survivors suffered permanent pain and disabilities such as limb amputations and lung ailments from mustard gas exposure, hypothermia, unsanitary conditions, shrapnel wounds and more in addition to emotional trauma. The circumstances of the Great War cause rapid and widespread infection of the Spanish Flu in 1918, which killed 10s of millions more people by 1920.

Commission 4 strongly urges ILPS organizations and allies to organize and engage in activities for just peace around Armistice Day on November 11. Regional conflicts are multiplying and intensifying, and the danger of another global war looms. The arms trade and US-led imperialism are trying to snuff out independence and democratic movements and destroy established revolutions by direct military intervention, severe economic pressure or the deliberate strategy of either creating coups or chaos. Hoping to manage the all-sided crisis of global capitalism this way, the imperialists are making direct deals with reactionaries, fascists and terrorists and encouraging them on with offers to share the spoils of war, plunder and exploitation.

This fall, Commission 4 put a challenge to the United Nations Organization. We pointed out that military and industrial activities are drastically facilitating global warming. Monumental climate disasters are results of greed and excessive plunder and exploitation. We responded to the UN's 2020 theme "Shaping Peace Together" as a wish for kindness, compassion and hope. We asked, "Where are the plans to stop aggression and bring about lasting peace? What is it doing about the lawlessness of aggressors?"

The UN has also been calling for a ceasefire in the time of COVID. We say that the people cannot drop their struggles for the necessities of life, land and livelihood, liberation from occupation, tyranny and aggression, for food, shelter, health care and education. In fact, these struggles are even more justified at this time because states resources and planning have come up short, causing undue death and loss of livelihood. The people are within their rights to carry on such just struggles and we support them, even if they take up arms. The international community and authorities should uphold human rights and international law. The UN should be speaking out against occupation, state terror, fascism, aggression and economic coercive measures in the name of just peace. They should defend the peoples and their just struggles around Armistice Day and Human Rights Day (Dec. 10) and call the aggressors, warmongers, war profiteers and tyrants to account.

The imperialist system is giving rise to higher and higher levels and more and more devious forms of violence, which are causing ill-health of the environment, the people, nationhood and sovereignty. Imperialist structures, policies

and strategies should be examined, understood, analyzed and protested by the masses. They must continue to organize to defend their rights against aggression and militarization, to unite widely in common causes against imperialism.

To Commission 4 and the ILPS, peace is not an abstract ideal. Peace is food, land, basic services in the absence of tyranny, occupation, militarization, aggression and interference. Yes, we prefer negotiations to armed action, but human needs and rights must be respected and solutions to the peoples' problems fully and properly addressed and settled. We shout, "NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!"

State and military authorities hosting the ceremonies on Armistice Day typically restrict their memory and respect to the military victims of wars. They contradict wise veterans who desire an end to all war by glorifying war and encouraging more youth to step forward to sacrifice for war. These authorities do not pay respects to the civilian victims of war who have perished from indiscriminate bombings and fire, contaminants, disease and starvation during times of war, though 10s of millions of people, military personnel and civilians, died in World War One and again in World War Two. Many civilians perished as volunteer fascist-fighters. The ILPS and the anti-imperialist movement work toward ending wars of aggression, occupation and trade in arms for profit.

Monopoly capitalism, state violence and militarization go hand in hand. Capital requires force to ensure a few oligarchs and corporate billionaires benefit. World War One dragged in citizens of many countries to be sacrificed for the sake of competing empires in Europe. After the great tragedies of scenes such as Vimy Ridge and Gallipoli, more working people living in the colonies of Britain wanted independence. Some peoples' independence movements eventually won through ardent struggle. Many were willing to join the fight against fascist, imperial Germany and Japan in the 1940s. Germany and Japan and their allies were defeated, and the British Empire came to a close after World War Two ended. Stealthily, the US was waiting in the shadows to play the hero while it sought to profit from WW2 and the rebuilding of Europe and East Asia. Moreover, it began to turn some colonies into neo-colonies, such as Korea and Canada, by buying up the lion's share of the economy and raking in most of the profits. This was their solution to the economic crisis of the period. It occupied Germany, Japan, Korea and the Philippines to undertake a project of rebuilding them in its image, to dominate and exploit the situations. This imperialist superpower thereby arose.

After transferring most of its capital and production abroad as a solution to the deep recession of the 1970s and 1980s, especially to Asia, however, the US finds its tail has eaten its own head; its status crumbling today as capitalist rivals, having consumed capital investments and US debt bundles, grow into monsters in their own right. Tensions are extreme. The security, communication and weapons development industries may be having a hey-day, but economic crisis combined with inter-imperialist rivalries and contradictions spell great danger for the working people of the world.

The appeal to sacrifice for a small class of the very rich and powerful chimes on incessantly. Not only are the people to sacrifice in war on demand. The people are to sacrifice themselves at work, suffering injuries and deaths at work and most often being underpaid or rendered redundant at any given moment. They are expected to sacrifice themselves by doing without guaranteed proper healthcare and safety standards, without secure and steady livelihoods, without state support in times of need and without adequate emergency planning, all for the good of a tiny minority and the profit-making wheels of private industry and finance. Furthermore, many people are victims of state terror, especially dissenters whom states and their criminal agents persecute.

Many activists and community representatives step forward voluntarily to risk their livelihoods and lives in defending their rights, lands, dignity and basic needs. We remember and honour the martyrs of liberation struggles. We pay special homage to fallen activists and guerrilla fighters of the Philippines and those of Palestine this fall. Commission 4 joins in the month of solidarity for the Kurdish people. Free, free, Kurdistan! Down with Turkish fascism and war!

We have everything to gain and many problems to solve by building a united anti-imperialist movement. Let us march on to continue to build our struggles this year and beyond. The times are crying out for a global people's movement for just peace. We must build on the momentum of resistance expressed so far in 2020 and carry forward anti-imperialist analysis and action into 2021 and after.

## NOVEMBER-DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

**November 1: International launch of ILPS Month of Solidarity with Kurdistan**

**November 4, US: OCCUPY THE STREETS** No work, No school, No shopping! A Call for People's General Strike if the election is stolen

**November 6: ICHRP-Canada launch of the campaign to defend Negros Island.** Time: 6pm PST / 9pm EST / 10am PHT (Nov 7) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7520211111>

[https://www.facebook.com/events/2701605186721028?active\\_tab=about](https://www.facebook.com/events/2701605186721028?active_tab=about)

**November 11 Armistice Day actions** for just peace against imperialist aggression and militarization

**Fighting for Just Peace, Part 2 by Commissions 1 and 4 and Resist US-Led War** (details TBA)

**December 10 International Human Rights Day actions**

## SUCCESSFUL ILPS INTERVENTIONS IN OCTOBER:

Opposing the occupation of Palestine and Israel's terror and wars of aggression and defending national and social liberation, social equality and real democracy



**ILPS MONTH OF GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**  
**OCTOBER 3, 6AM PDT VIA ZOOM**

**LEILA KHALED, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

*"I have learned that a woman can be a fighter. A freedom fighter... The question of women is a part of our struggle but not the only part. Revolution must mean life also. Every aspect of life."*



**The ILPS International Coordinating Committee provided a launch to its Palestine solidarity month** hosted by ICC member and Commission 4 Co-Coordinator Cody Urban, took place on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. This online forum elaborated on the main reason for the focus on Palestine solidarity at this time: the troubling trend of normalizing relations with the criminal state of Israel. Most Arab countries have maintained solidarity with the Palestinian people by rightfully opposing the illegal and brutal occupation of Palestine by Zionist Israel. Since they have not recognized Israel's claims to Palestinian territory, they have refrained from diplomatic relations with Israel. However, there are maneuvers to upend this stance. The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, however, recently reversed their positions, made pacts with Israel and re-opened their diplomatic relations. They thus are giving consent to the occupation and terror against Palestine, while they sing pleasing songs about peace. This is a false position of peace, for they neither recognize the chief wrongdoing nor Palestine's right to independence and Palestinians right to return. Also, they have resurrected the decayed notion of a "two-state solution" which is no solution for Palestinians.



**Upcoming Activities**  
October 2020

**THANK YOU PALESTINE!**  
October 15  
3 PM UTC+3  
ILPS West Asia

**STAND FOR PALESTINIAN FREEDOM!**  
October 25  
9 AM UTC+8  
ILPS Philippines

**COLORS OF RESISTANCE**  
October 27  
Online and offline protest actions

**CULTURAL PROGRAM**  
October 30  
Culminating activity for the month of solidarity



ILPS Commission 3 issued a statement calling for the end of the occupation and the release of all Palestinian political prisoners. The Palestinian Youth Movement hosted a discussion about political playwright Ghassan Kanafani on October 22. It featured playwright Ismail Khalidi and poet Dr. Omar Zahzah. "Thank you, Palestine!" and "Stand for Palestinian Freedom" were two more webinars on the Palestine solidarity month program. They were set up by ILPS West Asia and ILPS Philippines, respectively. The solidarity month concluded with an online protest on October 27 and a cultural event on October 30.

**A virtual presentation called "Reclaim our Rights: freeing tomorrow from the IMF-WB neoliberal pandemic" transpired on October 13.** Co-organizers included: the Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN), IBON International, Indigenous People's Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL), People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), and the People Over Profit Network. The event's promotional flyer provided the rationale for this discussion.

Today's crises exposed the effects of the neoliberal policy of the U.S.-led International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group (IMF-WB) on the people's right to health and other socio-economic rights. But these institutions continue to work for domination of corporations in "development." While the global South and their peoples are sinking even deeper in debt, they oppose cancellations and trap people's futures in continued debt bondage. In a time when the exploitative world economic system itself is under question, they remain steadfast

in defending it in the name of “recovery”. Even in a time of health and economic crises, the IMF-WB both forward monopoly capitalist interests. (October 12, 2020)

This webinar criticized the conventional development model and its dubious talk about “economic recovery.” The impressive speakers list was Joanna Cariño of the Cordillera People’s Alliance & the Indigenous People’s Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation, Roland Nassour of the Save Bisri Valley Campaign, Kurniawan Sabar of the People Over Profit Network, Sarojeni Rengam of PAN-Asia Pacific, Len Cooper of the International League of Peoples’ Struggle, and Jennifer Malonzo of IBON International.

**ILPS Commission 15 “on the rights and welfare of migrants workers, diaspora and refugees displaced by imperialism and local reactionaries” organized a webinar for October 17.** The reason was to provide a space for deeper discussions on the interrelationships and impacts of imperialism, systemic racism, and the scapegoating of migrants. The online forum strove to deepen our understanding of systemic racism and its relationship to imperialism and how these interrelationships manifest with the issues of migrants in countries around the world.

**The new mass organization in the US, Youth Against Empire, held its first public event, an online rally, "Youth Speak Out Against the Wars at Home and Abroad," on Saturday, October 17** at 4 PM Eastern. Part of the “Keep it in the Streets against Racism, Evictions and War” campaign shared by several mass organizations in the US these days. It is aligned with the United National Anti-war Coalition, to which several ILPS member groups belong.

Allies of ILPS-Canada, Just Peace Advocates, called for **online actions against the illegal recruitment of military personnel in Canada for the Israel Defense Forces.** A people’s “Twitter storm” raged on the afternoon of October 19. Citizens have worked with distinguished writers to compose letters to Justice Minister Lametti “to investigate illegal recruitment in Canada for the Israeli military”. A legal complaint has been sent to him. Recruitment has appeared to be done through the Israeli Consulate in Toronto. The JPA statement read:

It is a crime in Canada to recruit anyone for a foreign military. It is also a crime to aid and abet such recruitment by offering incentives and encouraging any person to serve in a foreign military. ... According to the *CBC*, 230 Canadians were in the IDF in 2017. It is unclear how many of these individuals were recruited in ways that violate the Foreign Enlistment Act.

**Commissions 1 and 4, along with Resist US-Led War, prepared an international virtual forum on October 24. The main subject was peace negotiations and just peace,** with the examples of the peace talks in the Philippines and Colombia. Labeled “The Fight for a Just and Lasting Peace,” this event was scheduled to coincide with the start of UN Disarmament Week. It extended Commission 4’s ongoing challenge to the UN to stand up for the UN Charter and defend armed and unarmed civilian struggles for land, social, political and legal justice. The guest speakers were Frank Chapman, Chairperson for the National Alliance Against Racism and Police, Julie de Lima National, Peace Panel Chairperson for the Democratic Front of the Philippines and an educator in Colombia, Yacinta. Julie de Lima reviewed the world history of peoples’ struggles against forms of oppression, domination and war. The oppressors, aggressors and occupiers always try to pacify the people with false promises to effectively disarm their rebellions and set them up for betrayal or encourage complicity and offer rewards to some for cooperation. The people make advances whenever they persist and continue their fights for their just demands such as land, livelihood and political power. She gave the example of the conflict in the Philippines. Yacinta explained that Colombian authorities and their backers try to set up ceasefires and negotiate with revolutionary factions without holding the fascist groups, paramilitaries, and police accountable. If human rights violations are not addressed and the perpetrators are not met with justice and neutralized, the people cannot advance, so they must keep up their struggle. Frank Chapman stressed the necessity to broaden and build mass struggle for full civil rights and social and legal justice for blacks, minorities and the poor in the US. The state always makes demands on the people and wants to criminalize and punish the people for protesting without addressing the injustices and the root causes of unrest. The anti-racism, workers’ rights and anti-poverty movements must unite and align themselves with the global anti-imperialist struggle, he said.

## 50 States Ratify the 2017 Nuclear Ban Treaty

The proposal for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was accepted in the summer of 2017. The International Campaign against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) succeeded in finding 70 sponsor states for it. The UNGA's First Committee passed a resolution to support this treaty at its annual meeting on November 1, 2018. The vote in favour counted 122 states with 41 against. The next step was to get official state signatures to ratify it. 50 were required. There were 44 ratifications by UN International Peace Day 2020 after two were declared on Hiroshima Day. Finally, the 50<sup>th</sup> signatory was achieved on October 24, the first day of UN Disarmament week. So far, those signatories include many Caribbean and South Pacific states and a few smaller powers such as Ireland and Belgium. The document will therefore be legally binding within three months. Signatories cannot make or use nuclear weapons. ICAN will carry on soliciting more signatures to expand the coverage and effectiveness of this law.

## NATIONAL ELECTIONS UPDATES

The International Action Center encouraged support for workers' interests by intervening in the US federal election campaigning. Their solidarity office announced a **Workers' Assembly against Racism to happen in Union Square Park, NYC on the afternoon of October 18**. The agenda of this rally was to support calls to hold strikes against racism and to respond to the threats of coups and fascist violence during elections. The October 18 rally was a lead-up to an anti-racist, anti-fascist assembly planned near the Trump International Hotel on the afternoon of Saturday, November 7. The intention of these actions was to build a people's defense led by workers against the schemes of armed racists to watch polls on Election Day with impunity. President Trump had already announced that his government would not interfere in such right-wing intimidation tactics. In the context of many incidents of police brutality, especially wanton attacks on black or brown people, this is very disturbing. Democratic-minded people who value social justice feel the need to prepare for trouble with right-wing and fascist, armed mobilizations against democracy acting in defiance of the movements to contain police and racism.

**The Black Alliance for Peace launched the Candidate Accountability Pledge** as part of their broader campaign, No Compromise, No Retreat: Defeat the War Against African/Black People in the U.S. and Abroad, "to say public officials coming to our people for support must embrace an agenda that in the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., addresses the ongoing issues of "racism, materialism and militarism" that characterize the politics of the United States as the 'greatest purveyor of violence on the planet'."

**A virtual forum on the December National Assembly elections in Venezuela** was successfully organized by the Venezuela Peace and Solidarity Committee of Vancouver with Just Peace Committee (an ILPS member) hosting special guest the Venezuelan Chargé d'affaires in Canada, Luis Augusto Acuña-Cedeño. Attendees were invited to unite in solidarity with the Bolivarian revolution and stand by the sovereignty and democracy of Bolivarian Venezuela. "No foreign interference or reactionary shenanigans! On Dec.6, let the people decide." Mr. Acuña made invited all parliamentarians of conscience to visit his country and monitor the elections this December. The forum contributed to international solidarity among Canadian activists. It further served to build awareness of the situation in Venezuela and the challenges that the people face. It was particularly helpful in underlining the importance of the December 6 elections, which deserve international solidarity in the context of the US-led imperialist history of elections interference and coup attempts. It is evidently a pivotal moment in the history of the Bolivarian movement. It is hoped that the election will result in peoples' representation that will be posed to build on the past advances (housing, education, free health care and transportation). In the meantime, Venezuela's current National Constituent Assembly passed several anti-blockade laws in October to counter the 400 US imposed coercive economic measures. The new laws aim to create ways around the blockade and allow domestic business and importation to carry on.

**In Bolivia**, the Movement Towards Socialism (MAS) party and its supporters among the masses were holding rallies in the streets and campaigning strongly. Signs favoured their return to power throughout the campaign, even according to mainstream media. However, reactionaries were provoking skirmishes in a few areas. After the Right tried to delay the elections for months, the results at the election polls proved that the people did not want imperialism. With a 52.4% majority, the people voted resoundingly for social development for the people alongside independent economic development. They thus rejected the US-backed military coup that ousted Evo Morales last year after an election which was unjustifiably deemed by reactionaries as fraud. Evo Morales congratulated the people from his current residence in Argentina. The new President-elect is Luis Arce, former Finance Minister.

**The struggle for democracy in Thailand has resurged.** Last year was the first time that elections were held since the military took control and installed a Prime Minister in 2014. The people want the PM to resign and are calling for the royal Chulalongkorn family to loosen its hold on power and give up much of its wealth. Since the king has been living abroad for a long time, they complain that the king has been neglecting his country. These reforms will require Constitutional amendments. Thousands of working people led by students have been protesting in the streets. They have devised clever means of political messaging and coordination using hand signals, color codes and social media. They are aware that evidence of communications will give the government evidence to convict protesters. The government tried to ban a messaging app, Telegram, and an online TV service on October 20. According to *DW News*, the protests keep growing in defiance of water cannon attacks and arrests of leaders ([dw.com](http://dw.com), viewed on *Youtube* on October 19, 2020). Under this intense political pressure, some detainees held as of October 16 were released three days later. Now all protesters are identifying as “leaders.” More significantly, the mass struggle has brought about a special parliamentary session to discuss the peoples’ demands. However, readers must be mindful that the military controls the parliament.

**The Chileno people have a new, democratic constitution. A referendum for constitutional reform passed by over 70% on October 25**, winning the people a constitution on a par with that of Cuba. This is an important victory for the people of Chile who have been protesting en masse in the streets for months for civil rights and social equality. It is also a politically positive sign for the continent. Now begins a year-long process to establish representation on a Constitutional Assembly for Chile, which will limit the Right-wing government’s decision-making capacity for that period.

## SUDAN PEACE TALKS

Reprinted from the independent news source *Dabanga* from the [www.dabangasudan.org](http://www.dabangasudan.org) website accessed on October 6, 2020

**“Sudan Peace Talks: Hamdok, El Hilu agree on roadmap,” posted in Khartoum on September 5, 2020**

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/sudan-peace-talks-hamdok-el-hilu-agree-on-roadmap>

**After signing an accord on the basic principles for the peace negotiations between Khartoum and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North faction headed by Abdelaziz El Hilu (SPLM-N El Hilu) on Thursday, Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok and El Hilu also agreed on the negotiation methodology. UN Secretary General António Guterres welcomed the accord.**

On Friday, dozens of supporters of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North faction under the leadership of Abdelaziz El Hilu gathered at Khartoum International Airport to receive Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok who was returning from Ethiopia where he had signed a Declaration of Principles with the Nuba rebel leader. They carried banners reading “Peace First”, “Hamdok and El Hilu are the Hope of Sudan”, “Peace of the Brave”, and “Secularism guarantees the unity of Sudan”.

Hamdok flew to Addis Ababa to meet with El Hilu after attending the signing in initials of a comprehensive peace agreement between Khartoum and the Sudan Revolutionary Front rebel alliance in the South Sudanese capital of Juba on Monday. The SPLM-N El Hilu, operating in the Nuba Mountains in South Kordofan and parts of Blue Nile state,

entered the peace negotiations in Juba last year separately. Its long-standing position is to establish a viable secular Sudan that prevents imposing laws on a religious basis, and the right to self-determination for the southern region.

Last month, the rebel group withdrew from the talks in Juba in protest of the chairmanship of the government delegation by Lt Gen Mohamed Hamdan 'Hemeti', Deputy Chairman of the Sovereign Council, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia. The rebels accuse the RSF forces of committing "heinous crimes" against civilians in various parts of Sudan.

Hamdok and El Hilu announced on Thursday that they agreed on the continuation of the current cessation of hostilities for the duration of the negotiation process, as well as on six basic principles, including the acknowledgement of Sudan being a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society that should be ruled democratically, based on "separation of religion and state".

### Roadmap

In a statement on Friday, Hamdok and El Hilu said that they further agreed to draw up a roadmap that defines the negotiation methodology, and a matrix containing responsibilities and timelines. Both sides will organise informal negotiation workshops to discuss "contentious issues such as secularism and the right to self-determination", in order "to reach a common understanding that will facilitate the task of the formal negotiation teams".

The Council of Ministers reacted on Friday by saying that the joint agreement that addresses "the outstanding issues in the Juba Declaration of Principles" signed in September last year, will become binding after it has been ratified by the relevant institutions, and will be adjusted in light of progress achieved in the informal negotiations. The government "does not consider peace a sole political matter, but rather a humanitarian and human rights issue that opens the door wide for the return of displaced people and refugees to their areas of origin," the council said in its statement.

The SPLM-N El Hilu commented on Friday that it will keep to its position on the importance of secularism as "a solid foundation for [Sudan as] a state based on pluralism, equality, justice, and freedom".



SPLM-

*N leader Abdelaziz El Hilu greets his troops in the movement's stronghold in Kauda, South Kordofan (Sudaneseonline)*

**NO JUSTICE**



**NO PEACE**

The ILPS is the International League of Peoples' Struggles, an anti-imperialist alliance. [www.ilps.info](http://www.ilps.info)  
*Commission 4 is concerned with wars of aggression and counter-revolution and nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.*

<https://peace450.wixsite.org/website>

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**EDUCATION AND ACTION FOR  
ARMISTICE DAY on November 11 and**

**Remember all the victims of the great World Wars!  
Remember the martyrs of liberation struggles!  
Organize and mobilize to stop US aggression and militarization!**

**ILPS SOLIDARITY MONTH FOR KURDISTAN**

**-launch on November 1**

**Solidarity points:**

- 1. The solitary confinement of Öcalan in prison and the call for his freedom**
- 2. Turkey's Occupation**
- 3. Fascism in the region**

**COLOMBIA:**

**CONDEMN THE POLITICAL KILLINGS AND HARASSMENT!**

**Protest the recent assassination attempt against former Senator, Piedad Cordoba Ruiz,**  
reprinted from the Alliance for Global Justice e-statement released on October 2, 2020

*The Alliance for Global Justice condemns the attack against our colleague and friend Piedad Córdoba Ruiz, a Colombian lawyer and politician, on September 30 in the city of Bogotá. On Wednesday night, a group of eight armed men shot at the ex-senator's vehicle. This attack, the constant threats against Piedad Córdoba Ruiz, and the murder of human rights defenders who seek peace in Colombia are evidence of the serious situation of violence that the country is going through.*

*The attack against Piedad Córdoba Ruiz comes days after the ex-Senator demanded that the Special Jurisdiction for Peace pay greater attention to the victims of paramilitarism and shortly before she declared that she would bring to the Truth Commission the evidence that involve the intellectual authors of the assassination of lawyer Álvaro Gómez Hurtado back in 1991.*

*We at the Alliance for Global Justice demand:*

- *Immediate and transparent investigation of the attack against Piedad Córdoba Ruiz, and the capture of the material and intellectual authors of the attack.*
- *Immediate and transparent investigation of the threats against Piedad Córdoba Ruiz.*
- *That the Ombudsman's Office and the Attorney General's Office investigate the attacks and murders of human rights defenders and the Colombian people who work for peace. No more impunity!*



## **Protests against police brutality are mounting around the world**

Mass demonstrations against police brutality continue in the US where a national march is preparing in the event of measurable electoral fraud on election day. They went on for two weeks in Nigeria, compelling the Black Alliance for Peace and Pan-African Community Action to release a joint statement denouncing the illegal police violence on October 22. The Nigerian state has been forced to commence hearings.

After 13 people protesting police violence were murdered at the hands of police in Colombia, Indigenous people and students demonstrated in Colombia on October 11 when hundreds marched against state and paramilitary violence. Some 7,000 indigenous people and their allies of the Minga movement congregated in Bogota on October 20. Labour, indigenous and student factions held a national strike on October 21. They are also inviting President Duque to meet their leaders to discuss the movement's demands. The Alliance for Global Justice cites their four demands as follows \*AfGJ e-news October 21, 2020).

1. An end to the massacres, ethnocide, genocide, femicide, and political violence, and the dismantling of paramilitary organizations;
2. Land reform and an end to the politics of resource extraction;
3. Guarantees of freedom to protest and participate safely in the political process;
4. Demilitarization of Colombian society and fulfillment of the peace accord

Meanwhile, the federal court ruled that ex-President Uribe could be released from house arrest. The ruling is an insult to true justice and an insult to the Uribe administration's victims.

# CRITICISM OF THE UN-HRC'S RESOLUTION ON THE HR CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES

-Statement of the International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation

<https://www.ipmsdl.org/statement/demand-justice-for-the-victims-of-ip-human-rights-violations-in-ph-push-for-independent-probe-initiatives/>

The International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self-Determination and Liberation expresses its disappointment towards the adoption of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UN HRC) the recent resolution on “technical cooperation and capacity-building for the promotion and protection of human rights” as a response to the worsening human rights situation in the Philippines.

While this resolution proves the existing human rights crisis in the Philippines, it eclipses the merit of an impartial, independent investigation in delivering justice for the victims and their families, and the protection of many Indigenous Peoples (IP), activists and rights defenders at risk.

For instance, IPMSDL member Cordillera Peoples’ Alliance (CPA) has been incessantly targeted by State forces with threats and harassment to justify the police and military’s malicious terrorist-tagging. In the Southernmost part of the Philippines in Mindanao, the Lumad communities have experienced years of attacks by military and paramilitary groups. Even at the time of the pandemic, the Save Our Schools Network documented 32 attacks on Lumad schools, including forced closures, illegal arrests and aerial bombings. Last month, a school of Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc. Academy in Bukidnon was targeted by paramilitary group Magahat Bagani Force destroying its buildings and school materials. These cases of intense militarization have forced some Lumad communities to seek refuge at the United Church for Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) in Haran Center, Davao. Still, these sanctuaries for displaced Lumad were not spared by the paramilitary and State agencies from threats of closure after endless smear campaigns and terrorist-tagging propaganda.

Reports of widespread and systematic extrajudicial killings under the Duterte government perpetuates in the guise of campaigns against illegal drugs and counterinsurgency programs. It has taken advantage of the pandemic to sow fear and silence its critics. On top of these, the criticized Anti-Terror Act of 2020 has emboldened the State forces to intensify its attacks on all government critics and dissenters including IP rights defenders and activists.

The failure of domestic accountability mechanisms in curbing human rights abuses underscores the urgency for meaningful actions from the international community. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet has repeatedly expressed grave concerns on the “serious violations of human rights backed with harmful rhetoric by top government officials” in the Philippines as presented in her report to the 44th UN HRC session. Notwithstanding, on the 45th UN HRC session, a resolution for “technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies” was instead adopted by States falling short from the international clamor for an on-the-ground independent, impartial investigation.

Despite these, let us continue to actively engage with the UN and other international human rights mechanisms in pushing for an independent probe to stop the killings and address the culture of impunity in the Philippines. Let us support initiatives and people-led actions in conducting investigations in the Philippines, such as those forwarded by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRP). We enjoin the international community to broaden our unity, remain vigilant and decisively act on steps in exacting justice and accountability for all human rights victims, their families, and affected communities.

\*Reference: Beverly Longid, Global [Coordinatorinfo@ipmsdl.org](mailto:Coordinatorinfo@ipmsdl.org) <[info@ipmsdl.org](mailto:info@ipmsdl.org)>\*

# IS THE ANZUS TREATY A CORNERSTONE OF AUSTRALIAN SECURITY OR MERELY A USEFUL MYTH?

*Spirit of Eureka Statement, September 9th, 2020* (published on Sept. 24; accessed on October 14)

Since its ratification in 1951, Australian politicians and pundits have touted the ANZUS treaty as a guarantee of Australian security. The US in signing the treaty with Australia and New Zealand did not commit to automatically supporting those countries with military forces in the event of armed attack. Rather, there is a less stringent commitment to 'consult'. Close reading of the actual text of the treaty reveals that it is not the security guarantee that it has consistently been made out to be.

In a July 2020 Discussion Paper for the Australia Institute, Allan Behm provides much in the way of insight into the ANZUS treaty. Starting with the historical background to the document, Behm describes the motives behind External Affairs Minister Percy Spender's drive to extract a security guarantee from the US government. Spender was concerned about the Cold War but was also very concerned about Japanese re-armament. Spender wanted a NATO style agreement with the US, but his counterparts in the US government had their own ideas. US officials did not want to make too much in the way of a military commitment to come to the aid of Australia and New Zealand in the event of an armed attack on either country. US officials however wanted a commitment from Australia and New Zealand to a Peace treaty with Japan. As a form of *quid pro quo*, the ANZUS treaty was signed in exchange for Australia signing a Peace treaty with Japan, a treaty that was opposed by many in Australia including some in the Menzies government. Japan was seen by the US as a certain ally in the Northeast Asia region, particularly since the 'loss' of China to the communists in 1949 and the advent of the Cold War.

So from its inception in 1951, the ANZUS treaty was a product of compromise and was less than what the Australian government wanted. Of course, this has not stopped the promotion of it as the cornerstone of Australian defence policy and guarantor of Australian security.

In his Discussion Paper Behm unpacks the actual contents of the treaty. [1] The ANZUS treaty is just over 800 words in length and is made up of what Behm calls preambular and operative paragraphs. The preambular paragraphs, of which there are five, are given a rather quick analysis by Behm but it seems that these paragraphs are along the lines of 'motherhood' statements with little in the way of the actual mechanics of the treaty. The nuts and bolts of the treaty are found in the eleven articles in the operative paragraphs. Of these eleven articles, articles 1,3,4 and 5 are the most important. Article 3 relates to possible threats to the signatories and is quite brief. "The Parties will consult together whenever in the opinion of any of them the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened in the Pacific." As Behm makes clear in his discussion of article 3, there is no explicit commitment to provide military forces; consultation would be sufficient to cover the signatories' treaty obligations.

The wording of the articles is deliberately ambiguous, designed that way by US officials in order to avoid any automatic military commitment to its treaty partners. As Behm notes: 'to assume any automaticity in the application of the operative paragraphs, especially in a time of heightened military tension involving any of the parties, would represent the triumph of hope over experience...'

International developments subsequent to 1951 have had their impact on Australian perceptions of the extent of US commitment to the ANZUS treaty. In 1969, frustrated by the increasing burdens on the US military and the escalating financial costs in prosecuting the war in Vietnam, President Nixon announced that he expected Asian countries to look to their own self-defence resources first before expecting US military aid. The Guam doctrine, as it became known, caused consternation in the Australian government and in defence policy circles. While Nixon did say that the US would honour existing treaties, nevertheless his Guam announcement signalled that the US would look to its own national interests first.

Australia has gone to war in support of the US on a number of occasions including in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, and put Australian naval, air or ground forces at risk of war with several other countries including Syria and Iran (still ongoing). None of these interventions had anything to do with the defence of Australia but have been justified on the grounds that the US will only come to our support in the case of an external threat if we support them. This argument is deeply misleading, however, as it is only these interventions and the hosting of US bases on our soil that is likely to lead to such threats.



The ANZUS treaty then has functioned as a security myth that is regularly used by politicians from the mainstream parties to placate the general public. New Zealand retired from the ANZUS treaty in the 1980s when it decided to go nuclear free and not allow US nuclear powered naval vessels to dock in its harbours. However, New Zealand continues to share intelligence with the US and Australia under the Five Eyes intelligence sharing agreement. This left just two signatories to the treaty. Australia has unofficially acknowledged the limitations of the ANZUS treaty and New Zealand's retirement by entering into bilateral defence arrangements with the US. There are regular Ministerial level consultations between Australia and the US under the imprimatur of AUSMIN. The defence and security arrangements reached under the auspices of AUSMIN are the real basis of Australian defence and security policy rather than the ANZUS treaty.

The Five Eyes intelligence sharing (spying) treaty between the US, UK, Australia, Canada and NZ is a key part of the US-Australia alliance. So is the daily operation of US bases on Australian soil; Pine Gap, NW Cape, Robertson Marine Barracks and Tindal RAAF base, the latter being upgraded at Australian cost (\$1 billion-plus) to accommodate and refuel US nuclear bombers within range of Southern China.

Together these facilities and the alliance tie us so closely to US foreign policy that we are not only a nuclear target but a subject of Chinese economic retaliation – from coal to barley to wine exports. There is no doubt that Australian governments are sacrificing economic welfare (alienating our biggest trading partner) for the US alliance – which graphically illustrates how subservient our governments are, and how little concern they have for the welfare of the Australian people. This is on top of the human and financial costs of involvement in US wars from Korea through Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The biggest impact would come from a war with China, which we are currently risking through deference to the US. How is that in Australia's interests?

[1] <https://www.tai.org.au/content/anzus-and-australia-s-security> Link on webpage to PDF.