



SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

Report of the Secretary General

**From the Santo Domingo Council in January 2019 to the
Geneva Council in July 2022**

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Meeting of the SI Council in Santo Domingo

28-29 January 2019



Representatives of Socialist International member parties from around the world and invited guests gathered in Santo Domingo on 28-29 January for the SI Council, hosted by the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), the SI member party in the Dominican Republic. The agenda of the meeting centred on three main themes: Promoting multilateralism to secure peace, sustainable development, to target poverty, achieve greater equality, and to ensure a world with more solidarity; Defending rights and freedoms against intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia and populism; and Protecting our democracies from new threats – the deliberate discrediting of democratic institutions and the press, fake news, cyber attacks and invasive technology.

On behalf of the host party, Miguel Vargas, a vice-president of the SI, leader of the PRD and foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, welcomed delegates to Santo Domingo. He underlined the importance of the work of the SI to address the common tasks faced by all its member parties and to find multilateral approaches to the three main challenges faced by the world. He defined these as strengthening democracy, combating climate change and reducing inequality and emphasised that social democracy had a lot to contribute on these issues.

In his opening remarks, Luis Ayala recalled the long history of cooperation between the SI and the PRD, started by José Francisco Peña Gómez. It was gratifying for him to see the successful results of the Agreement of Shared Government of National Unity, which he signed as witness on behalf of the SI in 2015. The SI secretary general described multilateralism as the key to achieving peace, considering that the SI needed more than

ever to confront and counteract populism and xenophobia with its principles and ideals in order to ensure that a different world view could prevail.

The SI President George Papandreou also mentioned the special significance of the Dominican Republic for the SI, congratulating the PRD on its 80th anniversary and the progress made in the country in recent years. He recalled that his last visit to the country had been during the financial crisis, the lessons of which the international community had not learned, as could be seen by the suffering of the middle and working classes and growing inequalities. He called for more cooperation, democracy and solidarity in order to humanise globalisation.

The inaugural session of the Council was then addressed by President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina, who noted that, though his party was not a member of the SI, the trajectory of the organisation remained a point of reference for all progressive parties. He spoke of the need to remain vigilant in order to defend the achievements of recent decades, including democratic advances, at a time when distrust in institutions had spread along with made up threats based on propaganda. The issues on the agenda would affect all people beyond national borders, he considered, hoping that the Council would be fruitful for all participants.

Contributions were made on the first main theme of multilateralism from delegates from different countries and continents, united by their belief in the value of multilateralism to tackle the challenges of peace and sustainable development and ensure a world with more solidarity. The value of the multilateral approach on issues of peace was central to a number of speeches made by delegates, and reflected in the declarations and resolutions later adopted by the Council, including those on Palestine and the two-state solution, on Western Sahara and on the threat of nuclear conflict. The declaration on Palestine, drafted in coordination with the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the Council, was itself an example of the value of mutual cooperation in questions of peace and conflict resolution.

Many contributors to the discussions noted with concern the recent developments in Venezuela, and the ongoing disregard for the democratic process by the ruling regime. Having heard perspectives from Venezuelan delegates, and the support offered to the democratic forces in Venezuela from parties in the region and around the world, the Council adopted a declaration on Venezuela in which called for a peaceful resolution to the crisis and the urgent holding of proper free and fair elections in the country.

The recent rise in populism, accompanied by growing intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia was discussed with great concern by delegates, who emphasised the critical role of social democracy to present alternatives to this simplistic and divisive worldview. The importance of reducing inequalities, increasing opportunities and achieving sustainable growth to the benefit of all citizens were highlighted in a declaration on this theme.

The timing of the Council in the days following the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust was noted by several speakers, who reminded all delegates of the horrors that resulted from xenophobia, intolerance and totalitarianism, and the sentiment of all those present was reflected in a Resolution on Holocaust remembrance.

For many decades the SI has been at the forefront of the struggle to secure, advance, consolidate and defend democracy in all parts of the world, and discussions on the third main theme focused on how to do this in face of the many new challenges emerging to democracy and its institutions in the digital age. These concerns were the focus of a Declaration on protecting our democracy from new threats. The Council also adopted a number of declarations relating to specific national issues raised by member parties, including declarations on Bolivia, Puerto Rico and the Kurdish people.

The closing address of the Council was given by Pedro Sánchez, president of the government of Spain, leader of PSOE and vice-president of the SI, who declared that socialists were those who defended freedom and the weak. He emphasised that the citizens of Venezuela and Nicaragua needed to know that their governments were not socialist, as there could be no socialism without freedom. The SI and its members represented those who were creating ideas that would change the world, rejecting the conservative, populist and nationalist policies of inequality, privilege and exclusion, and bringing reconciliation, democracy, progress and dignity.

Maurice Poler (AD, Venezuela), co-chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (SIFAC), presented the latest accounts of the International and its budget for 2019. Lack of payment of membership fees was a severe constraint on the ability of the organisation to carry out its programme of activities and he reminded parties that the payment of their membership fees was a statutory obligation.

The report of the SI Ethics Committee, delivered by its chair Arianne Fontenelle (PS, Belgium), contained a number of proposals on membership in the SI. The committee considered that the full membership of the Philippines Social Democratic Party should be reinstated and also recommended the upgrading to full membership of the UDPS (DR Congo) and to consultative membership of PALU (DR Congo) and MRD (Djibouti). The committee had also rejected a number of applications for membership. The decisions on membership were approved by the Council. As a result of gross violations of human rights and democratic values committed by the government of Nicaragua, the committee had voted to expel the ruling party, FSLN, from the SI, a decision which the Council voted to confirm.

The SI also held the first meeting of its Committee on Gender Equality on 28 January in Santo Domingo, co-chaired by the presidents of the SI and SIW. The committee adopted a plan of action comprising a series of decisions aimed at achieving gender parity within its structures, and encouraging its member parties in the promotion of parity.

Declarations and Resolutions, Meeting of the SI Council in Santo Domingo 28-29 January 2019

Declaration on Venezuela

Original: Spanish

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting on 28-29 January 2019 in Santo Domingo, expressed its grave concern at the deepening political, economic and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Recalling its previous statements on the situation in Venezuela, in particular the Resolution of the SI Council in June 2018 and the statement issued by the SI Presidium in September 2018, the Socialist International:

Reiterates its position that the electoral process of May 2018 lacked democratic credibility, as they were carried out through the outlawing of leaders and political parties, obliging this International to repudiate this process that is contrary to the democratic norms of competition, freedom and guarantees. The National Assembly is the legitimate authority to lead the democratic transition.

Expresses its enormous concern at the repression carried out against the Venezuelan people by the illegitimate regime of Nicolás Maduro, and urges the full restoration of the constitutional order. To date, 35 people have been killed in the protests, more than 850 detained and hundreds injured, especially in the poorer districts of the entire country, at the hands of the security forces commanded by Nicolás Maduro;

Repeats its previous calls for the full restoration of and respect for the democratically legitimate National Assembly, which is the centre of the democratic order in Venezuela and has a fundamental role to play in the restoration of democratic normality in the country;

Recognises the efforts of Juan Guaidó, president of the National Assembly and recognised by a significant part of the international community as interim president of Venezuela, to bring about a transition to democracy, supported by the legitimate National Assembly.

Underlines that the democratic legitimacy of the president and government in Venezuela comes only from the freely expressed will of the Venezuelan people and categorically rejects any form of external military intervention to bring about regime change in Venezuela;

Calls upon the Venezuelan people to resolve their differences peacefully, considering that the only way forward for Venezuela is the holding of new elections, overseen by a new, fully independent and impartial electoral authority, which must now happen as a matter of urgency. These must take place with the participation of those previously disqualified arbitrarily and be accompanied by the release of political prisoners;

Reiterates its solidarity with the Venezuelan people who are facing extraordinary suffering as they struggle to recover democracy in their country, and urges the swift provision of humanitarian assistance to alleviate the food and health emergency across the country.

Declaration on Holocaust Remembrance

The Council of the Socialist International, gathered in Santo Domingo on 28-29 January 2019:

Notes that racial, ethnic and religious prejudice, discrimination and hatred have caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history;

Recalls that the prejudice, discrimination and hatred that arose out of pre-existing anti-Semitism was a condition precedent to the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany, its allies and accomplices resulting in the annihilation of six million Jews and countless members of other minorities;

Notes with concern that anti-Semitic acts of varying nature and intensity have multiplied lately in Europe, the United States, Canada and elsewhere;

Decries the growing tendencies towards Holocaust denial and the re-writing of history;

Recalls Resolution A/RES/60/7 on Holocaust remembrance adopted on 1 November 2005 by the United Nations General Assembly designating 27 January as International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust;

Joins the United Nations in marking International Holocaust Day and in remembering the victims of one of the worst crimes committed in human history;

Rejects any denial of the Holocaust as a historical event, either in full or in part;

Condemns without reserve all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, wherever they occur;

Calls upon governments and political parties to fight against all forms of racism, discrimination and Holocaust denial.

Declaration on Protecting our Democracies from New Threats

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Santo Domingo on 28-29 January 2019, discussed as a main theme the new threats to democracy that have recently emerged, among them the deliberate discrediting of democratic institutions and the press, fake news, cyber attacks and invasive technology. In light of these rapidly emerging and developing threats, the global social democratic movement must develop a coordinated response to safeguard and protect democracy.

Attacks on democratic institutions and the press have become more and more prevalent, and are no longer limited to those on the fringes of the political debate. When elected officials denigrate and undermine the institutions that uphold democracy, this has the effect of eroding trust, weakening the democratic process and threatening progress made over the recent years and decades in this regard. Likewise, a free press is one of the fundamental pillars of a democracy, in which citizens can have confidence that those who represent them are held to account.

The rise of alternative sources of news and the emergence of social media have contributed to a more open flow of information and facilitated the spreading of diverse viewpoints. These new media have played a role in ensuring opposition voices are heard free from censorship and suppression by undemocratic regimes, but have also shown themselves to be susceptible to exploitation by those seeking to spread misinformation.

The spread of fake news requires vigilance from citizens and politicians alike, in an environment where those responsible for this false information are exploiting the functional logic of social networks with the express intent of influencing the choice of the

electorate. As citizens increasingly get their news and information through social media, it is incumbent on the owners of these platforms to take responsibility for ensuring that the information disseminated through their services is verifiable and conforms with the national laws that are in place to prevent the manipulation of public opinion and interference in electoral processes.

New technology, big data and the rise of social media have also changed the way electoral campaigns are conducted and represent a fundamental challenge to the notion of free and fair elections if safeguards are not put in place. With unprecedented access to detailed demographic and personal information on large sections of the electorate, the largest social media providers can directly impact information flow and the effectiveness of political campaigns, creating the potential for manipulation of public opinion and interference in domestic electoral processes by external actors.

The protection of personal data is a significant concern in light of the risks posed by powerful algorithms for personality profiling and the dangers of identity fraud. Ownership of one's own personal data should be regarded as a human right that is respected by all public and private organisations that have access to this data.

Declaration on Defending Rights and Freedoms against Intolerance, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Populism

The Socialist International has always advocated for a tolerant society free from all forms of discrimination, with true equality of rights and opportunities, as outlined in its Declaration of Principles. Consequently, the rise of populism and populist movements that seek to create and exploit differences between different social, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic groups in society is a grave concern for the global social democratic movement.

The Council is deeply concerned by rising xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination based on ethnic origin or religious beliefs, which can never be tolerated or accepted in any of our societies. It is the fundamental right of every human on the planet to develop their full personal potential and live their life free from intolerance and discrimination.

As a global organisation within which member parties from different continents, ethnicities, cultures and religions work together to advance their common cause, the Socialist International is a prime example of the value of cooperation and shows how cultural diversity can enrich our societies. Each and every one of its member parties must continue to embody these values and to oppose the simplistic and divisive rhetoric of populism, which offers no solutions to the complex and multi-faceted challenges facing our societies.

Populism has been able to gain in strength due to disillusionment as a consequence of an ineffective and unjust response to the most recent global financial crisis, which has resulted in greater inequalities and austerity policies that unjustly impact on the middle and working classes. The response to this populism, which threatens hard-won freedoms, must be for socialist and social democrats to intensify their struggle to reduce inequalities, increase opportunities and achieve sustainable growth to the benefit of all citizens.

Resolution on Puerto Rico

Original: Spanish

In the context of the continuing and growing colonial dominance of the United States upon Puerto Rico through the imposition of a Fiscal Supervisory Board with all-embracing powers over the government of the Island, the Socialist International reiterates its historic support to the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican nation to its self-determination and independence. The SI extends also its support to the unanimous call of the Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations for the United States to take the necessary measures to put an end to the current condition of political subordination of Puerto Rico.

Resolution on Western Sahara

Original: Spanish

The Council following the developments in connection with this issue, notes that after its last session, and at the request of the Secretary-General of the UN and his special envoy, a meeting has taken place on 5 and 6 December 2018 at the UN Office in Geneva, gathering around the same table Morocco, Polisario, Algeria and Mauritania.

The Council expresses its support to the call made by the UN to all parties to commit themselves positively and in good faith in the United Nations process in the search for a peaceful, political, realistic and mutually accepted solution, in accordance with the Security Council Resolution No. 2440 of 31 October 2018.

Declaration on the Threat of Nuclear Conflict

The Council of the SI, meeting in Santo Domingo on 28-29 January 2019, considers it necessary and relevant to draw the attention of SI member parties and the world community as a whole to the acute problem of the growing threat of nuclear conflict, caused by the deformation of the existing treaty system of ensuring strategic security in the world.

In recent years, strategic stability, understood as the level of threat of nuclear war, has rapidly deteriorated. At the moment, the level of threat is comparable to the period preceding the Caribbean crisis (Cuban missile crisis), which almost led humanity to a global catastrophe and was preceded in the 1950s by an essentially unlimited arms race.

In the years following the Second World War, the world maintained nuclear deterrence based on the fear of a nuclear apocalypse. However, today this situation has become more and more unsteady as the technological obstacles to acquiring nuclear weapons have diminished.

Also of concern are the US withdrawal in 2002 from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABMT), and more recently from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear deal) and Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which undermine the foundations of the non-proliferation regime, a key part of which was the commitment to reduce arsenals.

These dangerous steps should encourage peace-loving forces on the planet to take actions that can be called a qualitatively new stage in the struggle for peace with the core requirement to prevent a destructive nuclear war.

The SI calls on its member parties and parliaments of the world to contribute to the revival of the universal struggle for peace, in line with the Declaration of Principles of the SI, which defines peace as a basic value.

Declaration - Taking Action to Free and Protect Palestine, Save the Two-State Solution

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on January 28- 29, recalls its previous resolutions and declarations on the question of Palestine and the Middle East Peace Process, in particular recent Council and Presidium meetings of the SI since 2010, and makes an urgent call upon all its members to take concrete measures in order to save the prospects of a just and lasting peace between Israel, Palestine and the rest of the region. In this regard the SI:

Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as its capital. It reaffirms its commitment, in accordance with international law, to bring a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories that started in 1967, so as to achieve the two-state solution, as two sovereign democratic states for all their citizens, living in peace and harmony; and a just negotiated solution to the issue of the Palestinian refugees.

After more than 25 years of failure to achieve peace through a bilateral process, we believe that time has come for the international community to meet its responsibilities under international law and bring an end to the Israeli occupation.

Recalling our 2011 Athens Council declaration on the Middle East, whereby we called for the recognition of the State of Palestine, the SI members reaffirm this commitment and:

- Declare it has become mandatory and urgent for all members of the Socialist International, especially those in government that have not recognised the State of Palestine in accordance with UNGA Resolution 67/19 of 2012, to do so as soon as possible.
- Congratulate the Irish and Chilean parliaments for advancing legislation concerning the Israeli settlements in the occupied State of Palestine.
- Support a greater international action in order to achieve a just and lasting peace based on International Law for Palestine and Israel, including an end to the Israeli occupation.
- Support a total end to the settlement activities, the immediate cessation of the destruction of homes and the deportation of Palestinians.
- Encourage a non-violent approach at all levels by all parties, including acts of settlers' violence aimed at Palestinian civilians, and the cessation of all forms of violence against the non-violent Palestinian resistance.
- The Council further calls upon the US administration to reconsider its one-sided positions that are favouring only Israel. We regret the US decision to withdraw from the Human Rights Council as well as from UNESCO and strongly condemn the steps taken by the Trump administration, including the recognition of Jerusalem as

Israel's capital and cutting aid to UNRWA. We call upon the rest of the international community to endorse an international conference for the Middle East Peace Process based on the relevant UN resolutions, international law and the Arab Peace Initiative.

- Emphasise that the only political solution for Israel and Palestine is one where international law and UN resolutions are implemented, with the human rights of all citizens respected regardless of their national origin, religion or gender. It is in this spirit that SI reiterates its call upon the Israeli Parliament to eliminate all laws that discriminate against its Arab-Palestinian citizens, including the ban on family reunification and the "Jewish nation-state" law.
- Reiterate their solidarity with the progressive forces in Israel, including SI member parties that support full equality for all Israeli citizens regardless of their religion or ethnic origin as well as the establishment of the two-state solution based on International Law.

Resolution on Bolivia

Original: Spanish

The SI Council takes note of the warning of the risk to democracy outlined by the delegate of its member party National Unity (UN) of Bolivia.

The Socialist International calls on the government and the opposition parties in this country to deepen democratic values and principles, urging the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia to guarantee free and transparent elections this year, 2019.



Socialist International Secretary General in Venezuela

22 February 2019



Leadership of the National Assembly of Venezuela with the SI Secretary General

The SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, held a series of meetings in Venezuela from 18 to 22 February with the authorities of the National Assembly and with its three member parties in the country, Acción Democrática (AD), Un Nuevo Tiempo (UNT) and Voluntad Popular (VP), following the world Council meeting of the International held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the end of January, where the situation in Venezuela was discussed.

During his visit, the Secretary General was received by the Junta Directiva, the leadership, of the National Assembly of

Venezuela, composed of its President Juan Guaidó (VP) who is recognised by a significant part of the international community as interim President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, its First Vice-President Edgar Zambrano (AD), the Second Vice-President Stalin González (UNT), and the Secretary Edison Ferrer (PJ).

The meetings with the SI member parties included Henry Ramos, leader of Acción Democrática and a Vice-President of the SI, along with other members of the AD leadership; Manuel Rosales, leader of Un Nuevo Tiempo, and members of the party's leadership including the former president of the National Assembly during the previous period, Omar Barboza; and contacts with the leader of Voluntad Popular, Leopoldo López, who for five years now has been a political prisoner; with Freddy Guevara, and other members of the party leadership.

The discussions focussed in the first instance on the current situation of the country and its political, economic and humanitarian crisis; the political crisis resulting from the lack of a legitimate mandate for the current regime, while there persist violations of human rights, political prisoners and State violence with a continuing number of victims; the painful economic reality and the absence of opportunities which today afflicts the people of Venezuela; and the grave humanitarian crisis, particularly in regard to the tragic state of the health system and the absence of medicines with the consequent rise in the number of deaths, as confirmed by recent information from the World Health Organisation, WHO.

Among the matters addressed in the meetings was the fact that the electoral process of May 2018, denounced at the time by the Socialist International, did not have the necessary legitimacy and democratic credibility, and that at present the National Assembly, despite the regime's efforts to ignore its powers and mandate, is the only existent legitimate institution of government and therefore has today a central role in the

restoration of democracy, as the expression of popular sovereignty, whose mandate is valid until the end of 2020.

During the meetings, the need to resolve political differences between Venezuelans peacefully, as called by the last SI Council, was reiterated, as well as the rejection of any form of foreign military intervention.

Also transmitted was the fraternal and constant solidarity of the International with its member parties and the Venezuelan people in their efforts to recover their freedoms and rights, re-establish democracy and to face the devastating food and health emergency that they are suffering.

Only the holding of free and fair elections, supervised by a new electoral authority that is fully independent and impartial, without arbitrary disqualifications or political prisoners, will allow democracy to be recovered and the normality of the political life of the nation to be re-established.

In the pursuit of these objectives, the International and its members will continue to accompany the Venezuelan people in their efforts for freedom and democracy.

Socialist International marks International Women's Day

8 March 2019

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2019, the Socialist International reiterates its unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's rights, causes which have always been and will remain at the heart of the agenda of the global social democratic movement. Today is a moment to reflect on the significant progress made globally towards gender equality, but equally to focus on the important challenges and obstacles that remain, and the ambition, dedication and political will required to overcome them.

True gender equality must exist on all levels and in all sectors of society. This means everything from equal rights and access to education for girls, to equal employment and the elimination of the gender pay gap, to equality at the highest levels of leadership and decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Equal rights and access to education are the foundation of an equal society and vital to ensure the empowerment of girls and women and their full participation in society without prejudice or discrimination. Likewise, gender balance in the workplace can help communities and enterprises thrive while helping the full potential of humankind for development, prosperity and peace to be achieved. Equal opportunities for women to reach leadership positions and to participate fully at all levels of decision-making can form part of a virtuous circle, as the current in-built gender biases present in our societies are eroded. Through the full and equal participation of women in all aspects political and

public life, prejudices can be overcome and values reshaped to recognise the rights of women and promote empowerment.

There is still a great deal to do, and the pace of progress on equality and women's rights must increase. It remains regrettably the case that for many women and girls across the globe, a life free from violence, discrimination and harmful practices remains out of reach. These fundamental injustices must be brought to an end, as nothing less than the elimination of violence and exploitation of women and girls and an end to early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation is acceptable.

The Socialist International recalls the roots of International Women's Day, which was first marked as a result of a resolution of the Second International Conference of Socialist Women on the occasion of the 1910 Copenhagen International Socialist Congress. For the Socialist International and its members, the issue of women's equality will continue to be a primary focus, not only today as we mark International Women's Day, but on every other day of the year and for as long as it takes to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls in all countries of the world.

Socialist International condemns despicable terrorist attack in Christchurch

15 March 2019



The Socialist International is shocked and saddened by the terrorist attack in Christchurch that has claimed the lives of 49 people. This horrific act, which the SI emphatically condemns, was targeted against innocent Muslim worshippers as they peacefully prayed in two mosques in the city, and is deplorable in its brutality and the hateful ideology espoused by those who carried it out.

The International extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to all those affected by this tragedy and expresses its full solidarity with the people of New Zealand and the Muslim community in Christchurch, New Zealand and around the world as they come to terms with the consequences of a truly atrocious act. We must stand united against Islamophobia, bigotry, extremism and terror, defending freedom for all people to practice their beliefs without fear of discrimination, hatred and violence.

Socialist International in solidarity with the victims of Cyclone Idai

20 March 2019

The Socialist International is deeply saddened by the massive devastation and loss of life caused by Cyclone Idai in south-eastern Africa. According to the United Nations, the cyclone has affected more than 2 million people across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe and may be the worst ever natural disaster to strike the southern hemisphere. The humanitarian emergency resulting from the cyclone continues to worsen due to extensive flooding, which has left many stranded, without shelter or access to clean water. Aid agencies and international organisations fear that the death toll from the disaster will continue to rise.

The thoughts and solidarity of the Socialist International and of its member parties worldwide are with the people and government of Mozambique where its member party Frelimo is in office, and with the neighbouring countries affected as they seek to rebuild their cities, homes and lives and to cope with the aftermath of the human tragedy and loss of life. We call on the international community to offer all necessary aid to the governments of these countries as they seek to ensure the swift delivery of humanitarian assistance to the areas hit by this disaster, to save lives and provide shelter, access to drinking water and medical assistance.

Extreme weather events such as Cyclone Idai have in recent times become both more common and more severe, which scientists have long warned would be a consequence of changes to the climate resulting from global carbon emissions. In the majority of cases, those who are most at risk from climate change and climate-related natural disasters and who are least able to deal with their consequences, are those who have historically contributed very little to the global emissions. To redress these imbalances, the Socialist International will continue to place global climate justice at the heart of its efforts to build a sustainable world society.

The world social democratic movement demands the release of Roberto Marrero in Venezuela

21 March 2019

On the 21st of March at two in the morning, police and intelligence agents of the Venezuelan regime broke into and vandalised the home of Roberto Marrero in Caracas and took him away by force. Marrero, of Voluntad Popular, a member party of the Socialist International, is the head of the office of the President of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, recognised as the interim president of Venezuela by a large number of countries worldwide. The agents, as reported by Sergio Vergara, a member of the



Roberto Marrero addressing the last Congress of the Socialist International held in Cartagena, Colombia.

National Assembly of Venezuela and a neighbour of Marrero, left in Marrero's house two machine guns and a hand grenade, and subsequently accused him of being a terrorist.

It is crucial that the international community react strongly to this assault, detention and the false accusations by Maduro's regime against the person who is the closest collaborator of Juan Guaidó, demanding his immediate release.

Above, Roberto Marrero addressing the last Congress of the Socialist International held in Cartagena, Colombia.

President Trump's decision on the Golan Heights

27 March 2019

US President Donald Trump has signed a presidential proclamation recognising the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. This decision is contrary to fundamental principles of international law and to specific resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on the Middle East, emphasising the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security".

The Socialist International will continue to be engaged in fully supporting the two-State solution for Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security, as we are equally committed to contributing to a future of peace, democracy and freedom for the people of Syria.

SI Secretary General in Rome for PSI Congress

29 March 2019



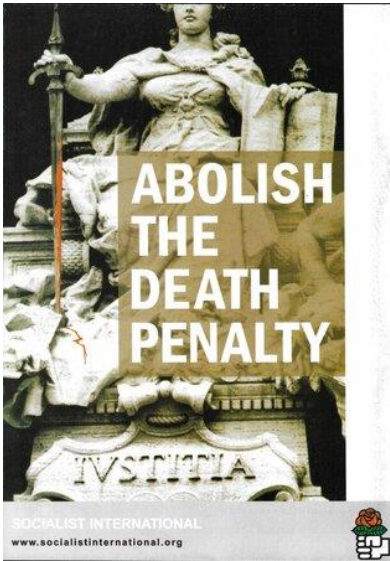
SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with outgoing PSI Secretary, Senator Riccardo Nencini, and SI Vice-President, Pia Locatelli



SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with new PSI Secretary, Enzo Maraio (on his right), SI Vice-President Pia Locatelli, and a group of delegates to the Congress

In reference to Brunei and 54 other countries

April 2019



The Socialist International is deeply alarmed by the introduction by Brunei of draconian laws that include death by stoning and other drastic punishments in a new penal code recently introduced.

Our International has been resolutely opposed for years to the death penalty in all circumstances, and reiterates its previous calls for its abolition by all countries, in line with our longstanding campaigns on this issue.

Other draconian punishments that form part of the new penal code in Brunei, such as the amputation of a hand or a foot for theft, are cruel and inhumane, and also have no place in the legal system of any country.

The SI encourages international organisations, governments and private citizens from around the world to call on Brunei and the 54 other countries who retain the death penalty to abolish it.

SI Meeting at the 140th IPU Assembly in Doha

7 April 2019

During the 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which took place in Doha, Qatar, from 6 to 10 April, the Socialist International held its meeting of parliamentarians from SI member parties attending the Assembly.



The meeting was chaired by the SI Secretary General and included the participation of speakers of parliament, deputy speakers, senators, members of parliament and other representatives, from Albania, Angola, Argentina, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Portugal, San Marino, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, and representatives of the Global Fund and of the IPU's group for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants shared valuable information on the current situation, priorities and challenges in their respective countries and parliaments. The meeting's discussions also included exchanges on the emergency items that were due to be voted on by the Assembly.

A recurrent theme in the discussions was the devastating consequences of the cyclone Idai that had hit south-eastern Africa, affecting millions of people across Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, as well as the projected long term recovery, which desperately needed international help. While it was noted that there was much support in the Assembly in favour of the emergency item on this subject, it was pointed out that this was above all a humanitarian emergency. The other emergency item presented was "Ensuring international protection for the Palestinian people, rejecting Israeli authority over the occupied Golan Heights, promoting the values of peaceful coexistence among people and religions and combatting all forms of racism and intolerance". The situation of the Palestinian people also counted with widespread sympathy and concern along with calls for the urgent need to give renewed impetus to the drive for a two-state solution which, as pointed out by the SI Secretary General, was a fundamental policy of the Socialist International.

The question of equal participation of women in office was highlighted by a number of participants, with various delegations reporting on the improved percentages in their countries. In the case of Mexico, for instance, as a result of electoral reform, it was noted that for the first time the country enjoyed in effect parity in both houses. Attention was also brought to the increasing youth representation in politics.

Terrorism and violent extremism was a current serious challenge affecting many countries around the world, combined with trafficking, ethnic conflicts, and in some cases the systematic killing of women, children and the elderly. It was reported that Pakistan suffered the highest casualty rate in terms of civilian population and armed forces killed in action against terrorism. In the case of Venezuela, violence from criminal gangs run by the government persisted, detaining citizens for protesting against the regime, and the meeting heard how opposition forces in Albania were using violence as a tactic replacing normal political discourse.

The dire humanitarian, political and social crisis that prevailed in Venezuela, coupled with the high corruption rate among officials of the government, was a subject of grave concern. It was noted that members of the announced delegation to this IPU Assembly had been detained at the airport on departure, forbidden from leaving the country and had their passports removed, in violation of their immunity. The meeting heard from parliamentarians of two SI member parties, one from Voluntad Popular who managed to get to this Assembly only because she was now exiled in Colombia having been persecuted by the regime, and the other from Acción Democrática who had left the country not via the airport but by walking across the border. The Venezuelan representatives underlined the constitutionality of the actions of Guaidó, based on a constitution created by Hugo Chavez himself, and reiterated calls for the release of all the political prisoners. As Venezuelans, the representatives said they were aware that the

solution for Venezuela lay in their hands, and in that quest they counted on the support of the Socialist International family.

The need for all SI member parties and organisations to reinforce and reassert their social democratic ideological and political commitments in dealing with world issues was stressed. It was pointed out that in the case of Europe, the challenge now was the composition of the next European Parliament and to what extent the anti-Europe, anti-migration, extremist forces, would prevail. In the face of the increasing nationalism and populism, it was further emphasised that the true meaning of socialism needed to be reiterated in order to win back the electorate and to adequately address the issues that made people feel disenfranchised. True socialism was freedom, democracy, social justice and rights, and today more than ever, it was necessary for all to work together to ensure that our common values prevail.

Istanbul: SI calls for respect for the democratic process

11 April 2019

The initial result of the mayoral election in Istanbul, held on 31 March, has been upheld despite a series of recounts that have taken place in the days since the ballot, and the Socialist International congratulates Ekrem İmamoğlu, the candidate of its member party, CHP, on his victory. The attempts since the election by the ruling Justice and Development party (AKP) to overturn the result have failed and the election board has denied requests for a full recount. It is time for the outcome to be respected by all parties, and calls for a new election to cease.

At a time of great social and economic challenges for Turkey, the country needs its leaders to focus on delivering economic stability and good governance for the citizens. These efforts by the AKP to delegitimise the election result have the potential to increase volatility and damage social cohesion in Istanbul and more widely across Turkey. It also contributes to an erosion of trust in the democratic process and sets a dangerous precedent for the non-recognition of the results of any similarly close-run elections in the future.

A functioning democracy requires that defeated candidates and parties respect election results, and that the possibility exists for political alternance via the ballot box. After seventeen years in power in Istanbul, the AKP must now recognise the victory of Ekrem İmamoğlu and allow him to become the mayor of the whole of Istanbul and its citizens. The SI wishes the mayor-elect every success in his new role.

A call for urgent action in two continents

13 April 2019

For many years and in every continent, social democrats have been in the forefront of the struggle for democracy. Member parties of the Socialist International in great numbers have led the way to gain freedoms and rights for their citizens in many countries around the world. That struggle still continues every day, where dictators persist, where repression continues, and where members of our global social democratic community still find themselves under authoritarian regimes. In only this week, we have two clear examples, in two different continents, of the struggle that persists, inspired and led by members of our political family.

Mikalai Statkevich, leader of the SI member party Narodnaya Hramada (NH) of Belarus, has once again been imprisoned by the regime of Alexander Lukashenko. Statkevich, co-chair of the SI's regional committee for the Caucasus, CIS and the Black Sea, was sentenced on 9 April to fifteen days in jail following his call on social media to pray for the innocent victims of Stalin's repression. Lukashenko had ordered the removal of the wooden crosses at the memorial site at Kurapaty where the graves lie of over 30,000 people killed in the 1930s and 1940s during the rule of Stalin. Statkevich, who was a presidential candidate in the elections of 2010, was jailed for more than five years following the massive popular protests at the declaration of victory by Lukashenko in those elections, and is today a leading figure of the opposition and a presidential candidate for the forthcoming elections in 2020.

Andrés Esono Ondo, Secretary General of the SI member party in Equatorial Guinea, the Convergence for Social Democracy (CPDS), was arrested in Chad on the night of 11 April and is being held in detention by the Chadian National Security Agency in the capital, N'Djamena. Esono Ondo had travelled to the city of Mongo in Chad to attend, as one of the international guests, the congress of the SI member, the Union Nationale pour le Développement et le Renouveau (UNDR), which was ultimately prevented from taking place by the regional authorities. The Department of External Security of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea published a press release dated 12 April 2019, outrageously claiming that the purpose of Esono Ondo's trip was to acquire arms, munitions and recruit terrorists to carry out a coup d'état in Equatorial Guinea with foreign financing, and that the leader of the UNDR, Saleh Kebzabo, was the facilitator in Chad of this plan.

Social democratic leaders, in the face of authoritarianism, have become the architects of new democracies and everyone who has been part of the struggle can recognise and knows the language, the methods and the arguments that belong to the past. We must all stand with our comrades in Belarus, Equatorial Guinea and Chad, as well as those in every other country suffering under authoritarian regimes, and play our part so that they can bring a democratic future to their countries.

Election win for SDP Finland

16 April 2019



In the parliamentary elections held in Finland on 14 April, the SI member, the Social Democratic Party, emerged with the majority of votes and the largest number of elected members of parliament, thus giving it a mandate to form a coalition government. SDP leader Antti Rinne will start negotiations with other political forces represented in the new parliament with a view to building a majority coalition, opening the way for

the country to have its first social democratic prime minister since 2003.

The Socialist International Secretary General was invited to join the SDP on election day and accompanied Finnish comrades as they awaited the outcome of the vote.



The SI Secretary General with SDP leader Antti Rinne following the announcement of the election results



Tarja Halonen, SI Honorary President and former President of Finland with the SI Secretary General



SI Vice-President Eero Heinäluoma (center) with newly elected member of parliament Eveliina Heinäluoma (left) and the SI Secretary General Luis Ayala (right)

Socialist International mourns terror victims in Sri Lanka

22 April 2019



The Socialist International condemns the appalling coordinated attacks on Sunday 21 April in Sri Lanka, which targeted Christians worshipping at Easter Sunday church services and a number of hotels in the capital city Colombo. The loss of over 250 innocent lives in the space of a few short hours makes this one of the most deadly terrorist attacks in recent years. The Socialist International and its member parties offer their heartfelt sympathies and condolences to all those affected by the attacks, and extend their best wishes for recovery to those injured, many of whom continue to fight for their lives.

The International stands in full solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka as they try to come to terms with this senseless loss of life. It is essential that members of the Christian community, in Sri Lanka as in all countries of the world, are free to practise their religion without fear of violence, and the SI once more emphasises its unwavering commitment to defeating all forms of religious intolerance, extremism and terror in order that people of all faiths and none around the world are safe to freely express their beliefs.

Those responsible for planning, supporting and carrying out this act of terrorism represent a violent and murderous ideology that is diametrically opposed to the most fundamental values of humanity. They must be held accountable for their actions and brought to justice, and the Socialist International calls upon the entire international community to work together for a comprehensive and coordinated response in order to eliminate the scourge of terrorism.

Release of Mikalai Statkevich and Andrés Esono Ondo

25 April 2019

The SI welcomes the release of two political prisoners, Andrés Esono Ondo, Secretary General of the CPDS of Equatorial Guinea and Mikalai Statkevich, leader of the NH of Belarus, about whom the SI had issued a press statement on 13 April.

Esono Ondo, who was arrested in Chad on 11 April in coordination with the Obiang regime in Equatorial Guinea, was released yesterday by the Chadian authorities and has

today arrived back safely to Malabo. International mobilisation in his defence has been an important factor in his release and the SI will continue to be on alert.

Mikalai Statkevich has been released after serving a prison sentence of 15 days imposed by the Lukashenko regime, and is now also safely home. Having previously served a five year prison sentence, Statkevich, who is a presidential candidate for the 2020 elections, is regularly subjected to sudden disappearance, detention and imprisonment.

In our global political family we stand together in solidarity, determined to remain alert and on guard on all fronts, in support of our members who are victims of political persecution in countries where there is no democracy.

Advancing social democracy and initiatives to end political unrest in Haiti

26-27 April 2019



The SI Secretary General with the leadership of Fusion des Sociaux-Démocrates

During the 26 and 27 of April, the SI Secretary General was in Port-au-Prince, participating in meetings with the two Haitian member parties of the Socialist International, the Fusion des Sociaux-Démocrates Haïtiens and the Rassemblement Social-Démocrate pour le Progrès d' Haïti (RSD).

Meetings were held with the leadership of both SI parties. The discussions included exchanges on the work and perspectives of each party, as well as on the grave national political situation in the country which in the last few months has seen a serious deterioration in the relations between

the government and the parties of the opposition and violent street protests that had resulted in numerous casualties.

The Secretary General equally took part in the Congress of the RSD that was being held that weekend in Port-au-Prince, to which he delivered an address at its opening.

Congress of the Rassemblement Social-Démocrate pour le Progrès d'Haïti (RSD)



In line with the outcome of the discussions with the two parties on the situation in the country, and on their advice, the SI Secretary General also held an extensive meeting with H.E. Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti. The internal situation in the country was discussed and exchanges were held with regard to initiatives to end the ongoing political unrest in Haiti. The Secretary General promoted the idea of a national political dialogue involving the government and all the opposition forces that were willing to engage in it, in order to advance solutions that would allow a

normalisation of the situation, expressing the willingness of the organisation to help in this effort. Such dialogue would also facilitate advancing with the strengthening of the institutions which were crucial to consolidate and reinforce the democratic political system. President Moïse was very open to these ideas and it was agreed that contact would be maintained for the necessary follow up.



The SI Secretary General with members of the Rassemblement Social-Démocrate pour le Progrès d'Haïti (RSD)



The SI Secretary General with H.E. Jovenel Moïse, President of the Republic of Haiti

Socialists win in Spain

29 April 2019



“We made it happen!” said Pedro Sánchez to party members gathered in the PSOE headquarters after the election results were known last night.

The victory of Pedro Sánchez and the PSOE in Spain is an important moment for the political family of the Socialist International and for social democracy.

The Spanish socialists have won these elections, their first in over ten years, with a strong commitment to social democratic values, as Sánchez pointed out, to social justice, to the fight against inequality, to coexistence, and to clean politics by ending corruption.

The high level of turn out, over 75% of the electorate, adds to the victory and is a positive reflection of the democracy that has reigned in Spain for forty years.

Under the leadership of Pedro Sánchez, the PSOE’s unwavering commitment and adherence to the fundamental values and principles of democratic socialism has been a key element in their electoral success.

In these times of multiple challenges, with the rise of nationalism, populism and discrimination, this victory is a victory for social democrats everywhere and a particular source of encouragement for those in Europe.

The Socialist International Secretary General was together with the comrades from the PSOE on election night.



Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain, Secretary General of the PSOE and vice-president of the SI, with Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General

Election victory in Panama

7 May 2019



The Socialist International warmly congratulates President-elect Laurentino 'Nito' Cortizo and the SI member Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), on their election success in Panama, having won the presidency and the majority in the National Assembly. The inauguration of the new president will take place on 1 July.

The SI Secretary General was pleased to join our comrades in Panama for the elections.



President-elect Laurentino 'Nito' Cortizo with the SI Secretary General

The National Assembly, the only legitimate institution of the Venezuelan State, under authoritarian assault

15 May 2019



The National Assembly, the Venezuelan Parliament, whose members were elected on 6 December 2015 and assumed their functions on 6 January 2016 for a term of five years in an electoral process that included the participation of all political forces, from the government as well as from the opposition, remains today the only legitimate political institution in the country resulting from a democratic process in accordance with the Constitution. The establishment of the other Venezuelan State powers, the executive and the judiciary, ended up with their legitimacy compromised from the very beginning, due to their disregard of key dispositions in the Venezuelan Constitution as well as the basic norms of any democratic electoral process.

In the case of the presidential election at the end of Nicolás Maduro's term in office, which should have taken place in December 2018 and announced six months in advance, it was initially brought forward to the month of April and then to the month of May of that year, and then was finally held at one and a half months' notice. The election was convened by a constituent assembly and not by the National Electoral Council as established in the Venezuelan Constitution. This constituent assembly, which was created by a decree of Nicolás Maduro instead of, as stated in the Constitution, by consulting the Venezuelan people in a referendum, has been composed from its very beginnings exclusively by members of the ruling party who have conferred on themselves the right to adopt decisions on all types of issues, among them those that fall within the competence and remit of the legitimate National Assembly.

In the actual election of the president of the republic on 20 May 2018, the main forces of the opposition did not register any candidates, protesting against the absence of guarantees and the lack of legitimacy of the electoral process, the lack of neutrality of the body governing the elections, the National Electoral Council, the disqualification of opposition candidates and the absence of others who were at the time political prisoners and prevented from taking part. Ultimately, the candidates that took part in that election were only the outgoing president, Nicolás Maduro, and two other candidates not belonging to the majority parties represented in the National Assembly. The total electoral participation was registered as the lowest in the history of the electoral processes in the country.

With regard to the composition of the Supreme Court of Justice in the days immediately prior to the new members of the National Assembly taking office, the outgoing members proceeded to act within three days and with a disregard for the norms established in the Constitution, appointing sixteen new judges, a task which corresponded to the newly elected majority, whose job it was to work on and decide these new appointments. This led to the extremes of appointing outgoing deputies of the National Assembly belonging to the ruling party, as members of the Supreme Court of Justice. This fact has remained in the consciousness of the Venezuelan democrats and of all those who, with loyalty and respect for justice, observe and follow with consternation the decisions of this Court.

Within this context and faced with the complex reality of the political, humanitarian and economic crisis that Venezuela encounters, the persecution, imprisonment, exile or the lifting of the immunity of parliamentarians at the National Assembly, the only legitimate body of the State structure in that country, by other powers whose legitimacy is not only compromised from its beginnings but also violate once again the Constitution that clearly and transparently states that it is the National Assembly that is the body that must determine, by means of a qualified majority, if the parliamentary immunity of any of its members is to be lifted.

The Socialist International, composed of political parties in government or in opposition in most of the world's democracies and parliaments, rejects and firmly condemns the assault on the freedom and integrity of the National Assembly of Venezuela and of its members that has been taking place these last years, months, weeks and days, and which affects this institution and today personally, 31 parliamentarians members of the Assembly.

Our International, today once again demands the freedom and the respect for the right to serve in the exercise of their functions of all the parliamentarians in prison, in exile, suffering persecution, and whose parliamentary immunity is not being respected.

Members of the National Assembly who today have their immunity lifted or removed, are in prison, persecuted or under the protection of foreign embassies in Caracas or forced into exile:

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Juan Guaidó, President of the Assembly | Immunity lifted |
| 2. Edgar Zambrano, First Vice-President of the Assembly | In prison |
| 3. Adriana D'Elia | Exiled |
| 4. Américo De Grazia | Embassy of Italy |
| 5. Dinorah Figuera | Exiled |
| 6. Freddy Guevara | Embassy of Chile |
| 7. Freddy Superlano | Immunity lifted |
| 8. Gaby Arellano | Exiled |
| 9. Germán Ferrer | Exiled |
| 10. Henry Ramos | Immunity lifted |
| 11. Hugo Carvajal | Exiled |
| 12. Ismael García | Exiled |
| 13. José Olivares | Exiled |
| 14. Simón Calzadilla | Immunity lifted |
| 15. Juan Requesens | In prison |
| 16. Julio Borges | Exiled |
| 17. Luis Florido | Exiled |
| 18. Mariela Magallanes | Embassy of Italy |
| 19. Richard Blanco | Embassy of Argentina |
| 20. Sergio Vergara | Immunity lifted |
| 21. Rosmit Mantilla | Exiled |
| 22. Gilber Caro | In prison |
| 23. Miguel Pizarro | Immunity lifted |
| 24. Juan Andrés Mejía | Immunity lifted |
| 25. Franco Casella | Embassy of Italy |
| 26. Carlos Paparoni | Immunity lifted |
| 27. Winston Flores | Immunity lifted |
| 28. Sonia Medina | Exiled |
| 29. Eudoro González | Exiled |
| 30. Milagros Valero | Exiled |
| 31. Ramón López | Exiled |

SI SG in Finland during EU Elections

28 May 2019



Sosialidemokraattisten puolueiden kansainvälisen yhteistyöjärjestön Sosialistisen internationaalin pääsihteeri, chileläinen **Luis Ayala** vieraili Suomessa seuraamassa europarlamenttivaalien tuloksia.

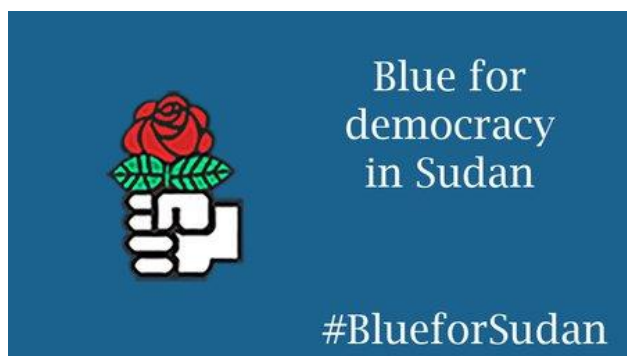
Demokraatti, 28 May 2019

Chilean SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, on the Euro election results “People continue to trust and believe in the European project”

Luis Ayala, the Chilean Secretary General of the Socialist International, the international organization for social democratic parties, visited Finland to follow the outcome of the European Parliament elections.

Civilian rule and democracy for Sudan

14 June 2019



The legitimate demands of the Sudanese people for the immediate implementation of civilian rule must be met without delay.

Massive popular protests brought an end to the dictatorship of Bashir, however rather than heralding a transition to civilian democratic rule as had been the hope of the Sudanese people, it has instead led to the

iron-fist rule of a Transitional Military Council which is directly responsible for the brutal massacre of over 100 protesters, hundreds more injured, and according to reports from recognised human rights organisations, for the detention, torture and rape of scores of others, atrocities that have included the killing of children.

We in the Socialist International condemn the despicable brutality in Sudan without reservation, and call for those responsible for these gross violations of human rights and all standards of human decency to be held to account for their crimes, which must be fully

investigated by an independent and accountable body. This violence against civilians has led the African Union to suspend Sudan from membership, a decision which we applauded.

The international community has the moral responsibility of acting to stop the suffering of the Sudanese people who after many years of repression by the previous dictatorship, today continue to be victims of violence and human rights abuses by the existing military regime.

The SI expresses its full solidarity with all those in Sudan working to bring positive change to the country and build a better future free from dictatorship, oppression, poverty and suffering.

A peaceful and orderly transition to civilian government is the only acceptable way forward for the Sudanese people, a demand which we wholeheartedly support.

The civilian democratic forces in Sudan will need support and assistance from the entire international community in order to realise these ambitions. Our International stands firmly with the people of Sudan in their efforts and sacrifice to win the struggle for their freedoms and rights.

#BlueforSudan

Istanbul: SI renews calls for respect for democracy

21 June 2019

As the citizens of Istanbul prepare to go back to the polls this Sunday for a rerun of the mayoral elections originally held on 31 March, the Socialist International renews its calls for full respect for democracy and for the citizens' voice to be heard.

The cancellation of the previous elections based on a technicality and the consequent annulment of the results by the Supreme Electoral Council under pressure from the governing AKP party and the head of state, was, in the eyes of most observers, unjustified and contributed, as the SI has previously stated, to an erosion of trust in the democratic process, setting a dangerous precedent.

Recent poll projections suggest that the candidate from the CHP, Ekrem İmamoğlu, would equally win this rerun of the vote. Democracy is crucial to social stability, as it is to guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of the people. The Socialist International stands firmly alongside all democrats in Turkey and stresses the importance of the world's attention on Istanbul this weekend.

SI at the funeral of Ousmane Tanor Dieng

17 July 2019



On Monday, 15 July 2019, our dear comrade Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Leader of the Socialist Party of Senegal and a Vice-President of the Socialist International, sadly passed away following an illness. The Socialist International deeply mourns his loss and pays homage to his lifelong dedication to his country, his people, his party, and to his active commitment to the Socialist

International where he served as a Vice-President from 1996 until his death, and as chair of the SI Africa Committee from 1996 to 2013.



Arrival of the remains of the late Ousmane Tanor Dieng to the airport of Dakar with military honours

SI Secretary General greeting and transmitting SI condolences to H.E. the President of Senegal, Macky Sall

Standing in honour of the late Ousmane Tanor Dieng at Dakar airport



SI meeting on the two-state solution, Israel and Palestine, for peace and a future of opportunities for the people of the Middle East

Ramallah 30 July - Tel Aviv 31 July 2019



In line with the longstanding commitment of the Socialist International to peace in the Middle East and its decision to reinforce efforts in support of the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine to live side by side as two sovereign states, the Socialist International held a two-day meeting with a session in Ramallah on 30 July and a session in Tel Aviv on the 31st.

At this crucial time for the people of the region, in a challenging global and regional context, and responding to the need to exchange views, set priorities and define a common path in favour of peace, democracy and opportunities for all in the region, the meeting brought together representatives from SI member parties in Israel and Palestine along with leaders and representatives of a number of SI member parties from other countries.

At the opening of the meeting in Ramallah, on behalf of the Palestinian hosts, Fatah's Commissioner General for International Relations, Rawhi Fattouh, conveyed the fraternal greetings of the Palestinian member parties and thanks to the SI for this initiative and to all participants for their presence.

The SI Secretary General Luis Ayala, who chaired the meeting, outlined the longstanding commitment and role of the Socialist International in efforts to secure a peaceful and just outcome to the conflict, always with the objective of attaining a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, for the benefit of both peoples. The question of Palestine was a global issue, not only a regional one, he said, and our mission was to build on what the International had been able to contribute in line with our principles and values in order to achieve a just and stable peace and the implementation of and respect for international norms and agreements.

During the opening session, the Palestinian Prime Minister, Mohammad Shtayyeh, welcomed the participants and addressed the current situation between Israel and Palestine, pointing out that Benjamin Netanyahu was not a true partner for peace. The Palestinian leader was also critical of the treatment of the Trump government towards the Palestinian people, including his decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the withdrawal of financial resources such as to the UNRWA. He called on the SI to support the Palestinians in their efforts to recover their occupied territories and to support the initiative of President Abbas for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The discussions in Ramallah, which counted with both of the SI Vice-Presidents from the region, Nabil Shaath from Palestine and Colette Avital from Israel among the participants, included diverse and extensive contributions, centring on the current regional reality and ways to promote and advance the two-state solution, providing elements that were included in a final statement of the meeting agreed by consensus by both the Palestinian and Israeli members together with all delegates to the meeting.

Following the first day's session, His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas received participants at the venue of the Presidency.

The second day's session opened in Tel Aviv with the participation of the newly elected leader of Meretz, Nitzan Horowitz, who also heads the recently formed Democratic Union which brings together other sectors and personalities of the left in Israel for contesting the forthcoming elections in September. The leader and head of the list of this new formation briefed the meeting on the creation of this new alliance of the left, on the current political scene, and the challenges ahead for his party and for the left in Israel.

Much of the discussions in Tel Aviv focussed on the situation in Israel ahead of the forthcoming elections, on the perspectives for a two-state solution that would bring peace, and on alternative ways of including civil society and others in these endeavours. On this occasion, for the first time, an Arab Israeli organisation, the Arab Movement for Change, was formally invited to join the debates.

Participants agreed on the importance of increasing international recognition of the State of Palestine and the need to encourage SI member parties worldwide, and particularly those in government who have not already done so, to take the decision to move forward with this recognition. In this regard, it was also agreed that a date would be determined

by the organisation for SI members to move jointly internationally on this question in their respective countries and national parliaments.

The content of the exchanges over the two days in Ramallah and Tel Aviv brought forward and highlighted elements for a common position which is reflected in a statement discussed and approved by consensus in both cities.

STATEMENT

The two-state solution, Israel and Palestine, for peace and a future of opportunities for the people of the Middle East

Ramallah 30 July – Tel Aviv 31 July, 2019

The Socialist International held a meeting in Ramallah, Palestine, on 30 July and in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 31 July 2019 to discuss the theme of the two-state solution, Israel and Palestine, for peace and a future of opportunities for the people of the Middle East.

After more than 27 years of failing to achieve peace through the bilateral peace process, SI believes that the time has come for the international community to collectively meet its responsibility under international law to bring an end to the occupation of the Palestinian State and all impediments to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

Regretfully, this fundamental foundation for any future peace agreement in the region has been openly opposed and sabotaged by the US Administration under President Donald Trump, in a manner that creates an alliance between the Trump Administration and extremists within Israel, including settlers, that work actively against the inalienable Palestinian right to self-determination. The meetings in Ramallah and Tel Aviv were held with the goal of analyzing the implications of such absence and what course of action the international community needs to take in order to safeguard the implementation of the long overdue inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the two-state solution, which is in the interest of Israelis, Palestinians and of regional and world peace.

With reference to the Councils held in Geneva 26-27 June 2018 and Santo Domingo 28-29 January 2019, the meeting reiterates its commitment to the following:

1. Reaffirms the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine on the 4th of June 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, and calls on all States for immediate and unconditional recognition of the State of Palestine. The SI reaffirms its commitment, in accordance with international law, to bringing a complete end to the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian state that started in 1967 in order to achieve the two-state solution, as two sovereign and democratic states for all their citizens and a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees according to the UN resolution 194 stipulated by the Arab peace initiative.
2. Reaffirms the relevant resolutions concerning the Palestinian Israeli conflict including resolutions 181(1947), 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 452 (1979), 465 (1980), 476

(1980), 478 (1980), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 67/19 (2012), 2334 (2016) and 1850 (2008).

3. The SI stands against the US Administration's positions against Just peace. The SI condemns moving the US embassy to Jerusalem and the recognition of the illegal annexation of the Golan Heights, both of which violated International law and the traditional policy of the previous American administrations and encouraged the extreme agenda of the Israeli Government. All these steps are dangerous precedents for the international community as a whole, as the US Government is trying to legitimize the acquisition of land through the use of force, a grave violation of international law.
4. The SI considers the US Administration's so called "deal of the century" for Israel and Palestine as an intention to legitimize the unlawful Israeli acts in the occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories, to formulate a deal that violates the most basic requirements for a just and sustainable solution, and ignores international law and human rights standards. It also contradicts the global consensus on peace, and destroys the legitimate rights of the Palestinian refugees and any ability of a two-state solution in which Palestinians will have their sovereign state as part of a peace accord.
5. The SI rejects any efforts that try to substitute real and just peace with "illusion of economic prosperity" which sustains occupation of the Palestinian State and the racial discriminatory policies against the Palestinian people. Such efforts and events like Manama Workshop deny the Palestinians' inalienable right to self-determination and sovereignty, and undermines international legitimacy and the real requirements of peace and true economic development.
6. The SI strongly condemns the latest illegal measures taken by the Israeli Authorities against the land and the people of Palestine, including the recent demolition of dozens of houses in the village of Sur Baher near East Jerusalem.
7. Stands against all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including, inter alia, the construction and expansion of settlements, the building of the separation wall, the transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions.
8. Encourages the non-violent approach at all levels and by all parties and demands the immediate cessation of all forms of violence by the Israeli occupying power and settlers against the Palestinian non-violent resistance.
9. Calls upon the international community, and particularly those governments and parliaments with representation of SI parties, to take concrete measures against Israeli settlements, including banning Israeli settlement products, issuing guidelines to prevent foreign support of Israeli settlements and making a comprehensive review of all agreements with Israel in order not to allow Israeli settlements to benefit from those agreements. Such actions should move in the direction of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2334 which calls for a differentiation between Israel and the occupied territory, preventing Israeli settlers from enjoying the benefits of other Israeli citizens from international agreements. Settlements remain the main obstacle to fulfilling the Palestinian right to self-determination.
10. Stands against any resolution that criminalizes freedom of expression and actions, including equating anti-occupation campaigns with anti-Semitism, instead SI calls upon all countries to take actions to hold Israel accountable for its well documented violations of International Law and the systematic denial of the Palestinians rights.

11. Demands the immediate release of all Palestinian prisoners especially the elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, minors and administrative detainees. SI calls for the release of Fatah leaders Marwan Barghouti, Karim Younesm, Fuad al Shobaky as well as the leader of the PFLP Ahmad Saadat and other political leaders.
12. Since the SI's last statement the number of Palestinian civilians attacked by Israeli Occupation Forces has risen sharply with the killing of over 200 unarmed Palestinians and injuring of over 9,000 including children, journalists, first-aid paramedics, women and men. The SI strongly condemns the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, as well as the use of fire arms against innocent civilians on both sides, and calls on the Israeli Government to immediately lift the siege on the Gaza Strip and allow the free movement of the people. The SI affirms its support to the United Nations General Assembly resolution (A/ES-10/L.23) that calls for "guaranteeing the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in the West Bank and Gaza Strip".
13. The SI welcomes president Mahmoud Abbas' initiative presented at the UN Security Council on 20 February 2018, in which he calls for a multilateral peace conference for the Middle East Peace Process based on International law and relevant UN resolutions and signed agreements between the parties involved, with the aim of devising mechanisms for implementing the relevant resolutions of all aspects of the conflict.
14. The SI calls on the United Nations to take concrete steps to protect the civilian population of Palestine and their property affected by grave violation of international humanitarian law and the IV Geneva Convention whether by the Israeli government or the Israeli settlers. It also calls on the UN Secretary General and the UN human Rights commissioner Ms. Michelle Bachelet to release the data base of all companies that benefit from their connection with the Israeli colonial settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with UN Human Rights Council resolution 36/31 of March 2016. The SI regrets the US decision to withdraw from the Human Rights Council, as it did previously from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and UNESCO.
15. The SI expresses its solidarity with the Palestinian citizens in Israel, who continue to live under a system of discrimination. It also strongly condemns the approval of anti-Arab laws that have racist nature, notably the Nation State Law. The SI meeting calls upon the State of Israel to abolish this and other discriminatory laws in order to ensure full equality to all Israeli citizens regardless of their race, color or religion. The SI reiterates its solidarity with the progressive forces in Israel and Palestine, including human rights defenders and civil society organizations including Btselem, Al Haq and Human Rights Watch that have been victims of a vicious campaign by the Israeli government.

Meeting of the SI Presidium and Heads of State & Government, United Nations, New York

25 September 2019



Members of the Socialist International Presidium have held their annual meeting at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York, joined by Heads of State and government and ministers from our social democratic political family. The exchanges focused on key issues of concern on the global agenda being addressed during the high-level segment of the 74th UN General Assembly, including climate change, sustainable development, and challenges that require the efforts of the International in conflict resolution, peace and democracy.

The meeting opened with a tribute to two leading figures in the global social democratic movement who recently passed away. The Presidium remembered the life and work of Dolors Renau, who was president of SIW between 1999 and 2003, and Ousmane Tanor Dieng, leader of the Senegalese Socialist Party and a long-serving SI Vice-President, who had also chaired the SI Africa Committee.

The Presidium meeting came shortly after the Climate Action Summit convened by the UN Secretary-General on 23 September, and the contributions made underlined the extent to which socialist and social democratic parties continue to be at the forefront of global efforts to take all necessary steps to avert catastrophic climate change. In his opening remarks the SI President George Papandreou emphasised the role that the SI, as

an international movement, has played on this issue. SI Secretary General Luis Ayala considered that the Climate Action Summit and the most recent report of the IPCC had given a deeper sense of urgency to the climate emergency the planet is facing. In regard to the forthcoming COP25, the SI will, as on previous occasions, bring together environment ministers from the social democratic family for exchanges and discussions on their priorities and expectations.

Representatives of SI member parties in government took the opportunity to outline their respective approaches on the climate emergency and the ambitious commitments that their countries had undertaken to achieve a carbon neutral society within the shortest possible time frame. Many underlined the importance of financial measures to incentivise investment in the green economy, in particular renewable energies, to ensure that targets for emissions reductions could be met.

A common theme of contributions was the priority that needed to be placed on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030, which are in complete alignment with the fundamental values and principles of the SI and its members. Pedro Sánchez, President of the government of Spain and SI Vice-President, called it a purely social democratic agenda and emphasised the need for a just and fair transition to a sustainable world society. A number of attendees felt that more work was needed to communicate the importance of the SDGs to citizens on a local level, and that it would benefit social democratic parties to underline their commitment to these goals which correlate with a future that many hundreds of millions of citizens across the world wish to see.

The need to strengthen political cooperation between social democratic parties to advance their shared values and principles was a key focus of remarks made by Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania. She considered that this was equally the case when fighting against the impact of climate change as when strengthening political cooperation. Another leader to highlight the value of cooperation was President Milo Djukanović of Montenegro, who spoke of the problems associated with the desire of some national leaders to reduce the importance of multilateralism. He was one of many speakers who underlined the importance of regional cooperation as a force for peace, stability and prosperity. Similar thoughts were expressed by Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, who regretted that regional organisations in the Caribbean were not playing as positive role as they once had, giving added significance to the work of the SI in the region.

The need for multilateralism in the face of global conflicts was a major theme of the discussions. Many speakers underlined the unique role that the Socialist International continues to play in promoting and facilitating dialogue in order to promote new approaches to unlocking progress in the resolution of seemingly intractable conflicts. This was very much in evidence at the recent meeting that the SI held over two days in Ramallah and Tel Aviv in July, which brought together representatives of Israeli and Palestinian member parties in both countries, reiterating that the only alternative for peace is a two-state solution. By engaging in dialogue with their counterparts in a spirit

of cooperation, further progress was made to reach a common position on how this could be achieved.

Perspectives were also heard from those directly affected by conflict and instability in other regions of the world. This included an update on current efforts to reach a settlement in Cyprus based on a bizonal bicomunal federation following the collapse of talks coordinated under the auspices of the UN in 2017. The Presidium was informed of recent developments in the Kashmir region and highlighted the urgent need for the international community to bring both sides to the conflict together in dialogue. On Venezuela, the Presidium heard how stability was being affected by the absence of rights and freedoms, the lack of democracy, and the ongoing tragedy of the systematic violation of human rights and erosion of quality of life in the country.

The SI Secretary General gave an overview of the coming activities of the International, which would include meetings of the Council, regional committees, the committee on gender equality, and social democratic ministers at COP25 in Santiago.



The members of the SI Presidium that participated in the meeting were George Papandreou, SI President; Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General; SI Vice-Presidents Colette Avital (Israel), Victor Benoit (Haiti), Janira Hopffer Almada (Cape Verde), Carlos Lupi (Brazil), Shazia Marri (Pakistan), Mario Nalpatian (Armenia), Julião Mateus Paulo (Angola), Alexander Romanovich (Russia), Pedro Sánchez (President of the

government of Spain), Nabil Shaath (Palestine) and Miguel Vargas (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic); SI Honorary Presidents Mustapha Ben Jaafar (Tunisia) and Tarja Halonen (former President of Finland). Among Heads of State, ministers and office holders were also President Milo Djukanović (Montenegro), Prime Minister Viorica Dăncilă (Romania), Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves (St Vincent and the Grenadines), Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı, Kalla Ankourao (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Niger), Tomáš Petříček (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic), Ville Skinnari (Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland), Eugen Orlando Teodorovici (Romanian Minister of Finance and Executive President of the PSD), Williams Dávila and Luis Florido (National Assembly, Venezuela) and officials of the governments of Burkina Faso and Mozambique.

Deep concern for stability and human rights in north-eastern Syria

9 October 2019

The SI is deeply concerned by the potential implications of unilateral Turkish military action in north-eastern Syria, which could have severe consequences for regional stability, human rights and the continuing fight against terrorism. Any escalation in fighting in the north east of Syria will mean further suffering and trauma, caused by increased violence and the potential displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians living in the region. Humanitarian aid may be disrupted to those living in displaced people's camps, placing at most risk those who have already been forced to leave their homes and are dependent on this assistance.

The further destabilisation of the situation in Syria and potential revival of the terrorist group ISIS could be a grave consequence of any ill-considered military action in northern Syria. The premature withdrawal of coalition forces from north-eastern Syria leaves Kurdish and other forces in the region, who have spent several years on the front line of the fight against terrorism, vulnerable to a resurgence by ISIS.

The Socialist International reiterates its firm support for the Syrian Kurds, who have been on the frontline against terrorism in that country and have provided a hospitable environment for refugees and internally displaced persons. The international community must not abandon the Kurds in Syria and the Syrian Democratic Forces, 11,000 of whom have given their lives fighting ISIS.

The delicate situation in the north east of Syria requires restraint to be shown by all sides if an escalation in violence, increased bloodshed and a human rights disaster are to be avoided.



SI meeting at the 141st Assembly of the IPU in Belgrade, Serbia

14 October 2019

On 14 October 2019, the Socialist International held its regular meeting within the framework of the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which on this occasion took place

in Belgrade, Serbia. Chaired by the SI Secretary General, the meeting was attended by parliamentarians and representatives from Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde,

Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Iraq, Mali, Mongolia, Montenegro, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Serbia, South Africa, Spain, United Kingdom, Venezuela and the Global Fund.

The meeting heard reports on the national situation of the different countries with updates on their latest political and social developments, and in some cases deficit of democracy. Contributions were made on issues of international concern including the climate emergency; the humanitarian and political crisis arising from the Turkish military incursion in Northern Syria; the crisis affecting Kashmir; the situation in the Sahel region; the ongoing unresolved question of Palestine with its repercussions for the wider Middle East, and the humanitarian and political crisis in Venezuela which also impacted other countries in the region with the steady exodus of large numbers of the population. Many participants underlined that securing and maintaining peace was the key to all progress, and it was a pre-requisite for development and democracy.

The SI Secretary General spoke of the views and activities of the Socialist International, highlighting its longstanding work for climate justice and for the sustainable development goals. He underlined the SI's commitment to achieving 50/50 in terms of gender parity and welcomed the increasing involvement of young people on crucial global issues, as we have seen with climate change.

SI Secretary General in Niger

28 October 2019



SI Secretary General meets with His Excellency Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger

“Women's Participation in Decision-Making Processes - the challenges for a 50/50 World”

Niamey, Niger

29-30 October 2019



Hosted by the SI member party in Niger, the PNDS-Tarayya, a Socialist International Women Africa Regional Meeting was held in Niamey on 29-30 October 2019. The opening session was addressed by four speakers: Hadizatou Ousseini, President of the PNDS-Tarayya Women’s Organisation; Ouafa Hajji, President of Socialist International Women; Luis Ayala, Secretary General of the Socialist International; and Mohamed Bazoum, President of the host party, PNDS.



In his speech, the SI Secretary General underlined that “women make up half of the population. For us socialists and social democrats, members of the Socialist International, our only path, consistent with our principles and values, is to engage and to play a leading role in ending inequality, injustice, violence against women, and to make our democracies true democracies through the equal integration of women in political, economic and social life”.

(L-R): Ouafa Hajji, Mohamed Bazoum, Luis Ayala and Hadizatou Ousseini

Meeting of the Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea, in Minsk, Belarus

8-9 November 2019



The SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea held a two-day meeting in Minsk on 8-9 November 2019, hosted by the SI member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Gramada. The agenda of the meeting focused on the current priorities for social democratic parties in the region, incorporating reports and exchanges on the national situation faced by each of the member parties represented. Discussions continued on democracy and its institutions in the CIS, the Caucasus and Black Sea, overcoming conflicts and securing peace, and continuing to strengthen social democracy in the region. The meeting was chaired by Mikalai Statkevich (Belarus, Narodnaya Gramada), Araz Alizadeh (Azerbaijan, SDPA) and Alexandra Dobolyi (Hungary, MSzP), the co-chairs of the committee.

The meeting was addressed at its opening by Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General, who recalled the long commitment of the SI to Belarus and the engagement of its member party within the global social democratic political family. Noting that exactly thirty years had passed since the fall of the Berlin wall, he reiterated that social democracy had always been on the side of freedoms, rights and democratic change, and that social democratic parties now existed across the CIS, where they faced complex challenges. Progress towards democracy had not gone as expected in some regions of the world, including this one, making the vision of social democrats necessary in the absence of free and fair elections in a number of post-Soviet countries. Even within democratic systems, neoliberalism had exacerbated the difference between rich and poor, creating increasing inequality which in turn caused democracy to suffer.

Mikalai Statkevich, chair of the host party and co-chair of the committee, gave his warm greetings to all participants and his thanks to the SI and its members for their support and solidarity over many years during which he and his party had struggled for democratic rights and freedoms in Belarus. He described the situation in the country under an authoritarian system where one person had been in power for 25 years, the parliament was merely decorative and elections rigged in favour of the ruling party, with a judicial system that was completely subordinate to the regime.

In preparation for the presidential election campaign of 2020, Narodnaya Gramada was fighting for the right of Mikalai Statkevich to be a candidate. Following his release in 2015, after more than four years as a political prisoner, his rights had been restricted for a further eight years, during which time he would be prohibited from participating in elections. As long as the dictator was allowed to appoint rivals for himself, society would be denied the change to get rid of him, but Statkevich nonetheless considered that dramatic changes were inevitable in Belarus, and the party was building up strength, with the support and solidarity of its friends around the world, to be in a position to make those changes positive for the country and its people.

The committee offered its wholehearted support to Statkevich and Narodnaya Gramada as they prepared for upcoming elections, confident that the forthcoming meeting of the SI Council would give its backing to their efforts, demanding that the coming electoral processes would be closer to being fair and democratic than in the past. The SI Secretary General said that the SI would make full use of its international profile and platform to draw the attention of the world to the lack of democracy, rights and freedoms in Belarus, to have a strong international presence in the country and mobilise international institutions to secure free and fair elections in Belarus in 2020.

Further perspectives on the lack of solidarity, freedom and justice in Belarus were heard on the second day of the meeting from trade unionist Gennady Fedynich, who reported on the pressures faced by members of his union. He had been prevented from attending the opening session of the meeting due to being under house arrest, a status that had been created by the government in order to claim that there were no political prisoners. He considered that the state had abandoned its people, and that urgent reforms were needed in pensions and salaries to raise living standards in the country.

The committee received a report from the delegation of the SDPK of Kyrgyzstan on recent developments in that country, where there had been a deterioration in the political situation following the detention of former president Almazbek Atambayev, with reports of arrests of many in the leadership of the party, physical beatings in prison and barriers to the activity of the party. The SDPK, having been the first party in the post-Soviet region to come to power from opposition, now continued to operate as an opposition party as there had been a move away from democracy and towards a clan-oriented politics in recent years.

In response to the political crisis in Kyrgyzstan, the committee decided that an SI delegation should travel to the country in the immediate future to hold dialogue with

representatives of the government of Kyrgyzstan, the SDPK and former president Almazbek Atambayev in order to carry out a full assessment of the true situation in the country. The SI could not accept that one of its member parties be destroyed, and would be fully engaged, putting clear demands to the actors in the political process in Kyrgyzstan and mobilising the international community and institutions to give the political crisis there the attention it deserves.

On Azerbaijan, co-chair of the committee Araz Alizadeh reported that increases in the social budget and rises in the minimum wage were not enough. He considered that true democracy was far from being achieved in all countries of the CIS, where politicians had not been successful in finding the key to the hearts of their people. The SDPA would soon take part in municipal elections on a platform of trying to increase the rights of the municipal authorities. His view was that the country could see more progress if the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh was resolved.

In the short period since the previous committee meeting there had been significant changes in Armenia, where a wave of protests had taken place in April 2018. At parliamentary elections in December 2018, a new alliance had been elected with an unprecedented 70% of the vote, and for the first time the SI-member ARF-D was not represented in parliament. Nonetheless, the party continued to advocate for all reforms to be based on the constitution of Armenia, in order to ensure objectivity in the transition processes, and believed in the separation of powers in the country in favour of the establishment of real democracy.

Following the investiture of a new president in Kazakhstan in March 2019, the country was going through an awakening as people realised they have a will and a vote and could create change. As the only registered opposition party, the SI-member OSDP was working to bring about a change to the situation, with the majoritarian electoral system facing a crisis. Askhat Rakhimzhanov, the new chair of OSDP, reported on the changes that had taken place within the party and the challenges it had was currently facing.

Recent electoral processes in Russia had seen positive results for A Just Russia party in Moscow, St Petersburg and Sevastopol, with an increase in the number of regional deputies elected. The party was focusing its energies on the continuation of its parliamentary campaigning and actions to put pressure on the ruling party, with all parties in Russia currently getting ready for elections in 2020. The party was against the social injustice that had provoked the recent protests in Moscow, but had not taken part in the rallies organised by other opposition forces.

The recent changes in Ukraine were outlined in the context of the authoritarian regime the country had inherited upon independence and the move towards oligarchy in the 1990s, when power was conceded to businesses and the rich. The election of President Zelensky was truly unexpected and represented a victory for the people over the oligarchic system, but the overall state of affairs had yet to change with no improvement in the general situation in the country. One important reform that was needed was the

elimination of the financial conditions imposed on political parties to participate in national campaigns, to enable access for all parties, including the SI-member SDPU.

The SI Secretary General reported that he had also been in contact with SI member parties in Georgia (SDD) and Moldova (PDM), who sent their greetings to the committee. In the case of Moldova, the political situation in the country was particularly complex with the scheduling of a crucial parliamentary session on the days of our meeting, therefore a representative of the PDM could not travel to Minsk.

Discussions on democracy in the region focused on the challenges still faced with establishing a truly democratic system more than two decades on from independence. During the exchanges, Alexandra Dobolyi (MSzP, Hungary, co-chair of the committee) noted that those in the west of Europe had started to see her country as an eastern dictatorship, while in the east it was considered a western democracy, highlighting the importance of placing the struggle for democracy across the region in the correct context. Although the level of democratisation varies from country to country, there are common challenges in the way the electoral process was often staged in order for those who hold power to maintain their grip.

Several interventions focused on the crucial role that democratic institutions have in face of a political system that is engineered to hinder the democratic transfer of power. Although the problems of countries of the former Soviet Union were not identical and elections organised differently, the lack of strong and independent institutions was a recurrent problem. Social democratic parties of the region need to cooperate and share experiences of how elections were organised, and how to effectively monitor and observe electoral processes. Another crucial challenge for social democrats would be to harness the opportunities presented by the democratisation of information. Young people were more aware than ever of the world beyond national borders, they were being politicised, and would not settle for the rigid and authoritarian structures of the past. Social democratic parties should be the voice of this generation and the architects of democratic change in the CIS region, as they had done in other regions of the world over many decades.

The lack of democracy and accountability in the region was also identified as a factor which contributes to the lack of progress on resolution of conflicts. Historical context could also be a major obstacle to international cooperation, with negative attitudes to different nationalities and ethnic groups often based on past injustices and disputes. By going through a process of reconciliation and addressing historical grievances, it was possible to turn a page on past actions and work for a mutually beneficial and peaceful future relationship.

Meeting of the SI Africa Committee in Praia, Cabo Verde

15-16 November 2019



The SI Africa Committee met on 15-16 November 2019 in Praia, Cabo Verde, hosted by the SI member African Party of Cabo Verde's Independence (PAICV). The meeting opened at the National Assembly of Cabo Verde. SI Secretary General Luis Ayala began by paying tribute to Ousmane Tanor Dieng, the former leader of the Socialist Party of Senegal, SI vice-president and a former chair of the Africa Committee, who passed away on 15 July 2019. Tanor Dieng was a much respected and cherished figure within the global community of social democrats, deeply engaged in the work of the SI and the pursuit of a better future for his country. A minute of silence was held in his honour.

In her opening address, Janira Hopffer Almada, leader of PAICV and vice-president of the SI, welcomed all delegates to Cabo Verde and expressed her satisfaction and honour to hold the event in her home country. She considered that democracy was going through a difficult moment and was in need of attention, with it being in particular a decisive moment for democracy in Africa. Though the process of decolonisation had seen the victory of the liberation movements, the end of this process needed to be the consolidation of democracy, with participation and cooperation on a political level. She also touched on the fundamental challenge of climate change. This threatens the future of all people, but is particularly pertinent for small island countries, for which it is a major priority.

In his opening remarks, Luis Ayala spoke of his pride at the presence of Pedro Pires and José Maria Neves, two towering figures in the political history of Cabo Verde, whose work was being carried on by Janira Hopffer Almada. He reflected on the history of the SI, which after its formation in 1951 as a predominantly European organisation, had later taken on a new energy and an expanded membership in the following decades at the time of the fight against colonialism in Africa, in support of the national liberation movements and the struggle against dictatorships and authoritarian regimes elsewhere, transforming itself into a truly global organisation. The major struggles now were against nationalism and populism, and neoliberalism under which the super-rich prospered while the conditions of the poorest got worse. The members of the SI were internationalists, who wanted to globalise democracy, equality and opportunity.

Among the delegates were every one of the elected vice-presidents of the SI from Africa, bringing a wealth of expertise and experience to the proceedings in the contributions they made. In addition to the leader of the host party, the meeting was attended by Julião Mateus Paulo (Angola, MPLA), Chantal Kambiwa (Cameroon, SDF), Johnson Asiedu Nketiah (Ghana, NDC), Bokary Treta (Mali, RPM), Ahmed Ould Daddah (Mauritania, RFD) and Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana (Namibia, SWAPO).

Many of the contributions made by delegates were of great pertinence to the main theme of strengthening democracy and democratic institutions in Africa. The reports received from the countries of the region gave a contrasting picture, with both successes and setbacks for democracy and its institutions in recent times. The host country, Cabo Verde, was put forward as an example of what could be achieved in terms of development in an African country where a multi-party system with the conditions for the stable transfer of power existed, and was a leading country in the region in terms of higher education and infrastructure. Senegal was another country with a strong democratic tradition, where peaceful transitions of power had taken place. Since the change of leadership in 2012, socialist priorities such as infrastructure development had started to take place.

Important changes had occurred in Angola in the last two years, where a new president had been elected with an overwhelming majority. There, the oil price had directly affected the country, and the new president was focused on searching for new investment, diversifying the economy and fighting corruption, nepotism and relationships which did not benefit Angola. In São Tomé and Príncipe, after a number of years in opposition, the MLSTP/PSD had returned to power in a coalition following the elections of 2018. One of the major challenges it faced was combating instability and consolidating democracy in order to be able to take steps for development, and the new government was taking important actions by beginning work on new transport infrastructure in 2020. The Committee also heard that after a long struggle, the Democratic Republic of Congo had succeeded in finding democracy, although the constitution needed re-writing to give the people their full rights. SI-member PALU wanted to learn from the experiences of other African parties in order to build its organisation and get its ideology across to the people.

In Namibia, the SI-member SWAPO was for the first time since liberation facing formidable opposition. Rapidly rising unemployment and apparent irregularities meant that an independent candidate for president had gained a lot of support, as the government was perceived not to have lived up to the promises it had made to its people. In a report on the situation in Ghana, where democratic achievements had been rolled back, the Committee was given a warning that democracy could not be taken for granted. There, the incumbent government, which had taken control of the electoral commission, was recruiting militias and incorporating them into state security in advance of elections in 2020. The Committee was further warned of a severe threat to democracy in Cameroon, where a crisis in the anglophone regions of the country had led to a risk of war. The integrity of the elections was undermined by the lack of administration in those regions, which would create problems for all those born there, potentially making the elections a source of further conflict for the country.

The façade of democracy was identified as a major problem in Chad, where the president has been in power for over 30 years, using the military to keep power and refusing dialogue, governing by decree even when the national assembly was in session. Under these challenging conditions the SI-member UNDR was preparing to contest legislative elections in 2020. A similar dynamic exists in Djibouti, where since independence the opposition has never been given the opportunity to come to power. The SI-member MRD reported that it remains one of the poorest countries in the world, but recent regional developments such as the peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea and hopes for a democratic breakthrough there could have a positive influence on Djibouti. The FFS of Algeria described a struggle for a state of law, democracy and gender equality in face of restrictions, control of elections and corruption by the regime. The opposition lacked access to the media, but expressed its pride in the popular revolution taking place in Algeria, urging the SI to support popular movements across the world.

A number of participants underlined that it was necessary for members to be vigilant and to raise the alert when a party in power did not live up to the democratic values and expectations of the organisation, even in difficult situations where it involved sister parties and friends. In this context, the situation in Guinea was of great concern to the Committee, where the President was seeking to change the constitution to allow his re-election and in reaction the country has suffered violent street protests.

In Niger, the incumbent President Mahamadou Issoufou of the SI-member PNDS had committed to not seeking a third term, respecting the constitution and reinforcing African democracy in the process, and his tenure in office was widely perceived as an example of good governance.

A number of the countries in Africa in which the SI has member parties continue to be touched by conflict, and this was covered in depth under the theme of 'Resolving conflicts and securing peace to ensure progress and development for the benefit of the peoples of Africa'. As long as conflict persists, efforts are forced solely on winning peace, which jeopardises progress and development in other areas. One such country that has suffered greatly in this regard has been Sudan, represented for the first time at a meeting of the SI

by the SLM. The Committee heard that the end of the military regime had not solved the problems of the country. Independent armed forces continued to operate and are destabilising the country, making peace still a priority in order to deal with the problems created by the former regime.

The Sahel region continues to face major threats to peace and security from terrorist forces, as outlined by delegates from Mali, Niger, Mauritania and Senegal, among others. The contributions on this grave threat to regional peace called for more solidarity from the international community to deal with the lack of development and opportunities that cause and exacerbate insecurity in the region. The Sahel is a key to security in Africa and the entire world, and such a multidimensional crisis requires joint solutions. Parts of the territory have become a no man's land favourable to drug traffickers.

For a country such as Mauritania, the opposition RFD was struggling to bring about change through a process of evolution rather than revolution, and considered a spirit of cooperation between the countries of the Sahel would help to reinforce the strong human and cultural links in the region. This partnership could transform perspectives on the current security situation and set an important example for the continent. Representatives from Mali also stressed the importance of regional cooperation and the work done to stabilise the country, which was suffering from a complex crisis since the 2012 rebellion by a group that wanted to detach a part of the Malian territory. The only response was the full realisation of the democratic project, through which the multi-secular population of Mali could continue to live without exclusion or stigmatisation.

The lack of peace and security in many parts of the continent are a major driving force behind the migration flows through Africa and across the Mediterranean. This phenomenon had an impact on many countries including Morocco, which while facing internal problems such as youth unemployment and healthcare provision, could not also act as the gendarme of Europe, The USFP called for the question of Western Sahara to be treated under the auspices of the UN, with the participation of Morocco, Algeria, Mauritania and the Polisario Front.

The Committee received a report on the recent regional meeting of SI Women held in Niamey, with the participation of the SI secretary general. This meeting was an opportunity for SIW to analyse the question of parity in Africa, in connection with the African Union's Agenda 2063 "the Africa we want", particularly in regards to political participation, conflict management and peace and security processes as well as land management, and to underline that female autonomy was a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Those represented at the meeting faced both common challenges and unique national situations. Despite diverse circumstances, there was a shared sense of optimism for the future potential that could be unlocked in Africa through good governance with social democratic values. With the right leadership, solid democratic foundations, cooperation within and between nations, Africa will be well placed to take advantage of its natural resources in a sustainable way that ensures prosperity for many future generations. SI

member parties had been fundamental to the liberation struggles and the establishment of democracy across Africa, and the SI will continue to have a crucial role by facilitating dialogue and ensuring that all of its member parties can draw benefit from the collective strength and experience of the organisation.

In addition to its working agenda and the exchanges on the state of social democracy in Africa, the Committee had the task of electing a new chair in accordance with the decisions of the last two SI Council meetings in Geneva and Santo Domingo. Following consultations involving all the SI vice-presidents from the region, a consensus was reached that Bokary Treta (Mali, RPM), SI vice-president, should take on the responsibility of chairing the Committee for the remainder of the inter-Congress period, in accordance with the statutes of the SI. His candidacy was accepted by the Committee by acclamation and he thanked those present for their faith in him, adding that the Committee could count on his commitment.

US Declaration on Israeli settlements an obstacle to peace

19 November 2019

The declaration by the US administration that Israeli settlements in occupied territory are “not, per se, inconsistent with international law” is a new obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

The formal recognition of Jerusalem, a historical holy site for Jews, Muslims and Christians, as the capital of Israel by the United States in December 2017, had already undermined the prospects of a durable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The US’ unilateral decisions, which ignore wider international consensus and international law, make the prospects for a peaceful solution to this longstanding conflict ever more distant.

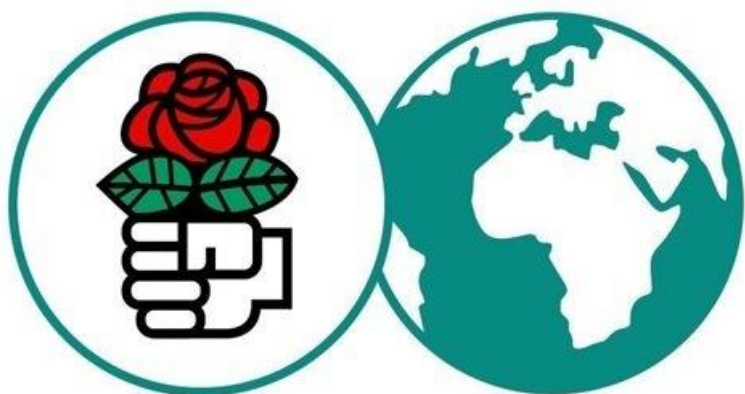
This new declaration disregards the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, ratified by both the US and Israel, which stipulates that the Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, and runs contrary to UN Security Council Resolutions adopted since 1979 declaring that the Israeli occupation has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-State solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

Earlier this year, the Socialist International (SI) emphasised at a meeting in Ramallah on 30 July and in Tel Aviv on 31 July, including the participation of SI members from Palestine and Israel, its full support for the two-State solution for peace and a future of opportunities for the people of the Middle East. After more than 27 years of failing to achieve peace through the bilateral peace process since the Oslo Accords, the SI calls on

the international community to collectively meet its responsibility under international law to bring an end to the occupation of Palestinian territory and to all impediments to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

COP25: SI calls for increased ambition and immediate action on the climate emergency

2 December 2019



The Socialist International and its member parties have for many years consistently advocated for concerted and coordinated international action to prevent catastrophic climate change and global warming. Recognising that climate change is an existential threat with far-reaching consequences upon all aspects of human life, including development, peace and prosperity, the SI's

Commission for a Sustainable World Society established in 2006, worked intensively to develop a social democratic response to the challenge of climate change. The commission report, "From a High Carbon Economy to a Low Carbon Society", was published in September 2009 and its conclusions remain pertinent to this day. In the decade since that report, climate change has remained at the heart of the agenda of the SI, as a major theme of Congress, Council and Presidium meetings. The SI has been present at major summits on climate change and sustainable development, including most recently the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019, and sought to coordinate a common approach to be undertaken by its member parties based on the fundamental principle of climate justice.

The Presidium of the SI, meeting shortly after the summit, underlined the extent to which socialist and social democratic parties continue to be at the forefront of global efforts to take all necessary steps to avert catastrophic climate change. In conjunction with COP25, the SI will, as on previous occasions, bring together environment ministers from the social democratic family for exchanges and discussions on their priorities and expectations.

Last year, on the eve of COP24 in Katowice, 94 leaders of the Socialist International signed an open letter with 'A global call for a sustainable world society – before it's too late', published on 30 November 2018. During the past year, it has become ever more clear that the current level of action is not sufficient. Despite the commitments made

under the Paris Agreement, there has been no reduction in the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere, or even a slowdown in the rate at which this is increasing. According to the most recent report of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the global concentration of CO₂ increased to yet another high 407.8 parts per million (ppm) in 2018, having first crossed the symbolic 400 ppm benchmark in 2015.

This trend is confirmed by the UN Emissions Gap Report 2019, which describes a rise in GHG emissions of 1.5% per year over the last decade, reaching a record high of 55.5 gigatonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide (GtCO₂e) in 2018. This collective failure to stop the growth in GHG emissions has severe consequences, as for each year of postponed peaking, deeper and faster actions are now required. At the time of publishing, the report calculated that 2030 emissions would need to be 55% lower than 2018 to put the world on the least-cost pathway to limiting global warming to below 1.5°C. However, global emissions are not estimated to peak before 2030 if current climate policies and ambition levels of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are maintained, by which time the narrowing window of opportunity to take the necessary action to prevent catastrophic global heating will have firmly closed.

The science has long been clear, and the evidence continues to mount that actions are not matching up to ambitions when it comes to reducing GHG emissions. Human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, and if it continues to increase at the current rate, warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052, according to the recent Special Report of the IPCC on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C. The need to restrict global warming to an absolute maximum of 1.5°C is clear. Climate models project a significant difference as a result of limiting warming to 1.5°C as opposed to 2.0°C, when it comes to increases in mean temperature, hot extremes in most inhabited regions and risks from heavy precipitation events in several regions, and droughts and precipitation deficits in some regions. In short, with an increase of 2.0°C, extreme weather events become much more probable. Just this year, we have witnessed the devastating cost of storms, floods, droughts and extreme heat, which all too often bring destruction and loss of life to those least able to deal with the consequences, and who bear least responsibility for the climate emergency.

We know the challenge is immense. The IPCC outlines that pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C require unprecedented systems transitions in terms of scale, in energy, land, urban, infrastructure and industrial systems. All sectors need to contribute with deep emissions reductions and a significant upscaling of investments. As outlined by the UN Secretary General at this year's Climate Action Summit, the climate emergency is a race we are currently losing. Although the summit was significant in gathering together government leaders, business and civil society actors to increase momentum and impetus in tackling the climate crisis and a number of important pledges were made, more political will and deeper commitments are needed if the race is to be won.

Today, as the COP25 Summit begins in Madrid, the Socialist International calls on the international community to build on the Paris Agreement and the pledges made at the Climate Action Summit to raise the ambition of the NDC targets and long-term strategies for all countries, in particular the major carbon polluters, in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. More than this, a commitment is needed to immediate action to secure the urgent emissions cuts that need to occur in the next couple of years in order to have a chance to limit global warming to 1.5°C. To this end, the Socialist International strongly advocates action to tackle subsidies for fossil fuels, implement taxes on carbon, and end new coal power beyond 2020. We are living in a climate emergency, which can only be addressed through unprecedented multilateral cooperation by governments, business and civil society. For the future of our planet and the well-being of the generations to come, failure is not an option.

Challenges and priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of 2020 - Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Montego Bay, Jamaica

19-20 December 2019



At a time of deep social and political unrest throughout the continent, the Socialist International held a meeting of its Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in Jamaica on 19-20 December hosted by the SI member party in that country, the People's National Party (PNP). The agenda included

four key themes of great relevance and importance for the whole of our political family: (i) The defence and strengthening of democracy in the countries of the region; (ii) Ensuring respect for the rights and freedoms of all; (iii) Today's priorities in our struggle for social justice, and (iv) Civic peace as the foundation and objective of good governance.

The meeting opened with contributions by the President of the Committee, Miguel Vargas, Leader of the Dominican Revolutionary Party, PRD, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic; the President of the People's National Party, PNP, of

Jamaica, Dr. Peter Phillips; and the Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala.

The President of the Committee, along with thanking the hosts, underlined that the region today faces big challenges that must be addressed with boldness, creativity and common sense, among them, climate change, criminality and inequality which undermine democracy and political stability. According to a recent report by the Economic Commission for Latin America (CEPAL), during the past five years the downward trend of poverty and extreme poverty has been halted and it is expected that the number of the poor will change from 185 million in 2018 to 191 million in 2019. The upheaval and social turbulence that affect many nations in this part of the world is rooted on the deep inequalities that afflict the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean, threatening the peace and political and social stability that the continent has known this century. Together with calling on the social democrats of the region to be the guarantors of peace and the promoters of democracy, he emphasised that dialogue and mutual respect must be the way forward to achieve the wellbeing of all. Referring to his own country, the Dominican Republic, he called to protect and preserve political stability, and to sustain the economic growth and social peace in the country.

The President of the People's National Party expressed his satisfaction at the holding of this meeting which, in line with the tradition of the democratic left was a family meeting, and he offered a warm welcome to all the participants. For the past three decades the party has been mainly in government, preoccupied with the challenges inherent to this responsibility and he seized this opportunity re-assert their identity as members of this global political family. He declared that the PNP is anti-colonial, supports the rule of international law, opposes hegemonic pretensions and influences, and is committed to the pursuit of a more equitable and socially just world. These are the principles on which are based the hopes for an improvement in the standards of living and quality of governance in developing countries, with policies of global development that today are being challenged by unilateral policies or major power politics, while it becomes ever more evident that thirty years of increased globalisation has resulted in a greater inequality among and within the nations, as is the case in countries of the Caribbean. The debt crisis and the spread of IMF programmes has created a fiscal environment that has severely limited the policy options of governments in the region and has contributed to undercutting popular confidence in the institutions of governance and in democracy.

The SI Secretary General expressed his appreciation to the host party, pleased that the Committee was meeting in Jamaica. He said the PNP was linked to the development of this International through the action of historical leaders like Michael Manley, who helped to deepen the global character of the SI, not only with his work in this part of the world but also by providing key definitions for the North-South dimension that contributed to giving a universal profile to social democracy. We are living in times when nationalistic, populist and conservative political forces in different parts of the world present a challenge to our values and ideals. This challenge is posed by those who undermine freedoms and rights and who put forward narrow and discriminatory policies that contrast with our vision of a common world with integrating ideas for the building

of a State which is modern and democratic and ensures freedoms and rights for all. Likewise, our member parties are committed to advancing equality and social justice, as experience has shown us that these are essential and necessary to strengthen and preserve democracy.

Representatives of parties from the region, including Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, contributed to the discussions sharing their experiences and perspectives on the realities that prevail today in their respective countries. The Committee registered in particular the following conclusions drawn from the exchanges:

With reference to the situation in **Bolivia**, the Bolivian representatives informed that after a wide-ranging citizen mobilisation in that country in protest over the electoral fraud which was reported and verified by an investigation carried out by the Organisation of American States (OAS) of the elections held on 20 October, the president Evo Morales did not suffer a coup d'état, highlighted by the fact that no one in the Armed Forces nor any the commandants who took military decisions during the crisis, ended up occupying positions of power in the State. The new situation in the country after the resignation of the president presents today for democrats enormous possibilities for the full recovery of democracy and the implementation of the values of pluralism, alternation and accountability by the authorities. Aware that Bolivia faces the risk of a conservative restoration that, ignoring the lessons of the country's past history, could try to govern favouring only one sector of the society and in a technocratic and repressive way, those who are today at the head of the provisional government were called on to ensure a transition that, in line with the will of the people and the expectations of the international community, would lead that nation towards a pluralist democracy with presidential alternation and respectful of the rights of the minorities. The Committee also urged the Bolivian people to express in the next presidential elections all their will to give themselves a democratic and progressive direction that will ensure a stable and sustainable government, overcoming the threats that extremism poses to their wellbeing and security.

The events of the last two months in **Chile** are evidence of a serious level of political unrest, rooted in the inequality resulting from an unjust wealth distribution. The massive social mobilisations demanding fundamental change to the model of development, have been damaged by minority sectors which promote looting, vandalism and violence. Together with rejecting and condemning these kinds of actions, we make a call to protect human rights and to investigate the outrages perpetrated, and to recognise the veracity of the reports issued by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other specialised bodies. The crisis in Chile is political and therefore the agreement reached by the great majority of the political parties to engage in a constituent process is a significant step forward. The Committee called for the promotion of a social pact accompanied by greater tax justice. We declare our solidarity with the people of Chile and our sister parties, the Party for Democracy, the Radical Social Democratic Party and the Socialist Party.

The Committee expressed its concern over the deterioration that has characterised the general situation in the sister **Republic of Haiti** for more than a year, a situation that endangers the hard won democratic gains by the Haitian people since the fall of the dictatorship. It strongly condemned the multiple human rights abuses, the excessive use of force to suppress demonstrators, as well as the killings and other crimes committed by government agents and their militias. Those responsible for the massacres in Lasaline, in Cite Soleil and Bel-Air must be brought to justice and held accountable for their actions.

The Committee extended its firm support to the Haitian people in the responsibilities which they must assume with lucidity to advance the process of democratisation, as well as its solidarity with their struggle to change the way in which the State affairs are carried out, to put an end to corruption in the government administration and improve the living conditions of the people. The Committee also invites its member parties and supporters in the country to meet with other democratic and credible political forces in favour of a new governance for the country and to put an end the economic crisis in the interest of the Haitian people.

In view of the general elections that are expected in **Jamaica** during 2020, the Committee expressed its solidarity with the PNP that was facing a party in government that has failed its citizens and the international community in not maintaining the required standards of good governance and transparency. In particular, the Committee noted with concern the rise in criminality, as well as the increasing level of inequality whereby a fifth part of the population is today living under extreme poverty. In the face of general elections, the PNP remains committed to continue its fight for equal opportunities and social justice and to maintain the highest standards of integrity and transparency, objectives in which it has the full support of the Socialist International.

In relation to **Panama**, together with reiterating the satisfaction shared by all the members of the International at the electoral victory of President Laurentino Nito Cortizo, the Committee expressed its solidarity and support for the government, which under the leadership of the new president, has assumed a social agenda that includes the objective of freeing themselves of the “sixth frontier” that is inequality and the social debt, while maintaining a commitment to strengthen multilateralism in opposition to the unilateralism of the current US administration, as informed by the Panamanian representative. The date of this meeting, 20 December, coincided with the 30th anniversary of the invasion of Panama, a date that President Nito Cortizo had declared as a Day of National Mourning, rendering justice to the victims and their families.

Referring to **Peru**, the Committee considered that the dissolution of the Congress on 30 September signified a step backwards in the deepening and consolidation of the democratic system in that country, sharing the OAS criteria that the application of the Constitution in this case by the president of the Republic of Peru, Mr. Martín Vizcarra Cornejo, must be addressed by the highest Constitutional Court of Peru, a matter that has still not been resolved by that Court responding to a demand for their jurisdiction in this case to establish if the procedures were duly observed. Otherwise, the corresponding

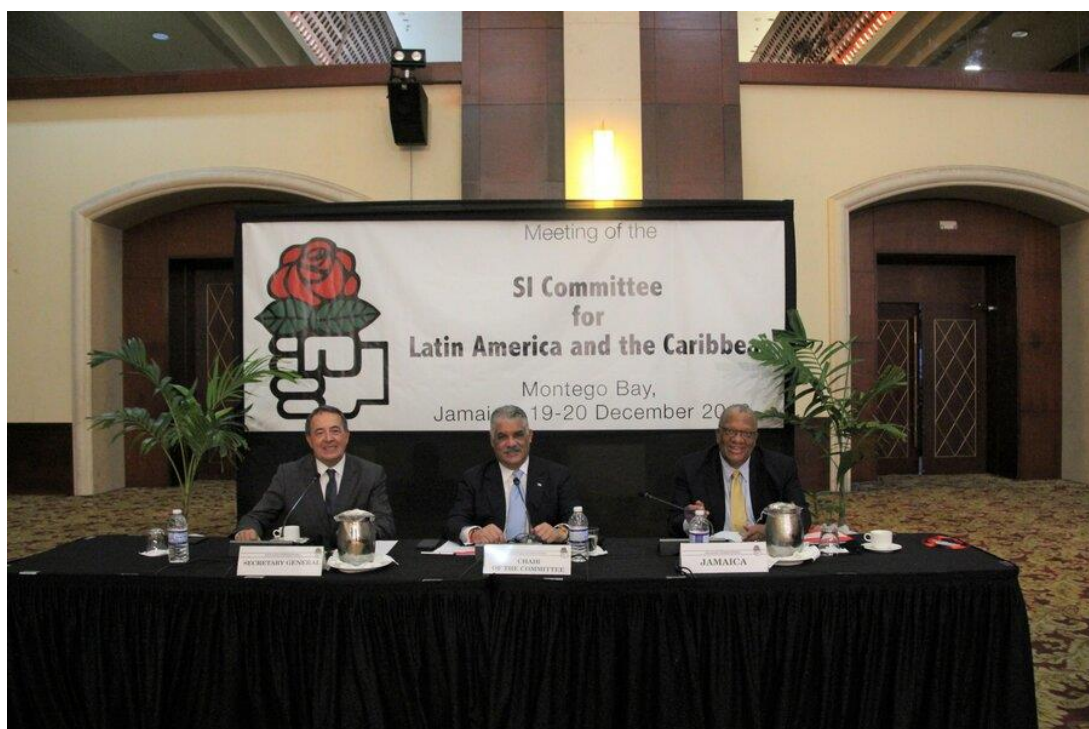
legal measures should be taken. Regarding the next legislative elections called for 26 January 2020, the rules of the Special Electoral Constituents must be clearly established, in particular in regard to the restrictions on the representatives of the parties of the democratic opposition.

In relation to **Venezuela**, the Committee firmly rejected all types of political violence and called for respect for the Constitution, the laws, the National Assembly and its President Juan Guaidó and its other authorities, for human rights and for all the political rights of all Venezuelans. It also called on the parties in conflict to seek a political solution to the crisis in order to achieve a process of re-institutionalisation that will allow, as soon as possible, the holding of free and fair presidential elections with guarantees for all parties, as well as the rest of the elections that are part of the constitutional timetable.

The Committee will continue to permanently follow the Venezuelan conflict, demanding the freedom of all the political prisoners, among whom are members of parties from this International in that country, as well as an end to the lifting of the parliamentary immunity of members of the National Assembly and the freedom of the Member of Parliament Juan Requesens and other political prisoners recognised in the report presented by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet.

The international community must continue to work together with the UN bodies overseeing the huge migration crisis, which up to now, according to the IOM, reveals that more than 4.8 million Venezuelans are in a situation of diaspora, fleeing the political conflict and the economic crisis.

At the close of the meeting, the Committee agreed to hold its next meeting in April 2020 in the Dominican Republic.



For the restoration of democratic order in Venezuela

6 January 2020

The Socialist International congratulates the members of the National Assembly of Venezuela for their firm and resolute decision to proceed with the renewal of the mandate of their authorities in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the country, as well as with the rules of the Assembly, in spite of all the attempts by the Nicolas Maduro regime to obstruct it and prevent this action by the legislators, including through the use of force and of military and police personnel.

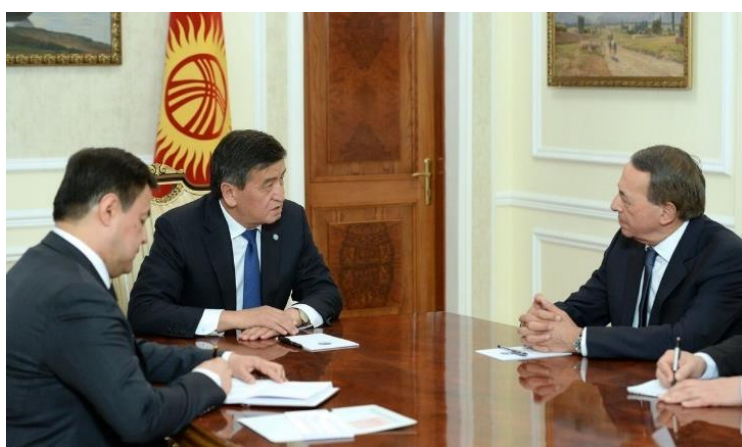
The SI also congratulates Juan Guaidó on his re-election as president of the National Assembly, and the other members of the executive board elected by that institution in a process that was carried out with due respect for the relevant rules, involving the participation of one hundred deputies that formed the necessary quorum for the functioning of the National Assembly.

We reiterate the urgency and the need to restore democratic order in Venezuela, as well as the full respect for the Constitution and the laws, the human rights and the full political rights of the Venezuelan people. We once again raise our voices for the release of all political prisoners.

The holding of free and fair presidential elections, with guarantees for all parties, as demanded by the vast majority of Venezuelans and hoped for by the international community, is a necessity that cannot be postponed any longer.

Secretary General of the SI in Kyrgyzstan

14-18 January 2020



In accordance with the decision adopted by the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea at its meeting in Minsk, Belarus, on 8-9 November 2019, to carry out a visit to Kyrgyzstan in view of the critical developments affecting the SI-member Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, the SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, travelled to the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek in January 2020.

Meeting of HE Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan, and SI Secretary General Luis Ayala

At that meeting in Minsk, representatives of the SDP of Kyrgyzstan had presented a report on the deteriorating political situation in the country following the detention of the former president of the Republic and former SDPK leader Almazbek Atambayev, and the arrest of other members of the party leadership. Taking on the task to visit the country and hold talks with representatives of the government of Kyrgyzstan as well as the SDPK, the first party in the post-Soviet region to come to power from opposition, the SI Secretary General undertook a wide range of meetings, including with His Excellency Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan. He held meetings with Isa Omurkulov who was elected as head of the SDPK faction in 2016; with Aida Kasymalieva, Deputy Speaker of parliament; members of the SDPK parliamentary group; with families of SDPK members who are in prison; and with members of the media. Luis Ayala also visited Almazbek Atambayev's residence, from where he was apprehended in August 2019. Atambayev, who is currently under arrest charged with several criminal offences, denies all the charges against him and is now reported to be suffering from health problems. A number of other members of the SDPK also remain in custody.

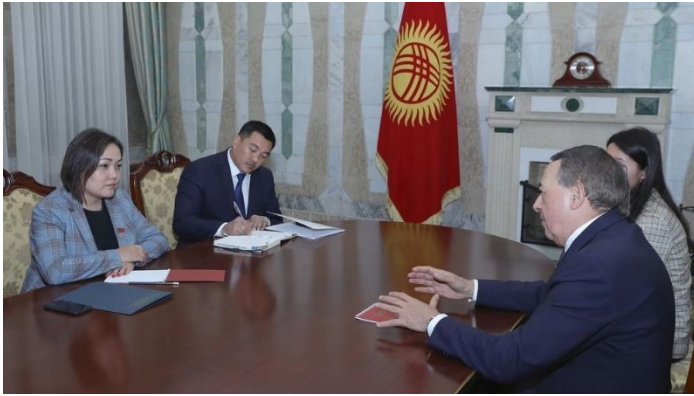


Members of the SDPK parliamentary group with the SI Secretary General

The Socialist International has been deeply concerned with these serious developments affecting its member party, the SDPK. After the extensive discussions held in Bishkek, the Socialist International has continued to closely monitor the situation in the country with a view to contribute to a positive resolution.

Meeting with the families of SDPK members who were in prison





Aida Kasymalieva, Deputy Speaker of parliament

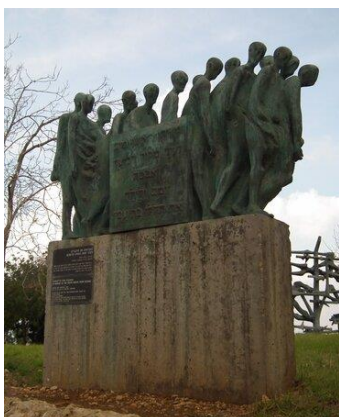
Meeting with members of the media in Kyrgyzstan



SI Secretary General with Khadyrbek Atambayev at Koy-Tash, the residence of former president Almazbek Atambayev who is currently under arrest

Socialist International commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day

27 January 2020



Today the Socialist International solemnly observes the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. Today, we think of the six million Jews and countless members of other minorities who were killed during the Holocaust, a horrific stain on the history of humanity that must never be forgotten or diminished. The social democratic family attaches the utmost importance to remembering and learning the lessons of this tragedy, to ensure it can never be repeated.

The recent rise in anti-Semitic acts in different regions of the world, including violence perpetrated against members of the Jewish community, is a

grave concern. The Holocaust was not an isolated moment in history, but deeply rooted in many centuries of anti-Semitism and discrimination against Jews. Governments, political parties and leaders in all countries have a responsibility to take action to recognise, confront and tackle anti-semitism, wherever it occurs.

As stated in the declaration adopted by the Socialist International Council held in Santo Domingo in January 2019 on Holocaust Remembrance, the SI rejects any denial of the Holocaust and calls upon governments and political parties across the world to fight against this and all forms of racism and discrimination. The SI reiterates once more its condemnation of all manifestations of religious intolerance, incitement, harassment or violence against persons or communities based on ethnic origin or religious belief, everywhere.

Trump and Netanyahu have not proposed peace

29 January 2020

The Socialist International has learned with grave concern the plan presented yesterday by US President Trump and interim Israeli PM Netanyahu on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which does not consider one of the two parties, the Palestinians. This proposal ignores the reality on the ground in which the Palestinian people live and exacerbates the situation as it offers no resolution to the conflict.

The SI has long been committed to support and work for peace in the Middle East, a region in which the organisation counts with member parties in both Israel and Palestine. In the efforts of the organisation to contribute to peace in the region, the SI remains convinced that there will be no solution to the conflict and no lasting peace if it is not agreed and established by both sides of the conflict.

Therefore both parties need to negotiate and agree a solution for it to be permanent and recognised by the entire international community, who support peace through the many decisions and resolutions of the United Nations and its Security Council, and in line with international law.

The Socialist International has for many years supported the two-state solution, working with Israelis and Palestinians who, without their consent and agreement, peace will never be possible.

Colloque: Pierre Mauroy ou la passion de l'Internationale

31 January 2020



Maurice Braud @BraudMaurice · Jan 31

Luis Ayala, Secrétaire général de l'Internationale socialiste, rappelle le rôle de Pierre Mauroy au Chili en 1988 pour manifester contre la dictature de Pinochet



On Friday, January 31, 2020, the Pierre Mauroy Institute organized a symposium in the Senate in France, under the title: "Pierre Mauroy ou la passion de l'Internationale" in honor of Mauroy's commitment to international affairs. The Secretary General of the Socialist International Luis Ayala, who was one of the keynote speakers invited to the event, highlighted the important contribution that Pierre Mauroy made in international politics and in particular his role in the

Socialist International, first as one of its Vice-Presidents and then as its President. He recalled that one of his first meetings with Mauroy took place in his home country, Chile, at a time when it was still under military dictatorship, and commented on Mauroy's lifelong active commitment to the principles and values of the global social-democratic political family.

The event, which was chaired by Michel Thauvin, co-president of the Institute, also received a message from the UN Secretary General António Guterres, a former president of the Socialist International.



SI Secretary General in Cabo Verde for the XVI Congress of the PAICV

1-2 February 2020

Leader of the PAICV, Janira Hopffer Almada



SI Secretary General addressing the PAICV Congress, 2 February 2020

Pedro Pires, former President of Cabo Verde (left), José Maria Neves, former Prime Minister of Cabo Verde and former leader of the PAICV (second from right)



SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with PAICV leader Janira Hopffer Almada

The SI in the Dominican Republic for elections

February 2020



SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with Miguel Vargas, Leader of the PRD, and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, SI Vice-President



SI Secretary General in Senegal for Hommage to Ousmane Tanor Dieng

23 February 2020



On Sunday 23 February the Socialist Party of Senegal organised a special homage at the party headquarters to honour the memory of Ousmane Tanor Dieng, their former party leader who passed away on 15 July 2019.

The SI Secretary General was specially invited to attend and to address the gathering on behalf of the Socialist International of which Tanor Dieng served as a vice-president and a former chair of the SI Africa Committee. The event, which attracted a large number



of attendees, was addressed by the President of the Republic of Senegal, HE Macky Sall and the Secretary General of the PS, Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, among other distinguished leaders and members of his family.



SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye, Secretary General of the Socialist Party, Senegal

Colosio Foundation Forum in Mexico: Strengthening of political parties, facing new global challenges

3 March 2020



The SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, was invited to be a keynote speaker at a forum organised by the Colosio Foundation in Mexico on the subject of strengthening political parties facing new global challenges. The meeting was also addressed by Alejandro Moreno, president of the SI member party, the PRI of Mexico, and Rafael Michelini, leader of Nuevo Espacio, Uruguay, a Vice-President of the SI. The forum was chaired by José Murat, president of the Colosio Foundation.

SI celebrates International Women's Day

8 March 2020



SI returns to the Dominican Republic for elections

14 March 2020



The Socialist International Secretary General and international election observers in Dominican Republic



A time for true solidarity - Socialist International statement on the COVID-19 pandemic

2 April 2020



The unprecedented widespread transmission of the coronavirus throughout the world is threatening the lives and livelihoods of people in every country and from all walks of life. This underscores just how interconnected and inter-dependent the world is and in the fight to overcome this global pandemic, international cooperation is crucial. Multilateralism and solidarity are the cornerstone of our social democratic beliefs, and the values and principles that unite us in our International call on us all to stand together at this crucial moment to overcome this global threat.

This is a time for true solidarity. As we face this worldwide emergency, the immediate priority is to save lives, by ensuring that those who are most vulnerable to the illness are protected. We know that all our member parties in their respective countries are doing all they can to prevent and halt the spread of the virus, and to support the tireless efforts of health workers and all those in the medical profession who are in the front line of this battle.

The harsh economic consequences of the epidemic are causing a great deal of uncertainty and suffering. The full extent of the damage to the world economy caused by the spread of COVID-19 will not be known for some time, but governments need to act decisively to mitigate the economic hardship caused to many of the poorest in our societies, as well as migrants, refugees, and marginalised populations. The international community must also assist those in different parts of the world who lack the infrastructure and resources to combat the virus and treat those who become infected.

The coronavirus pandemic has, in a dramatic way, highlighted our position on the basic need for strong and efficient public health services as well as the right of all citizens to unhindered access to healthcare. It has equally underlined the fundamental role played by governments in providing for their citizens during a time of national emergency, and the value of robust and functioning public services at all times.

We have witnessed limitations on individual liberties in order to save lives, in the form of restrictive measures taken to limit the spread of the epidemic as well as the use of digital surveillance. While we recognise that such unprecedented measures are a tool to combat the pandemic, they need to be transparent, time-limited and accountable to democratic oversight, and must not be used as a pretext to undermine democratic institutions, freedom of information and the right to privacy.

These are challenging times for all, and ones that should give us a new perspective, knowledge and wisdom concerning our lives and societies. At a time when we are more than ever conscious of our common humanity we need to overcome conflict and work as one in solidarity with each other. As the UN Secretary General António Guterres stated only days ago, it is imperative that combatants in conflict put down their arms and join the fight against the common enemy - the coronavirus.

As social democrats, as an international movement, as parties and as individuals, we are all part of the efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time our political family stands firmly in solidarity with all its members, with those in government and those in opposition as they strive to ensure a swift, just and humane outcome to this crisis.

COVID-19: Views and updates



COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, 12 May 2021

Report from the Independent Panel, Co-Chaired by Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand, and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia and Nobel Laureate

La trampa de la falsa antinomia, 11 May 2021

Jesús Rodríguez, Radical Civic Union, UCR, Argentina, Vice-President of the Socialist International

Spanish non paper: "Vaccines for all" initiative, 7 May 2021

Pedro Sánchez, Prime Minister of Spain, Secretary General of the PSOE, and Vice-President of the Socialist International

Address to the Council of the Socialist International Women - Reinventing our future after Covid-19, 30 April 2021

SI Secretary General Luis Ayala

Open Letter for Breaking Patents to Combat Covid-19, 29 March 2021

Carlos Lupi, President of the Democratic Labor Party, PDT, and Vice-President of the Socialist International

The world needs a 'people's vaccine' for coronavirus, not a big-pharma monopoly, 23 July 2020

Helen Clark, former prime minister of New Zealand and member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy; and Winnie Byanyima, executive director of UNAids and UN undersecretary general

La resiliencia face a la pandemia de la Covid-19 & les perspectives de sortie de crise, 6 July 2020

Contribution du Parti Socialiste du Senegal a la reflexion prospective

Developing a political strategy in the post pandemic world, 4 June 2020

Norberto B. Gonzales, Chair of the PDSP, Philippines, and former National Security Adviser and Defense Secretary

Letter of President Milo Djukanović on the current pandemic crisis, 3 June 2020

Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro, DPS

La pandémie de Corona, une opportunité pour le lancement d'un modèle de développement sur des bases saines, 26 May 2020

Driss Lachguar, First Secretary of the USFP, Morocco

La lucha contra la pandemia se está haciendo a partir de las convicciones socialdemócratas, 26 May 2020

Samuel Doria Medina, President of Unidad Nacional, Bolivia

La pandémie du COVID-19 au Mali, 20 May 2020

Dr Bokary TRETÀ, Chair of the SI Africa Committee; Mr. Ousmane KONE, former Minister of Health; Mr. Lamine DIARRA, former Technical Advisor at MSAS

In Iran the corona virus a new challenge for the Kurdish people, 20 May 2020

Khalid Azizi, Secretary General of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP-IRAN)

Coronavirus is threatening Slovakia and the social state, 20 May 2020

Robert Fico, Chairman of SMER-SD

Ganar la guerra a la pandemia, también a la desigualdad y al estancamiento, 18 May 2020

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, Mexico, Honorary President of the SI

COVID-19 in Iraqi Kurdistan, 16 May 2020

Soran Jamal Taher, Head of PUK Relations Bureau

Letter regarding the COVID-19 situation in Bulgaria, 15 May 2020

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Seiso Mohai, ANC MP, Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces in the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa

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Mustapha Ben Jaafar, ETTAKATOL, Honorary President of the SI, President of the National Constitutional Assembly (ANC) of Tunisia 2011-2014

Letter from the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, 6 May 2020

Gintautas Paluckas, LSDP Chairman

Armenia and COVID-19 In the international context: Solidarity and commitment, 5 May 2020

Mario Nalpatian, ARF Armenian Socialist Party, Vice-President of the SI

Working to hold back the coronavirus in Pakistan, 3 May 2020

Shazia Marri, Pakistan Peoples' Party, Vice-President of the SI

L'Algérie, à l'heure de la pandémie, 1 May 2020

Dr. Hakim Belahcel, First National Secretary of the FFS, Algeria

Coronavirus/COVID-19 in Haiti, 30 April 2020

Victor Benoit, RSD Haiti, Vice-President of the SI

Globalisation, solidarity and cooperation, 28 April 2020

Eero Heinäluoma, Vice-President of the SI, Member of the European Parliament
Tero Shemeikka, International Secretary, Finnish Social Democratic Party

Message from Carlos Lupi, 28 April 2020

Leader of the PDT Brazil, Vice-President of the SI

Italy and the pandemic, 27 April 2020

Pia Locatelli, PSI Italy, Vice-President of the SI

COVID-19 update from San Marino, 25 April 2020

Gerardo Giovagnoli, Secretary General, PSD

In Israel: Of Corona and Politics, 25 April 2020

Colette Avital, Meretz Party Israel, SI Vice-President

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Una solución global para una pandemia global, 20 April 2020

Ricardo Lagos, former president of Chile

A letter of solidarity , 10 April 2020

Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, leader of the CHP, Turkey

Déclaration du Parti Socialiste sur la lutte contre la pandémie COVID-19, 5 April 2020

PS, Senegal

COVID-19 situation in Spain, 3 April 2020

PSOE

Chile: Joint Declaration of the three SI member parties, 3 April 2020

PPD, PR, PS

SI observes 50th anniversary of Earth Day

22 April 2020



SI on the new coalition government in Israel

15 May 2020

The Socialist International (SI) has been at the forefront of many efforts to resolve conflicts across the world, with an underlying commitment to open and honest exchanges and the pursuit of peace under a shared ideology and as a political family. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Middle East, where with its member parties around the world, the SI continuously advocates for a two-state solution to achieve peace.

The SI has brought together representatives of both sides with a shared commitment to a just and durable resolution to the conflict to achieve peace, security, stability and prosperity for Israel and Palestine as independent sovereign states. Among them were statesmen such as Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, who as leaders of the Israeli Labour Party were committed to dialogue and engagement with their Palestinian counterparts within the common political family of the SI, and pursued peace with the Palestinians while serving as prime minister of Israel.

The commitment of its member parties in both Israel and Palestine to the peace process and the two state solution, to dialogue and consensus-building have made a significant impact on the cause of Middle East peace. The position of the SI on the Palestinian question is the result of serious, substantial and challenging discussions, undertaken in good faith by representatives of all SI member parties that have taken place at and during meetings of the SI, and cannot be unilaterally overruled by any single member party.

On multiple occasions, the SI expressed its firm rejection of the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements and called on the international community to collectively meet its responsibility under international law to bring an end to the occupation of Palestinian territory and to all impediments to the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination. Prime Minister Netanyahu plans to expand settlements and annex large tracts of the occupied Palestinian territories and Jordan Valley in an attempt to permanently end the prospect of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967

borders. This policy at the same time undermines the standing of the State of Israel and the outlook for a future of peace and stability for its citizens.

The decision of the Israeli Labour Party to join a government that intends to act in such a way runs counter to the principles of the SI, which require its members to support international action in favour of peace, tolerance, dialogue, understanding and cooperation among peoples. The SI deeply regrets that a party with a long and rich history in the global family of socialist, social democratic and labour parties has chosen to take a path that contradicts its fundamental values and positions, damaging the prospects of peace in the Middle East.

Venezuela, a concern for all democrats

28 May 2020

Once again, Nicolás Maduro's regime in Venezuela strikes the conscience of the international community and of democrats worldwide.

The illegitimate Supreme Court of Justice, subservient to the regime and established irregularly, without consideration for the Venezuelan Constitution, has resolved to disregard the legitimacy of the election of the leadership of the National Assembly by the 2020-2021 legislature that Juan Guaidó presides over today, elected by a large majority of its members last January. It has, simultaneously, declared as legitimate a leadership body headed by Luis Parra, which had received the support of a minority of Assembly members, and has attributed to it the constitutional and legal competences.

As can be seen, the National Assembly, the only space and legitimate institution in the context of an absence of rights, freedoms and guarantees in Venezuela today, has been subjected to a new assault by the authoritarian regime of Nicolás Maduro.

Our International, which groups socialist, social democratic and labour parties from different regions of the world, vigorously protests this new aggression against the only democratic and legitimate State institution in Venezuela, where today men and women, children, adults and the elderly suffer the consequences of misgovernment, repression, food shortages, and the absence of health services, which have led to millions of its citizens being forced to emigrate in inhumane conditions.

Our organisation equally raises its voice against the request of another obsequious institutional authority of the Venezuelan State, the attorney general, seeking to declare Voluntad Popular, one of our member parties in Venezuela, as a terrorist organisation. This party has participated in our activities for several years and we know well its founder Leopoldo López, Juan Guaidó, Freddy Guevara, as well as other leaders and members, with whom we have worked since the party's creation, sharing with them our commitment and efforts to advance the freedoms and rights of our citizens, the

strengthening of our democracies, opportunities for all and the practice of good government. We have no doubt that international public opinion will react decisively to any attempt to demonise or to destroy the voice of this political party, and in this we count with the concourse of all democrats in different countries of the world.

SI denounces arrest of Mikalai Statkevich in Belarus

1 June 2020

Mikalai Statkevich, leader of Narodnaya Gramada, our member party in Belarus, was sentenced this morning to 15 days in prison, following his arrest yesterday by the regime of Alexander Lukashenko.

Presidential elections in Belarus are due to be held on 9 August 2020 and Statkevich's imprisonment follows the rejection of his registration days ago as a candidate to the presidency on the regime's allegation that he has a criminal record due to his incarceration on the occasion of the 2010 elections.

Mikalai Statkevich was jailed in 2010 for taking part in peaceful pro-democracy protests regarding the conduct of the elections, in which he was a presidential candidate, and imprisoned for five years in very harsh conditions. Following his release, Statkevich continued actively engaged in his efforts for democracy in his country and has regularly taken part in meetings of the Socialist International, where he is Co-Chair of the SI Committee for the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea, the last meeting of which was held in Belarus last November hosted by his party.

In the last days, the crackdown by the regime has intensified while peaceful rallies of the opposition have been held and a number of other pro-democracy activists have also been arrested.

The Socialist International calls on its members around the world to demand the immediate release of Mikalai Statkevich and others jailed these past days. Nothing but the holding of free and fair elections in Belarus is acceptable.

No! to all forms of racism and discrimination



The Black Lives Matter and anti-racist protests that have erupted in cities around the world in the wake of the killing of George Floyd by a policeman in Minneapolis on 26 May is a long overdue call for action everywhere in order to once and for all bring an end to the systemic racism that prevails in so many countries across the globe.

The principle that “All human beings are born free and equal, in dignity and rights” is a fundamental pillar of the identity of our

International since its origins and has always been at the forefront of the battle against all forms of discrimination, be it race, colour, ethnicity, culture, gender, class or religion. We are committed to continue our action at every level, nationally and internationally, to eliminate the scourge of racism and to remain vigilant so that all rights for all people everywhere are fully respected.

Democracy and its actors - enemies of Maduro

16 June 2020

Original: Spanish

Yesterday in Venezuela, following a decision adopted by the illegitimate Supreme Court of Justice obedient to the authoritarian regime of Nicolás Maduro, was announced the suspension of the national leadership of Acción Democrática, a member party of the Socialist International headed by Henry Ramos, leader of that political formation and a vice-president of this global organisation of social democratic, socialist and labour parties.

This new escalation against the country's democratic actors - and in this case of Acción Democrática, a party that has a proud 78-year history in which from both in government and opposition it has guaranteed freedoms and rights for all Venezuelans - takes place in the framework of a constant persecution of the opposition and of imprisonment for many, including parliamentarians, political leaders and other citizens who are victims of repression by the authoritarian system built by the Nicolás Maduro regime which aims at silencing and eliminating any opinion that is critical of or contrary to his government. In line with this, the regime itself, through the Supreme Court of Justice, has also appointed a new leadership of Acción Democrática composed of new members, who respond to the designs of the Maduro regime.

Along with this, we want to denounce a double strategy by the regime, that of first eliminating one by one each democratic political party today in the opposition, which also includes other members of the Socialist International, such as the Un Nuevo Tiempo and Voluntad Popular parties, and then to carry out a farce of elections for a new National Assembly with the concurrence of only those who Nicolás Maduro approves.

As is evident day by day, the people of Venezuela, subjected to repression, facing hunger, with a health system in crisis in the midst of a pandemic, and subject to the designs of increasing authoritarianism, require urgent attention from the international community. For our part, we will continue actively on the side of our comrades, of our member parties, and of all those suffering injustices and the lack of freedoms and rights, until the Venezuelan people recover their democracy.

SI renews its call for international rejection of Israeli annexation and to support the two-state solution

24 June 2020

The Socialist International reiterates that the planned unilateral annexation by Israel of large areas of the occupied West Bank in Palestine would be a clear violation of international law and a devastating blow to any future prospect of peace and statehood for the Palestinian people. In the face of this grave threat to future peace, the SI once more calls on its member parties, governments and the wider international community to reiterate their support for Palestinian statehood and the two-state solution.

As the SI outlined when the annexation plan was first presented by US President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, this is a proposal that ignores the reality on the ground and gives no consideration to the Palestinians. It offers no resolution to the conflict and would exacerbate the situation, in an attempt to permanently end the prospect of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders. In a statement last month, the SI underlined that this policy simultaneously undermines the standing of the State of Israel and the outlook for a future of peace and stability for its citizens, a fact that has been raised with concern by many true friends of Israel both domestically and internationally.

For an end to conflict and lasting peace, it is fundamental that any solution is agreed upon by both sides. This means that for any resolution to be permanent it must be negotiated and approved by both parties, and recognised by the international community, which supports peace in line with international law and the many decisions and resolutions of the United Nations and its Security Council. Regrettably, the current Israeli government has shown no willingness to negotiate peace, and is instead relying on unilateral actions

backed by a US administration that seems determined to sabotage future prospects for peace and undermine adherence to international law.

The SI is fortunate to count among its member parties some of the most prominent voices for peace and a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine, and as long as these forces continue their struggle and make their voices heard, there remains hope for a peaceful resolution. But the realisation of the annexation plan would bring a grave risk that those in favour of peace will become more and more marginalised as the hope of statehood for Palestinians through negotiations is extinguished. For this reason it is a crucial time for those who oppose this illegal annexation plan to unite and take action.

The moment has come for the international community as a whole to make their voices heard in favour of the rights of the Palestinian people, rights which have been denied for far too long. The SI has for a number of years called for the immediate unconditional recognition of the State of Palestine on the borders of June 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital, in response to decades of failing to achieve peace through the bilateral peace process. Many governments, including a significant number led by SI member parties, have already given official recognition to the State of Palestine, but this latest threat to Palestinian statehood demands renewed efforts to ensure legal recognition. To this end, the SI now reasserts its call for all governments that have not yet done so to immediately recognise Palestine, and urges its member parties to intensify their efforts to ensure this happens in their respective countries.

The demands of the Palestinian people for an end to occupation and the system of segregation, an end to discrimination and the right to full equality, and the exercising of self-determination through the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders remain unchanged. These legitimate demands will not be diminished by unilateral moves taken by Israel in violation of international law, and the SI reiterates its solidarity with the Palestinian non-violent opposition and all those struggling for the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people.

SI protests against increased persecution of SI members and opposition in Belarus

26 June 2020

Ahead of the forthcoming elections on 9 August in Belarus, the persecution of political opponents by Alexander Lukashenko's regime has not only continued, it has intensified with violent repression.

In a public statement on 1 June the Socialist International denounced the sentencing of Mikalai Statkevich, the leader of our member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Gramada, and co-chair of the SI Committee for the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea who was barred from

registering as a presidential candidate, to fifteen days in prison for taking part in peaceful protests demanding free and fair elections.

After completing his initial sentence Mikalai Statkevich was not released, as while in jail he was subjected to a further trial, without legal representation, and handed a new prison sentence. Since then, it has emerged that there has been yet another closed trial and a further sentence imposed on him. The conditions in the prison are reported to be appalling and Statkevich is not allowed any contact with his lawyer or his wife, Marina Adamovich, who has relentlessly demanded information on the state of her husband. Not only Mikalai Statkevich is being held in such conditions and with repeat sentences, so are many other democratic activists including several so-called “protest candidates” whose presidential election registrations were refused, among them Veronika Mishchanka, Volha Mikalaichyk and the blogger Sergey Tikhanovskaya; and other jailed activists including numerous Narodnaya Gramada members, and the presidential candidate Viktor Babariko, a former head of Belgazprombank.

At the closure of the registration process for election candidates to the presidency on 19 June, Narodnaya Gramada informed us that a total of seven candidates had filed the necessary documents and that several of those on the list are registered by the regime and are not genuine opponents to Lukashenko. The ensuing protests against Alexander Lukashenko resulted in a violent crackdown with hundreds being brutally arrested and held incommunicado.

Yesterday, 25 June, as the repression continued, the Secretary General of Narodnaya Gramada, our comrade Sergey Sparish, was violently seized by agents of the government from his apartment and as at this moment his whereabouts are unknown.

The Socialist International strongly denounces these barbarous actions by the dictatorial regime of Lukashenko and reiterates its call for the release of all political prisoners and for the holding of free and fair elections in Belarus.

SI calls for the immediate release of Mikalai Statkevich

2 July 2020



Mikalai Statkevich is being accused of committing a crime under Part 1 Article 342 of the Criminal Code of Belarus, by organising actions that violate public order. Statkevich is the leader of the SI member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Gramada, and is co-chair of the Socialist International Committee for the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea. In 2010, as a presidential candidate, he was jailed for taking part in a peaceful

protest and condemned to a five year prison sentence in very harsh conditions.

Having prevented Statkevich from registering as a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections scheduled for 9 August, citing his prison sentence in 2010 as the reason, Alexander Lukashenko, the head of the authoritarian regime in Belarus, clearly intends to keep him behind bars.

On 30 June, while in prison since May 31, he was granted a 10-15 minute interview with his lawyer, Uladzimir Sazanchuk, who reported that Statkevich categorically rejected the accusations as absurd and pointed out that he did not commit any crime. The persecution of Statkevich takes place in the midst of a violent crackdown against political opponents with hundreds of arrests, developments which the SI has firmly protested against. The Socialist International has kept in touch with Marina Adamovich, the wife of Mikalai Statkevich, and with his comrades in the party leadership since his arrest on May 31 and has closely followed and vigorously protested against the violent abductions and arrests of other members of the party, as in the case of it's secretary general, Sergey Sparish.

The release of all political prisoners and the holding of free and fair elections in Belarus must be a shared priority for all democrats worldwide today, after the many years that the Lukashenko regime has kept power suffocating the freedoms and rights of the Belarussian people.

SI rejects and condemns new steps by Maduro to eliminate opposition political parties

8 July 2020

Original: Spanish

As previously denounced by the Socialist International, Nicolás Maduro and his regime have continued to implement their plan to eliminate the opposition political parties, the only democratic pillars that remain under the authoritarianism and dictatorship that reign in Venezuela.

After having ordered his subordinates in the Supreme Court of Justice of Venezuela - which complies with each and every one of Maduro's instructions - to intervene and install operators of his trust and who are loyal to his regime in the leadership of Acción Democrática, a member party of our International, and then the First Justice party, also from the democratic world, the same was done yesterday with the party Voluntad Popular, also a member of our organization, whose trajectory and democratic commitment along with that of its leader, Leopoldo López, are widely known and is the party to which the President of the National Assembly, Juan Guaidó, belongs.

Maduro's strategy of trying to eliminate, one by one, the democratic parties by transferring their leadership to followers of his regime or to those who are seeking positions from his hand, will never be recognized by true democrats or by the international community. Today what is known and shared throughout the world is the pain of the Venezuelans, of those who have lost relatives in the repression, of those who are today unjustly imprisoned or persecuted, of the sick without aid in these times of pandemic, of the emigrants, of those who are exiled or displaced who wish to return to their country and of all those who are suffering the harsh consequences of the authoritarianism and chronic shortages in the country.

The only path and alternative, as we also hear from our comrades in Venezuela, is that of freedom, of respect for the rights of all, and for democracy. The intents by those responsible in the regime to maintain power through authoritarianism, behind the backs of its citizens and by the hand of repression, only bring more pain, poverty and misrule. Only free and fair elections, as soon as possible, with the full participation of all those who respect the rules of democracy, can open the doors to a government for all, that prioritises life, defeats poverty and guarantees the liberties and rights of all Venezuelans.



Srebrenica - SI marks 25th anniversary

11 July 2020

Solidarity with Beirut and the people of Lebanon

6 August 2020

The Socialist International is deeply shocked and saddened by the devastation and loss of life caused by the massive explosion in the port of Beirut on Tuesday 4 August. As a result of the blast, at least 135 people have been killed, with several thousand injured and more than 300,000 displaced or made homeless. The extent of the material damage is vast, with buildings across half of the city destroyed, including residential areas,

hospitals and important infrastructure in the port and surrounding areas. The scale of the devastation is truly dreadful, and the SI expresses its full solidarity with the people of Beirut and Lebanon and all those affected, including the SI-member Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and its members.

This disaster could not have come at a worse time for Lebanon. The country currently faces overwhelming challenges on multiple fronts as it confronts an economic and financial crisis that has seen its currency massively devalued and half the country sink into poverty, exacerbated by corruption and political mismanagement, for which the government must face up to its responsibilities. Lebanon continues to host the largest number of refugees per capita in the world, the majority of whom have fled the civil war in neighbouring Syria. All of the country's economic, political and social problems have furthermore been exacerbated and amplified by the global pandemic in recent months, leaving it ill-equipped to deal with the aftermath of devastation on this scale.

International assistance for Lebanon will therefore be crucial if it is to overcome this catastrophe, and the SI calls for immediate and significant support from the international community. The immediate priority must be to prevent further suffering and loss of life by locating survivors, treating the injured and providing for the many people who now need shelter and food. In the months ahead, great investment will be needed to rebuild the city and the livelihoods of all those impacted. The SI is encouraged by the pledges of aid and quick mobilisation of resources from all corners of the globe. It urges all countries and organisations that are in a position to do so to pledge and deliver the targeted aid that will be crucial to Beirut's recovery.

It is self-evident that this tragedy should never have been allowed to happen, and a full investigation is required in order to establish how and why 2,750 tonnes of the chemical ammonium nitrate were stored for years in the port of Beirut despite repeated warnings about the severe danger from such a potent explosive. This should take place with international involvement and transparency in order that those responsible can be held to account.

To overcome this event will require extraordinary amounts of compassion, cooperation and determination, as has been witnessed in the middle of the unfolding tragedy, when the citizens of Beirut offered each other assistance at their time of greatest need. The city has previously confronted severe hardships and we look forward to the re-emergence of a vibrant Beirut and to returning to a place where our organisation has held many significant and successful meetings. The thoughts of the Socialist International and all of its member parties are with the people of Beirut today and we will continue to stand alongside them through this difficult and challenging time.

Belarus: SI rejects announced election results and condemns police violence

10 August 2020

The Socialist International rejects the announced results in the Belarusian presidential election and strongly condemns the use of violence against protestors across the country. It calls for the release of all political prisoners, the organisation of free and fair elections with independent vote monitoring and for sanctions against those responsible for state sponsored violence and violations of human rights.

The SI has been closely engaged with the situation in Belarus for many years, supporting the democratic forces in that country, including its member party, Narodnaya Hramada. Throughout this period, members of opposition parties have been systematically persecuted and the regime has sought to curtail Belarusians' democratic rights and prevent any democratic challenge to the regime by imprisoning prospective opposition candidates and disqualifying them from participating in the elections on fabricated charges. Those subject to arbitrary detention and sentencing include the leader of Narodnaya Hramada, Mikalai Statkevich, its secretary general Sergey Sparish, and other party members.

In the weeks and months leading up to the presidential election on 9 August, the persecution of political opponents by the Lukashenko regime intensified. Criminal prosecutions have been conducted against members of the opposition and members of their campaign teams. In the days up to and including election day, key collaborators of opposition presidential candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya were arrested, a response to the overwhelming popular support shown for the key message of the Tikhanovskaya campaign, which centres on the holding of proper, free and fair elections within six months.

The rallies, demonstrations and popular protests across the country show that the Belarusian people are tired of being denied their democratic rights. Despite the clear strength of public feeling, the results presented by the electoral commission gave over 80% of the votes to Lukashenko. It is beyond doubt that yesterday's polls did not meet any standards for free and fair elections, a fact that is underlined by the lack of an independent judiciary or independent vote monitoring. The results of the presidential election have no credibility or legitimacy, and the SI calls on democracies around the world to reject this fabrication.

The SI fully supports the rights of all Belarusians to peacefully express their rejection of these illegitimate election results, and abhors the use of violence by the police against protestors. Human rights groups in the country have reported hundreds of arrests, dozens of injuries and the death of one person during the police crackdown. The people of Belarus want an end to 26 years of increasingly authoritarian and dictatorial rule by the regime of Lukashenko and their voices must be heard.

The Lukashenko regime has engaged in authoritarian and anti-democratic practices with impunity for many years, in part as a result of the lifting of sanctions despite a lack of progress on democracy and human rights, and the lack of a concerted international effort to bring about positive change. Now more than ever, it is incumbent on the international community to defend human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms in Belarus. As protests continue under the threat of renewed state violence, it is imperative that democratic governments exert maximum pressure on the regime in order to avoid further bloodshed. This should include making those responsible for the severe violations of human rights during the protests subject to sanctions and holding them to account for their actions.

The Socialist International once more expresses its full solidarity with all those working to end authoritarianism and bring democracy to Belarus. It will continue to work together with democratic forces in the country, including its member party Narodnaya Hramada, as they strive for a better, democratic future with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. We urge the international community to show their solidarity with the democratic opposition, and the courageous individuals who are struggling in the face of authoritarianism, oppression and persecution to bring an end to the dictatorial government of President Lukashenko.

SI condemns military coup in Mali

19 August 2020

The Socialist International strongly condemns the mutinous actions taken by members of the Malian armed forces yesterday, as they detained the democratically elected leaders of the country and subsequently forced the resignation of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.

The SI will never accept the overturning of democratic election results by force. It urges the immediate and unconditional release of all the detained members of the Malian government and the return of the democratic and constitutional order in the country. This illegal action will only serve to exacerbate the current political crisis in Mali. The only viable way forward is for all parties to engage in the ongoing process of mediation and reconciliation, as the Malian government has shown willingness to do.

President Keita, of the SI-member RPM, has been a longstanding champion of the values of social democracy who has put these principles into practice in office. Under his leadership, advances have been made in peace and reconciliation with rebel groups, strengthening security forces in the fight against terrorism and improving the living conditions of all Malians. It is therefore a grave concern that this illegitimate action will seriously compromise stability and hinder efforts in Mali and the Sahel region to address the concurrent challenges of terrorism, human trafficking and transnational organised crime.

The SI urges the continued support of Mali's international and regional partners for the democratic and constitutional order in that country. It is imperative that civilian rule is restored to Mali as soon as possible and that its democratically elected leaders can once more take up their roles. During these developments, the Socialist International Secretary General has kept in close touch with the President of the RPM in Mali and Chair of the SI Africa Committee, Bokary Treta. The SI stands in solidarity with President Keita and his government, its member parties in Mali, RPM and ADEMA-PASJ, and the Malian people at this challenging time for democracy in that country.

SDP election of Sanna Marin in Finland

24 August 2020



The Socialist International warmly congratulates Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland, who was elected the new leader of SI member the Finnish Social Democratic Party, at their 46th party congress in Tampere, 22 – 24 August.

Marin is the third female Prime Minister of Finland and the youngest Prime Minister in Finland's history. Appointed in December 2019, she was preceded by former SDP leader Antti Rinne. Sanna Marin was elected to parliament in 2015, and whilst there was a member of the Grand Committee, Legal Affairs Committee and the Environment Committee. She is also a member of Tampere City Council, which she chaired from 2013 to 2017, and, in 2019, she took the role of Minister of Transport and Communications. Sanna Marin's election as SDP party leader places her second female chair in its history. The SDP held a successful party congress, recognising that greater international cooperation is needed now more than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the urgent need to tackle climate change and eradicate poverty, among many other vital policy issues.

Statement of the Socialist International to mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations

21 September 2020



Today, as the UN General Assembly holds a special session to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, the Socialist International, the global democratic

socialist and social democratic political family and a firm advocate of the founding principles of the UN, once more reinforces its firm commitment to the goals for which the United Nations was created. This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and history of the UN, recognise the challenges it faces today and look towards the future, ensuring that its crucial work will continue to benefit future generations for many years to come.

Recognising achievements

The UN was founded in the aftermath of World War II, and has from the very start represented the hope and aspiration that such horrors would never again be inflicted by or upon humanity. For more than seven decades it has been a symbol of what can be achieved when countries come together, acting as a catalyst for decolonisation, promoting sustainable international development and mitigating conflicts. The use of the good offices of the UN to prevent and resolve conflicts has undoubtedly saved a great many lives, and this work continues after the cessation of hostilities through the UN peacekeeping operations.

Since its inception, the UN has stood up for some of the most vulnerable people in the world. Many hundreds of millions of people have directly benefited from its initiatives and the work of its various agencies, including those who have received humanitarian assistance in the form of food, refuge, healthcare and vaccinations. In the area of democracy, it provides assistance to countries in the holding of elections and on human rights. The adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights has been the catalyst for a rich body of internationally binding human rights treaties representing the universal recognition that basic rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings and equally applicable to everyone.

We also recognise that the UN and its organs are made up of individuals from all nations and all walks of life, working each day with a commitment and a dedication to fostering cooperation between peoples and advancing the values enshrined in the UN Charter. In many conflict zones around the world, UN peacekeepers have a key role in maintaining

ceasefires and defending civilian populations and we pay tribute to those who have served under the UN flag in the service of peace.

Confronting challenges

The history of the UN has not been without setbacks, and it continues to face many challenges. Armed conflicts, insecurity and terrorism continue to claim lives, destabilise countries and regions and hinder development. There is still a long way to go before poverty and hunger can be eradicated, and inequality between and within societies continues to grow. Anti-democratic regimes still persist in many countries, and the process of ending human rights violations and bringing their perpetrators to justice is slow and complex. Likewise, finding international consensus on difficult yet crucial issues such as climate change, where compromise is required from all sides, is never straightforward

The UN as an organisation is a point of reference throughout the entire world. It needs to be able to operate in every country and requires the trust and cooperation of national governments, local institutions and citizens. We support all efforts to enhance the ability of the organisation to be more inclusive, to foster greater international cooperation across the globe, and to collectively respond to the new and complex challenges the world faces today.

Isolationism and divisions between nations continue to impact the ability of the UN to operate effectively, when its work is needed more than ever. It must be defended against challenges from those who seek to diminish and undermine it for narrow reasons of self-interest. The current power structure of the UN still allows those with the most historical political and military power to exert disproportionate influence, a situation that can limit the capacity of the UN to act and lead to a sense of unfairness and frustration. Compromise and concessions will be required in order to bring about change in a manner that is acceptable to all parties.

The current pandemic has exposed some of these fault lines and differences at a time when closer cooperation is needed, as a number of countries have taken a nationalistic approach in attempting to secure supplies of personal protective equipment and anti-viral drugs, with others trying to ensure priority access to a potential future COVID-19 vaccine. However, the devastating effect of the pandemic, and its negative impact on every country in the world, shows us that nationalism cannot be the answer. As long as the virus continues to exist and be spread anywhere in the world, it is a problem for the entire world, making concerted and coordinated international action vital. Global public opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of multilateralism, with this support increasing since the pandemic.

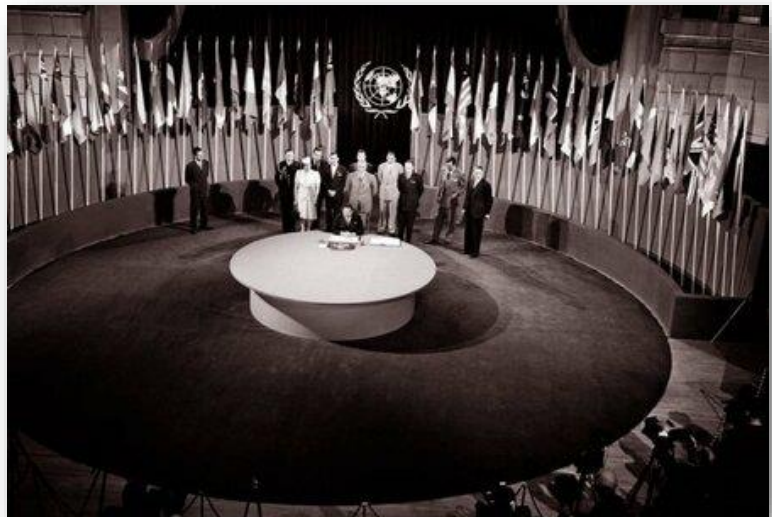
Facing the future

The United Nations must continue to play a central role in building a better future for all peoples. From a development perspective, the coming Decade of Action to realise Agenda

2030 is an immense undertaking that has the potential to transform the lives of many hundreds of millions of the most vulnerable people on the planet. At the heart of this agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals, which encapsulate many of the policies for which our organisation has campaigned over many years and which governments led by SI member parties have sought to enact. The empowerment and equal participation of women is a key to achieving sustainable development, and an important reason why action taken by the UN to promote gender equality should be accelerated.

On the specific and ever increasing threat of catastrophic and irreversible climate change, more determined action is needed in order to implement and go beyond the measures contained in the Paris Agreement. Only within the framework of the United Nations has it been possible to negotiate legally binding obligations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing other climate change reduction measures.

The promotion of peace and work on conflict prevention and resolution will similarly continue to be an essential mission of the UN. As the nature of armed conflicts changes, we must redouble efforts to ensure enforcement and enhancement of measures such as international arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. Another key objective is the strengthening of international law and justice in order to end impunity, bring to justice those guilty of violations of human rights and offer protection to their victims.



The principles that define the identity of our political family are at the heart of what the United Nations stands for and was created to accomplish. Our calls for more environmental protection, less conflict and more respect for human rights are echoed in the results of the UN75 survey, where those concerns were given the highest priority by a quarter of a million people surveyed in 193 countries. The values of the UN are our values and its 75th anniversary an occasion for celebration, reflection and a renewed focus on the future role of the UN.

As we commemorate this anniversary it is clear that the work of the United Nations and its organs remains fundamental to our hopes and aspirations for a better world. In the face of the great challenges of today – from inequality to pandemics and from climate change to conflict – we believe that the past 75 years have shown us the value of multilateralism.

Our vision of multilateralism is one of cooperation among citizens, peoples and between nations. It is a future in which in the name of sustainability, the finite resources of the world are protected and fairly distributed and the burden of climate action is shared. It requires humanitarianism on a global scale, ensuring that the victims of disease, natural disasters and conflicts are not left to suffer. It is a prerequisite for a more peaceful future where disputes are solved through negotiation and diplomacy, and governments unite to confront and overcome threats to our common security. We are encouraged by the focus on the role of global cooperation in building a better future and fully endorse the reaffirmation of the collective commitment to multilateralism – for the future we want and the UN we need.

Socialist International calls for immediate ceasefire over Nagorno-Karabakh

28 September 2020

The Socialist International is deeply concerned at the outbreak of a new military confrontation between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh and is particularly saddened and dismayed by the loss of civilian life.

There is no military solution to this conflict. It would only lead to greater suffering, more loss of life, and further escalation of violence, which can never and should never be the way forward, as has been tragically proven in the past.

We add our voice to the calls for an urgent ceasefire and call on the Minsk Group co-chairs to undertake immediate efforts with and between the parties with a view to de-escalating the military confrontation.

Negotiations should be undertaken with the support of the international community to agree a ceasefire, while other states should refrain from further escalating the conflict by intervening or contributing militarily, whether directly or indirectly.

The Socialist International has long been engaged in the search for a peaceful outcome to this conflict, and on different occasions has brought together representatives of its member parties in Armenia and Azerbaijan in our meetings and in their countries, to foster dialogue and contribute towards a solution. We will continue to be committed on this path until both countries reach a peaceful agreement.

Deep concern over assassinations of political, social and human rights workers in Colombia

13 October 2020

The Socialist International is deeply concerned to hear of the growing number of assassinations of social leaders and human rights workers taking place in Colombia, and calls for immediate attention to halt these killings and to protect those who are vulnerable.

The assassinations, which have been highlighted by Amnesty International, the Alianza Verde de Colombia, the media, and other human rights organisations, have specifically targeted social and political leaders and people working for the rights of the poor, indigenous, Afro-descent communities, women and other minorities, as well as community workers who have campaigned against local corruption. The Electoral Observation Mission of Colombia have reported that, in 2020, at least 81 social, political and community leaders have been assassinated, and that out of 248 reported acts of violence this year, 50% of the victims were social activists. This is not a new occurrence and, although the numbers did decrease slightly after the 2016 peace agreement, these assassinations have been taking place for some years with concerning figures. In the first month of this year, the number of deaths was more than double of those in the same months of 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the situation, with those vulnerable reporting they feel they are easier to target during quarantine measures and therefore much more at risk, and that support, public attention and investigation has been much harder to achieve.

The Socialist International has a long history of working and engagement with Colombia, where we count with the Liberal Party of Colombia as a member, and is proud to have also participated in the process that led to the M-19 Peace Treaty in 1990. At our last Congress, held in Cartagena in 2017, we welcomed the steps the country had taken under the government of the time led by President Santos to advance peace, social security and health, diversity and progress. The International calls for an investigation into these murders in order to find those responsible and to ensure that all those vulnerable are well protected. It is always the mandate of governments to protect the rights of every person regardless of race, belief or political preference, and this must be upheld by law.

The members of the SI Presidium from all continents convened for an online meeting

24 October 2020



The SI Presidium, the leadership body of the Socialist International, met online on 24 October 2020 with participants from all continents and across multiple time zones. The discussions and contributions focused on the global and local impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the social democratic response to the global situation resulting from the spread of the virus and its aftermath. The Presidium also discussed latest national and regional developments in relation to existing challenges to democracy and how to face

the threats to peace and security in different parts of the world, building common positions on current open conflicts.

The Presidium agreed on the issuing of a communiqué, resulting from the meeting's discussions and from subsequent consultations, published on 28 October (see full text below).

Communiqué of the SI Presidium

28 October 2020

The Coronavirus pandemic

The Coronavirus pandemic is the greatest threat to public health and economic stability for a generation, and requires a response that is based on international cooperation, solidarity and fairness. Though the virus does not discriminate on the grounds of nationality, race, wealth or social status, due to the structural inequalities between and within our societies it is having a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable, both in regard to potential exposure to the virus and the economic impact of its spread and the measures taken to combat it. It is therefore imperative that the steps taken to mitigate the virus take into account these inequalities, and that those who have been most affected are given the support to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

The pandemic has brought increased urgency to a number of social democratic priorities, increasing the importance of policies that the Socialist International has long advocated. These include reforms to the financial system in order to ensure that, unlike during the financial crisis of 2008, the burden of the recovery is distributed fairly. Measures must be taken to cut down on tax evasion to ensure that huge multinational companies pay their fair share of taxes. A tax on financial transactions has the potential to raise vast sums that can be used to alleviate the economic damage already caused and facilitate enhanced access to healthcare.

Key to reducing and eventually eliminating the threat of this virus in the medium to long term will be ensuring access to vaccines for the entire world. The rapid spread of Covid-19 has exposed the vulnerability of our interconnected societies to contagious diseases and it is a fact that as long as the virus remains uncontrolled in one part of the world, it is a threat to the entire planet. International solidarity and a commitment to multilateralism, within the framework of the UN and the WHO, will be crucial in order to both ensure fair access to vaccines and to put in place the infrastructure to deliver vaccinations in countries and regions where the capacity of existing healthcare systems is limited.

The pandemic has also indirectly led to the exacerbation of existing social and political problems, and concerted efforts are needed to correct a number of troubling negative developments. Among these is the rise in domestic violence and violence against women during a time when large proportions of the global population have been living under

lockdowns and similar restrictions. More must be done to eliminate the scourge of violence against women and to ensure that women are not left out or left behind during the process of rebuilding the world economy. The situation of refugees has also worsened, due to the deteriorating conditions and a shortfall in solutions for displaced persons. Another cause for concern is the evidence that a number of governments have been using the pandemic as a pretext to restrict freedoms and weaken democracy, which continues to face diverse challenges in different regions of the world.

Democracy

The ongoing repression of peaceful demonstrators in Belarus following the illegitimate election results in August is unacceptable. Belarusians continue to take to the streets in their struggle for democracy and the right to choose their government, and do so with the full support of the global social democratic movement. The Belarusian opposition now has hope, with their values having been shown to be those of the majority, and their demands for change must be heard. We reiterate our call for the release of Mikalai Statkevich, the leader of our member party in Belarus, as well as the release of all the other political prisoners being held under detention by the regime.

The catastrophic political, financial and social situation in Venezuela has led to millions of citizens being forced to flee the country in inhumane conditions. Power has been stolen by the authoritarian regime of Nicolás Maduro, and needs to be returned to the people, but the conditions do not exist for free and fair elections to take place. The parliamentary elections scheduled for December have no credibility as clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming rejection by the international community of the conditions in which they would be held.

Democratic setbacks are a cause for concern in a number of other countries, including Pakistan, where opposition parties are being victimised by the government. In Cameroon, violence continues and the conditions do not exist for the free and fair holding of the forthcoming regional elections. The process of democratisation in Haiti is deadlocked, with a breakdown in the rule of law and the risk of falling into a dictatorship. The multitude of challenges to establishing and defending democracy on all continents are a reminder of the vital importance of international cooperation and for democratic governments to take a stand against increasing anti-democratic practices and a trend towards authoritarianism.

The process of rewriting the constitution of Chile is a seminal moment in the democratic history of the country, as it takes steps to consign the Pinochet-era constitution to the past. The SI congratulates the people of Chile and all those who have made possible the holding of this historic plebiscite.

Peace and conflict resolution

The continued conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in and around Nagorno-Karabakh is deeply concerning. Upon the outbreak of the military confrontation last

month, the SI called for an immediate ceasefire, convinced that only through dialogue and peaceful negotiation can this conflict be resolved. We also called from the outset for other states to refrain from further escalating the conflict by intervening or contributing militarily, whether directly or indirectly. Any third party involvement in the military confrontation is condemnable and must be stopped. We call once more for the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to persist in their efforts for meaningful negotiations, and the international community at large to play their part to bring peace and stability to the region.

The SI continues to support the two-state solution to the Middle East conflict, and reiterates its support for its member parties in Israel and Palestine who are dedicated to making this happen. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination must continue to be defended, and the international community must firmly reject any plans that involve the expansion of settlements and the annexation of Palestinian territory, which risks permanently losing the opportunity for peace.

The security crisis in the Sahel continues to require the attention of the world, in particular in light of coup d'état in Mali and the invasion of its territory by extremists. The weakening of democracy and increased insecurity go hand in hand, and the international efforts to support peace and democracy in the region must continue. In a regional security context the developments in Libya will play a critical role and the SI will continue to closely follow the situation there.

Escalating tensions between Greece and Turkey, taking place amid existing disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean, are of current concern. As expressed in the SI statement of 26 October, a restart of exploratory talks between Greece and Turkey, a show of the political will to resolve disputes through constructive dialogue and diplomacy, will provide a signal for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the wider region. The SI supports the proposal for a multilateral conference on the Eastern Mediterranean to facilitate shared solutions and mutual cooperation.

SI declaration on the plebiscite in Chile

25 October 2020



On Sunday, October 25, more than seven million Chileans went to the polls to decide if they wanted to keep the existing Constitution or if they preferred to have a new constitution drawn up. Regarding the path for change, they were asked about their preference for an assembly wholly elected for such

purposes or a mixed body composed in equal parts of sitting parliamentarians and elected representatives with a constituent mandate. The result that became known that same Sunday afternoon was clear and eloquent: almost 80 percent of voters favoured a new constitution and a Constitutional Convention. Despite the COVID-19 restrictions that marked the elections, the electoral process was carried out with total normality and in a climate of optimism, citizen participation was higher than in the last elections and a significant presence of young people was evident, who when the results were known they went out en masse and peacefully to celebrate in the streets of Santiago and other cities in the country.

Sunday's election takes place exactly one year after the massive demonstrations that were carried out throughout Chile and that demanded the consecration and assurance of social rights, higher levels of equality, inclusion and social protection, the end of abuses, and dignified treatment for everybody. In historical and political terms, for many Chileans these elections put an end to the Constitution imposed by the dictatorship forty years ago, which despite having undergone important reforms during the democratic transition, never ceased to be perceived by large sectors of the country as a legacy of the dictator Pinochet and an attempt to enshrine the neoliberal model in Chile.

The Socialist International congratulates its member parties and the Chilean people for this significant step and trusts that the constituent process will live up to the demands and expectations of the people, allowing them to reiterate their democratic vocation, their rejection of dictatorship and definitively leave behind a constitution from another era, one of the darkest in the history of the country.

Escalating tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean

26 October 2020

The situation in the Eastern Mediterranean has become a great concern, with existing conflicts and proxy wars already causing a humanitarian crisis, and the escalating tensions between Turkey and Greece signalling further risk. A military confrontation would have disastrous consequences, both for the two neighbouring states and their people, and the wider region.

Such an eventuality poses an even greater threat today, at a time when the world is facing the COVID-19 emergency. We recall the recent statement of the UN Secretary General António Guterres, who warns that the pandemic is having profound social, economic and political consequences, including international peace and security.

The Socialist International expresses great concern over these growing tensions, and inflammatory public rhetoric, which leads to further escalation and the risk of a fatal accident.

In this context, it is crucial to work together, with members of our International family and likeminded political forces in both Greece and Turkey, in order to send a strong message that citizens in the region wish to resolve existing conflicts peacefully.

In times of a dangerous pandemic, we must prioritise increasing inequality, the climate crisis, and population movements. These issues demand global cooperation, and make regional cooperation imperative.

A restart of exploratory talks between Greece and Turkey, a show of the political will to resolve disputes through constructive dialogue and diplomacy, will provide a signal for the peaceful resolution of conflicts in the wider region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

The SI also supports the proposal for a multilateral conference on the Eastern Mediterranean, which will contribute to the resolution of issues related with maritime borders, exclusive economic zones, and gas exploration. This Conference must further pave the way towards cooperation on renewable energy and a regional New Green Deal.

A welcome victory for Biden in the USA

7 November 2020



The Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden has surpassed the threshold of votes in the Electoral College to win the US presidential election. In addition, the former vice-president received the largest number of votes ever cast for a presidential candidate in US history. Thus, the majority of American people have chosen building consensus and empathy over animosity

and division. We congratulate the president-elect Joe Biden, his running mate Kamala Harris, and the Democratic Party on their successful campaign.

In a record-breaking election, voter turnout reached unprecedented levels. The increased participation in the democratic process by the American people is one of the outstanding features of these elections, and electoral authorities across the country should also be commended for their dedication to ensuring that all valid votes were counted, in particular in light of the challenges posed by holding an election at the height of the coronavirus pandemic and the unfounded calling into question of the democratic process by the sitting president.

Joe Biden's commitment to governing in the interests of all Americans, regardless of party affiliation, is commendable and contrasts greatly with the outgoing administration.

After four years during which the leadership of the United States followed a narrow approach to key global issues, the announced priorities of the President-elect are a welcome change, with his commitment to tackle and overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, combat climate change, build economic prosperity, secure health care for all, eliminate systemic racism, defend human and women's rights and to strengthen democracy. These are common challenges and cannot be solved by nations working alone.

The victory of Joe Biden offers an opportunity to strengthen multilateralism in a world which greatly needs it for the benefit of all. We social democrats from around the globe are convinced that the outcome of this presidential election will have many positive repercussions for both the USA and for the world, and we wish the president-elect every success.

Solidarity with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and the CHP in Turkey

23 November 2020

The Socialist International expresses its full solidarity with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the leader of its member party in Turkey, the Republican People's Party, CHP, who has been subject to threats by a criminal convicted of multiple murders, money laundering and leading an illegal armed group, who had been released from jail in April this year following a penal code change.

The threat came after a speech made by Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu in parliament calling on President Erdogan to undertake true legal reforms, including of the penal code previously introduced enabling committed criminals to be released while maintaining in prison critics of the ruling party, for freedom of expression, and for political imprisonment to be ended.

It is deplorable that the leader of the extreme right wing nationalist MHP party, Devlet Bahçeli, an ally of President Erdogan, later defended the criminal publicly.

The CHP has filed a criminal complaint. It also criticised the government's initial silence and delayed response.

The Socialist International underlines its concern that the legal system as well as the government have failed to react properly on such a grave matter which challenges the basic institutions of the state, and looks forward to a substantial response to preserve the rule of law.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November 2020



Victory for President Kaboré in Burkina Faso

27 November 2020



The Socialist International welcomes the news that President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, leader of the SI member party the People's Movement for Progress, MPP, who was first elected President of Burkina Faso in 2015, has received well above the votes needed to win a second term in the first round of general elections held last Sunday.

The Independent National Electoral Commission, CENI, has confirmed that out of thirteen candidates running for president in this election, President Kaboré received 57.87 percent of the vote. His closest opponents received just 15.48 and 12.46 percent.

Opposition parties have seven days to file complaints, and courts are required to issue their findings two weeks later. However, Independent National Electoral Commission, CENI, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and the African Union, AU, have said the elections were conducted in a satisfactory manner. Reports credit the election as being one of the country's most open in years.

President Kaboré's victory by such a margin in the first round demonstrates the result of his policies to continue on a path of stability, democracy and rights for all. It further strongly underlines the commitment and service he has shown to his country in his first term, as well as his efforts to bring peace, security and wellbeing to the people. Underscoring this, President Kaboré has said "I will deploy all my efforts so that through continuous consultation, through dialogue... we can work together for peace and development."

This is an important moment for Burkina Faso, and for President Kaboré and our member party the MPP who stand for the common values and principles of our movement, values that have been transforming the face of Burkina Faso and opening new and welcome opportunities for the country.

SI calls for release of CDPA leader in Togo

3 December 2020



Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson

The Socialist International (SI) strongly condemns the arrest of Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson, Secretary General of the SI member party in Togo, the Democratic Convention of African Peoples, (CDPA), currently heading the coalition group Dynamique Monseigneur Kpodrzo (DMK), and of Gérard Yaovi Djossou, DMK member who chairs the committee for social affairs and human rights. The SI demands their immediate and unconditional release.

The DMK had called for a peaceful demonstration in protest at the failure of the government to recognise the victory of the DMK in the elections held earlier this year, a regime which for over fifty years has been in the hands of one family.

On 27 November, Gérard Yaovi Djossou was taken from the street in Hanoukopé, Lomé, after meeting ambassadors from France, Germany, United States, the European Union, and the United Nations Development Program. He was reportedly badly beaten and endured many hours of interrogation, handcuffed and without access to his lawyer. On 28 November, Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson attempted to visit Yaovi Djossou but was detained by the Central Service of Research and Criminal Investigation (SCRIC), and her home then raided and searched. The SCRIC took documents, notebooks and computers. Adjamagbo-Johnson was subsequently arrested, and later charged with being involved in the 'destabilisation of institutions' in the country and attacking the internal security of the state.

The Socialist International denounces this political persecution and calls for international condemnation of the growing repression evident in Togo. Such aggressive measures are clearly designed to intimidate and silence the opposition and are in this case entirely and blatantly baseless. The preceding years in Togo have seen multiple violations of human rights and arrests of opposition figures, including members of the DMK, as well as reports of the detention and torture of people taking part in peaceful protests.

It is extremely concerning that President Gnassingbé and his party, the Union for the Republic, have de-facto control over institutions such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), and the Constitutional Court. They also have control of the National Assembly, and in May 2019 they adopted an amendment to the constitution that enabled Gnassingbé to run again in the next two elections.

Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson, who is also a lawyer, is dedicated to working for human rights in Togo and is the first woman to have stood as a candidate in the presidential elections in 2010. These groundless charges against her and her colleague must be immediately dropped, and full access to their legal representation must be given.

The Socialist International reaffirms its full solidarity with Brigitte Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson and Gérard Yaovi Djossou, with the CDPA, and with all those in Togo who are struggling for their rights, their freedoms, and for democracy.

SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea focuses on key regional issues at virtual meeting

5 December 2020



The Socialist International Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea held an online meeting on Saturday 5 December 2020, with the participation of member parties from countries across the region. The agenda of the meeting comprised of three main

themes, beginning with a presentation of reports on the national situations of member parties, with particular attention given to the impact of Covid-19. The meeting continued with exchanges on the resolution of conflicts and securing peace, followed by contributions on defending and strengthening democracy and its institutions in the countries of the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea region.

The committee heard accounts of how the pandemic had affected participants, with a number of them having personally suffered from the disease. The diverse approaches taken by countries in the region had significantly affected the spread of the virus and its impact on the population, with countries affected in different ways during the early months of the pandemic and at the present time. Social democratic priorities for the response to the pandemic, such as access to healthcare, mobilisation of resources to relieve economic hardship and the question of equitable access to vaccines were among the key issues raised during the exchanges.

Sergey Mironov, chair of A Just Russia Party, reported that the situation in Russia remained complex as the country was confronting the second wave without any lockdowns. The pandemic had brought long-term unemployment and social issues, but there was renewed hope due to the imminent start of mass vaccinations with the Sputnik V vaccine which, Mironov underlined, Russia was prepared to share. The virus had touched upon all of humanity but he was confident that it could be overcome by countries working together. His party always supported international relationships and he described the SI as a strong ideological community, expressing confidence that its words would be heard, presenting a common point of view that was particularly needed at the time of the pandemic.

Moldova was facing a state of emergency due to daily increases in the number of cases of Covid-19 in the country. Cristina Lesnic, member of the Executive Bureau of the PDM, underlined the importance of placing the citizens at the centre of the pandemic response and the need for access to medicines and a strengthened medical system. The PDM was working for the implementation of its plan to deal with the pandemic and its impact. Access to proper medical treatment is also a serious problem for Kyrgyzstan, which had not been able to effectively deal with the pandemic, as the former president had not found sufficient funds to enable access to free medical help for citizens or for the establishment of corona hospitals to take care of sick patients, resulting in a disproportionately high death toll. Askhat Rakhimzhanov, chair of the OSDP, Kazakhstan, reported that Kazakhstan had not been spared the suffering caused by the pandemic and strict measures including a lockdown and state of emergency had been introduced. He considered that lessons had been learned from the first wave that meant the country was better prepared for the second.

In contrast, a number of participants reported that the second wave had been more severe than during the spring, among them Gia Jorjoliani, chair of the SDD, Georgia, who considered that the pandemic was exposing serious shortcomings in the ability of the world order to respond to such a crisis. Georgia had coped very well in the spring with a two-month lockdown, but was now among the least successful countries. Another

country heavily hit by the second wave was Hungary, as reported by Alexandra Dobolyi, co-chair of the committee, MSzP, where the government was not managing to balance the economy against the consequences of not locking down.

The dangerous lack of response by the Lukashenko regime in Belarus was brought to the attention of the meeting by Yauheni Vilski, first vice-chair of NH, Belarus, who described an administration that considered loyalty more important than health, which meant that anyone who publicly went against government policy would lose their job. The regime had chosen to deny the existence of the pandemic, despite hospitals in Minsk now dealing exclusively with Covid-19 patients.

On the theme of peace and conflict resolution, significant attention was given to the recent conflict in the South Caucasus, and the meeting listened to the perspectives of participants from both Armenia and Azerbaijan on this subject.

Araz Alizadeh, co-chair of the committee and leader of the SDPA, Azerbaijan, described the conflict as a patriotic war which all Azeri political parties had supported, resulting in Armenian forces leaving territory they had occupied for the first time since 1993. Responding to reports of Turkish involvement in the war, he denied the presence of Turkish armed forces in Azerbaijan. His position was that Azerbaijan had not at any point attacked Armenian territory, while Armenia had attacked Ganja to breach the ceasefire of 10 October, a city outside of the Karabakh region. His position was that the SDPA did not want war, regardless of demands from Yerevan and that a bad peace was better than a 'good' war.

Shaghig Maroukhian, supreme council member of the ARF, Armenia, described the actions of Azerbaijan as a large scale aggression in violation of the tripartite ceasefire that was planned and coordinated with military and political support from Turkey. She accused the government of Azerbaijan of recruiting terrorist mercenaries from Syria and Libya, and of immediately violating two ceasefires agreed during October. The ARF called into question the 10 November ceasefire agreement and supported protests against the Armenian prime minister and the installation of an interim government. Mario Nalpatian (ARF, SI vice-president) considered that a just peace had not been reached, but outlined his party's commitment to the values and principles of the SI and readiness to work for this in the South Caucasus.

In remarks on the resolution of conflicts, SI vice-president Alexander Romanovich (Just Russia) highlighted the personal role of the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia in reaching a ceasefire agreement. He regretted the number of on-going conflicts in the CIS, referring to the situations in Moldova and Ukraine, and expressed his belief that conflicts could only be solved through negotiations with international support from the UN.

On the subject of the conflict affecting Transnistria, Cristina Lesnic outlined that despite a difficult year, the PDM was still focused on a result-oriented approach. She described the isolation of the Transnistria region through the introduction of checkpoints and

violations of human rights as unsustainable, calling for a negotiated solution with respect for the integrity of Moldova, human rights and security.

Discussions on democracy took into account the developments since the fraudulent presidential elections in Belarus, which have been rejected by the SI and other international organisations. Marina Adamovich (NH, Belarus) reminded participants that 189 days had passed since the leader of the Narodnaya Hramada and co-chair of the committee, Mikalai Statkevich, had been imprisoned, alongside other electoral candidates, Sakharov prize winners and more than 600 human rights activists. Due to the imprisonment of opposition leaders, Belarusians had been protesting without any leaders, and in the process forming a new Belarusian political nation. It was emphasised that these protests were not to do with choosing between east or west, but an internal Belarusian protest in favour of democracy and respect for human rights.

The democratic challenges faced in Kyrgyzstan were described by Temirlan Sultanbekov (SDP), who outlined the situation leading up to the massive protest and the fall of the previous regime in October. The SDP had been prevented from conducting its campaign during the election that preceded those developments, with severe pressure placed on party members. Following the resignation of former president Jeenbekov, he expressed optimism for the future in which those who had committed crimes will be held to account and all political prisoners released. The party had not sought to seize power during the unrest but was willing to take part in democratic parliamentary elections and then play its role in a coalition or in the opposition.

Askhat Rakhimzhanov (OSDP) reported that in Kazakhstan some changes had taken place that made it easier to form political parties and increase the plurality of opinions in the political sphere. There had also been a special law on gender equality in administrative bodies and party lists and holding demonstrations had also been made easier. He explained the decision taken by the OSDP at its congress to boycott forthcoming elections, as electoral laws had not been amended despite the party's efforts. As the only opposition it had also been subject to a lot of provocation in the previous months, including efforts to take over the party by outside actors.

In concluding remarks, SI secretary general Luis Ayala underlined that the SI had made the resolution of conflicts a part of its identity everywhere and would continue to bring together its member parties in search of common ground, compromise and cooperation. Democracy continued to be a major challenge in the region and he noted that the SI had made efforts to secure the participation of a delegate from Tajikistan, where there was a severe lack of rights, freedoms and democracy, and social democrats faced an extremely difficult situation. We are also reaching out to like-minded friends in Uzbekistan, who are suffering a similar fate. On conflict resolution and human rights, the SI continued to be in touch with the United Nations. He considered that as a political family the SI is truly involved in this region and is getting results. He paid tribute to social democrats across the region who were working for democracy and progress, improving the situation with hard work and perseverance, and expressed his pride that members of this political family were at the forefront of these efforts.

Socialist International denounces illegitimate elections in Venezuela

7 December 2020

The Socialist International once again raises its voice to express its resolute support for and solidarity with the people of Venezuela, and with its democratic forces that have once again seen their freedoms and rights seriously violated by the dictatorial regime of Nicolás Maduro, this time with the illegitimate elections that were held yesterday.

The International rejects these elections carried out without effective and independent international observation, with an electoral power under strict and total official control and with a system of political parties that the Maduro regime has for years been dedicated to attack, co-opt and destroy. Both the call, and the preparation and holding of these elections, have been rejected by a significant number of countries in the region, as well as by the Lima Group, the Organization of American States and the European Union, among others. The main actors of the international community consider that the minimum standards required to carry out a fair, competitive and transparent election have been far from fulfilled, and this can only be described as an unacceptable affront to democracy.

The Venezuelan people have also understood this and have reacted to the electoral farce with massive abstention. With an electoral roll of close to 20.7 million voters, the participation figures on the day reveal an approximate 70 percent abstention. Compared to the previous legislative election, when the opposition won a clear victory, turnout this time fell 40 points. It is paradoxical to note that on the illegitimate day that we have just witnessed, the PSUV and other parties of the official Gran Polo Patriótico coalition who proclaim themselves as winners, obtained two million fewer votes than in the 2015 legislative elections in which they were defeated.

The Venezuelan opposition, led by Juan Guaidó, made a call to not validate the electoral fraud and to not participate in the elections. After the results were published, the president-designate stressed that the majority of Venezuelans had turned their backs on Nicolás Maduro. From the beginning of January 2021, the National Assembly, currently the only public body with democratic legitimacy in the country, could have a new composition as a result of a process called into question both nationally and internationally as spurious.

The Socialist International condemns this new attack on Venezuelan democratic actors and reiterates its deep concern at the political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis affecting women and men, which continues to deteriorate by the day. The SI strongly supports its member parties and the opposition forces in Venezuela, and will continue to support their tireless efforts for a country in which the rule of law and respect for the freedoms and rights of all its citizens prevail. In view of the millions of Venezuelans who have had to leave their land for political or economic reasons and go into exile, the SI

renews its call to the international community to remain active, mobilised and committed to defending full respect for human rights, freedom and democracy in Venezuela.

Virtual meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

12 December 2020



On Saturday 12 December 2020, the Socialist International held a meeting of its Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean with the participation of members of the SI Presidium, leaders and representatives of the SI member parties from the region. The discussions included reports on national situations, the impact and consequences of Covid-19, the social and economic challenges in the region, as well as the defence and strengthening of democracy and its institutions throughout the continent.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Committee observed a minute of silence in memory of the recently deceased Honorary President of the Socialist International, Horacio Serpa, who had also previously held the responsibility of vice-president of the organisation, and who was leader of the Colombian Liberal Party. The Committee also remembered Tabaré Vázquez, from the Frente Amplio of Uruguay, who had served two terms as president of the Republic and who sadly passed away in Montevideo some days prior.

In his opening remarks, the Chair of the Committee, Miguel Vargas, stressed that the pandemic had brought important challenges to the countries of the region to which the social democratic forces of the continent - in government or in opposition - must respond with solidarity, guided by the principles of democratic socialism. Promoting public investment, stimulating demand, directly supporting vulnerable groups, increasing spending on scientific research and ensuring timely access to vaccines, among other things, are actions that SI parties in the region should pursue. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of new technologies and the internet as a support for development. Its use in education, remote work and new ventures associated with social networks, can be seen as positive experiences. The unity of our political forces across the continent will help to overcome the crisis of the pandemic and promote the health, economic and social recovery of the region.

The SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, highlighted that at the global level the Socialist International has been committed to addressing matters of priority: the fight against Covid-19, the defence and strengthening of democracy, facing the rise of populism, the achievement of real social justice in the framework of an economy with environmental and social sustainability, the resolution of conflicts and the work in favour of peace, gender equality, and the solidarity that defines this political family. Regarding these concerns, the SI is working in contact with all its member parties in the different continents. In relation to the global pandemic, the International has insisted on the urgency of having vaccines available to all, as well as quality health services. The search for greater social justice and solidarity within our countries and globally must today also be concretely expressed in our response to the challenges of the pandemic.

At the beginning of the debates, the participants received greetings and a message from Pedro Sánchez, President of the Government of Spain, Secretary General of the PSOE and vice-president of the SI, who highlighted the bond that unites the people of Spain with the region and reiterated his commitment to cooperation. The socialist and social democratic responses to the current crisis, he said, must be oriented in favour of the well-being of all, without allowing for populism or austerity solutions. This was a task that today must unite the forces of the Socialist International.

At the beginning of the Committee's debates it was highlighted that the current crisis will generate the largest global economic contraction since the Great Depression of 1929. According to figures from multilateral organisations, world GDP will experience a decrease of more than 5% this year. In Latin America and the Caribbean, this figure will be close to -9% according to ECLAC estimates and some countries will have particularly worrying contractions, such as the case of Venezuela, whose output is estimated to contract by 26%. The export sectors and the production of raw materials and food will be severely affected in their production and exchange volumes as well as in their prices. Activities that are especially relevant to some countries in the region, such as tourism, will experience a major blow. This scenario is bringing internal conflicts, increased unemployment and poverty. The responses of the authorities lead to an increase in debt and public spending, which is prompting fiscal deficits to grow in many nations in the region. A social democratic response to the challenge should boost public investment (private investment will also be affected by the uncertainty surrounding the normalisation of health conditions and the restrictions that these entail) and public spending, reactivating employment and household demand. In Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years, governments have been making efforts to reduce national debt and balance fiscal accounts; however, it was stressed that the magnitude of the crisis we are facing forces us to assume the need for smart, efficient and environmentally responsible public spending to promote reactivation in 2021 over the choice of austerity policies. At the same time, it is urgent and essential that countries mobilise resources, bonds and other types of direct aid to the most affected and vulnerable groups; the moment is propitious to strengthen the institutional framework and the benefits of social services in our nations. The region must strengthen integration and cohesion in scientific and educational matters and reinforce action for cooperation for development, both economically and socially.

In addition to a general reflection on the economic situation, the Committee also identified certain economic challenges in view of particular national realities. For example, Paraguay, despite presenting a lower economic contraction than many countries in the region, faces the problem of a strong connection with illicit and criminal activities, and with the collusion – if not participation – of its authorities in them. In Peru, the problem of informality has affected the economy and employment for many years. In the case of Haiti, concern was expressed about the existence of criminal gangs protected by the authorities that ransack property without control in the rural and urban areas of the country, which undermines the economy, the security of its citizens, its institutions and democracy. In Argentina, the severe economic effects of the pandemic have been aggravated by the adoption of particularly restrictive health measures, such as extensive quarantines, which among other factors have left the country with 50% of its population living in poverty.

With regard to democracy in the region, the Committee reiterated the commitment of the SI member parties in Latin America and the Caribbean. The moment makes it necessary to be vigilant in the face of the emergence of authoritarian leaderships and populism that end up undermining democratic coexistence. At the same time, the adoption for political

purposes of initiatives disguised as health measures that violate fundamental rights and personal and collective freedoms, was rejected. For restrictive measures to be legitimate, they must be timely, adopted with technical and scientific criteria, well explained to the population, and respectful of the country's institutions.

Members of the Committee expressed their grave concern at national situations in the region where democracy is threatened. The Committee was interested in the situation in Haiti, where President Jovenel Moïse has not called the planned elections and has been governing and legislating by decree, concentrating public powers. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Haitian opposition parties against the authoritarian drift of the government and their work for unity with a view to demanding free elections as soon as possible and to preventing President Moïse's attempt to modify the Constitution and remain in power beyond February 2021. Peru has found itself outside of democratic normality since the accession to the presidency of Martín Vizcarra in March 2018. The current president, Francisco Sagasti, came to office following a declaration of vacancy removing his predecessor in the month of November and comes from a party with only nine seats in the Peruvian parliament, which makes it foreseeable that he will experience difficulties in governing the country. The Committee expressed its confidence that the elections on 11 April will be carried out properly, with the participation of all political forces, and will allow Peru to return to democratic normality.

In the Paraguayan case, it was recalled that the Colorado Party has been ruling the country since 1947, with the only exception of the coalition government between 2008 and 2013, which was part of the social democratic political family. Accusations of corruption and criminal acts against Colorado's leaders are a constant that affects Paraguayan democracy, the case of former President Horacio Cartes being the most recent and well-known. The democratic opposition forces, based on the experience of unity with which they faced the last presidential election, must continue to work with confidence with a view to the 2023 elections to achieve the alternation of power and a democratic change in Paraguay. With regard to Bolivia, the Committee analysed the reasons for the recent presidential triumph of MAS candidate, Luis Arce, and the lessons to bear in mind for the future to strengthen the democratic institutions.

In the Committee's opinion, Brazil should be seen in the region as a particularly serious case of how populist policies can quickly, drastically and directly impact people's lives. With more than 180 thousand deaths so far, Brazil is the second worst hit nation in the world in terms of the number of deaths as a result of Covid-19. This dramatic situation is a consequence of the irresponsible policies of President Bolsonaro in health matters. The explicit denial of scientific evidence and reality has generated an unacceptable loss of life and a serious damage to the country's institutions and its democracy. The Committee welcomed the consolidation, after the last municipal elections, of its member party PDT as the first opposition political force and expressed its confidence that progressive proposals will prevail in Brazil and contribute to its sustainable development and that of the region.

As a hopeful sign for the future of democracy in the region, the Committee welcomed the constituent process that is advancing today in Chile, where after the massive demonstrations of a year ago - with demands for a deepening of democracy, respect for social rights and an end to the abuses - there is a climate of broad consensus to replace the text of the Constitution and the model imposed by it during the dictatorship. Eighty per cent of the Chilean electorate opted for a new Constitution, which will be drawn up in an assembly with gender parity and with representation of indigenous peoples, an experience without international precedent. The Committee expressed its support for the Chilean progressive and democratic forces in their work to imprint a new Social State of Law in the new constitutional text, leaving behind the mark of Pinochet and his neoliberal model.

Once again, Venezuela had a central place in the Committee's discussions on democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee expressed its rejection of the legislative elections held last Sunday, 6 December, already denounced as illegitimate by the SI and by the international community, and in which an abstention of close to 70% was observed according to official figures. Every day sees a deepening of the very serious political, economic and social problems that have plagued the country for years. The number of Venezuelans fleeing their country is estimated at between five to six million, creating a humanitarian drama and a massive migratory flow, a reality that is particularly complex for neighbouring Colombia. The seizure of power, the destruction of the productive apparatus and infrastructure, and uncontrolled hyperinflation are just some of the manifestations of the magnitude of the crisis in Venezuela. The Socialist International and the international community as a whole must remain firmly involved in supporting the Venezuelan democratic forces in their demand for free, fair and transparent elections, with independent electoral authorities and international observation. The Citizen Consultation (Consulta Ciudadana) convened by the Venezuelan democratic opposition that coincided with the holding of this Committee meeting should be welcomed and understood as an action in favour of democracy in Venezuela.

For democracy to be strong in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is essential to have solid, legitimate, credible and efficient institutions at the national and regional levels. Countries with robust institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean have been better able to respond to the pandemic and mitigate its consequences. The strength of institutions and the strength of democracy are two realities that go hand in hand. Populist proposals threaten the quality of institutions and end up eroding democratic coexistence.

The Committee listened to Nadia de León Torres (UNE, Guatemala), who read a letter addressed to the delegates by her mother, Sandra Torres, a vice-president of the International, denouncing her judicial persecution for political reasons. Torres appealed to the Committee for the SI to take action on her case to allow her and her party to resume their role in their country. In this regard, the SI Secretary General reminded the Committee that the accusations against the vice-president were presented without grounds or evidence and that one year and three months have passed since charges were filed. This status quo threatens and prevents the regular exercise of Sandra Torres's

rights and he proposed that the SI take action to obtain her freedom and identify a group of jurists from within our organization to this end.

During the closing of the meeting, the Committee heard a message from George Papandreou, President of the Socialist International, in which he referred to the many challenges we face today.

SI calls for respect of the democratic process and election results in Romania

14 December 2020

The Socialist International congratulates its member party in Romania, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) on its victory in the general election held on 6 December, after it emerged by a clear margin as the largest party in the parliament. In line with the constitutional norms and practices of Romania, the party should have been given the opportunity to nominate a prime minister and to try to form a government. It is therefore troubling that President Iohannis has taken the unprecedented and anti-democratic step of nominating a member of his own former party, the National Liberal Party (PNL), as interim prime minister.

We call on President Iohannis, who according to the constitution of Romania must remain impartial, to respect the result of the elections by allowing the PSD to nominate a prime minister, instead of imposing the candidate of his choice. This comes after undue intervention by the president in the electoral campaign, during which he was critical of the PSD and supportive of the PNL. In playing such an active role in the campaign he used the presidential office in a manner inconsistent with international standards, as noted by the OSCE electoral assessment mission in its preliminary report.

The process of choosing the next government of the country must be accomplished through free negotiations between the parties elected to the parliament and without interference from the presidency and we expect these democratic norms to be upheld. The Socialist International expresses its solidarity with the PSD and its president, Marcel Ciolacu, as they seek to build a better future for all Romanians and supports the party's efforts to form the next government of Romania in line with the democratically expressed will of the people and the constitutional practices of the country.

The SI protests the sentencing of Loujain al Hathloul in Saudi Arabia

28 December 2020



The Socialist International vigorously protests against the sentencing of Loujain al Hathloul in Saudi Arabia on alleged charges relating to national security under the state's counter terrorism law. Loujain al Hathloul, a women's rights activist, originally made news in 2014 for protesting against the Kingdom's ban on women drivers and its male guardianship laws, for which she was arrested and detained for 73 days. She was again arrested in 2018 and since then has been held in detention without trial. The sentencing today of nearly six years in prison has rightly provoked outrage internationally.

The Socialist International continues to reaffirm the rights of all women to freedom of expression, to freedom from gender-related discrimination and freedom from the violation of their human rights.

As the SI has stated before, across the world, women have featured prominently in the struggle for freedom and democracy, and continue to play a prominent role in the democratic transitions. They must be afforded the same opportunities, rights and freedoms as men. For a stable, equitable and peaceful society, it is imperative that women's rights and gender equality are respected.

SI deplores assault on democracy in the US

8 January 2021

The Socialist International, the worldwide organisation of social democratic, labour and democratic socialist parties, strongly deplores the systematic attacks on democracy that have taken place by President Donald Trump and his allies since his defeat in the presidential election in November last year, which culminated in the reprehensible assault on the Capitol building by supporters of the outgoing president on Wednesday 6 January. These shocking events have no place in a democracy and have sadly led to at least five deaths, including that of a police officer who lost his life as a result of injuries suffered while carrying out his duties.

It is astonishing, unprecedented and shameful that this mob was directly encouraged by the president to storm the seat of the US legislature, as a joint session of Congress was

underway to certify the election of his opponent in the November election, Joe Biden. The direct provocation by Trump, followed by a number of senior members of the Republican Party, in the lead up to the tumultuous events at the Capitol comes on the back of two months during which they have at every juncture tried to undermine the validity of a free and fair election that delivered a resounding victory to President-elect Biden. It has been proven many times over that all the various allegations and conspiracy theories surrounding the electoral process are without merit and lack any legal foundation. Despite this, the president and others have been willing to lie, to distort the truth and subvert democracy in order to stay in power.

Over the past four years, President Trump has consistently shown himself to be unfit for office. This pattern of behaviour was evident even before his election in 2016, as he used campaign rallies to spread discord and encourage violence. His term of office has led to the emboldening and strengthening of far-right and white supremacist elements in American society, as he has refused to condemn violence and racism and offered support for many of their aims and objectives. The danger of inflammatory rhetoric and the consequences of inciting violence and hatred are plain to see after the events of 6 January. Some of the most troubling images to emerge show the triumphant brandishing of racist symbols such as the Confederate flag within the Capitol building, and violent attacks on the media, who have consistently been vilified by the outgoing president. President-elect Biden has accurately described those involved as domestic terrorists, and they must be identified and prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The Socialist International has a proud history of working for and speaking up in favour of democracy wherever it is under threat in the world and the events of recent months are a stark reminder that hard-won democratic rights must never be taken for granted. Even after the departure of President Trump from office, the damage done to democracy in the USA will take time and effort to overcome. We wish the incoming administration every success as they begin their work to repair the harm done by his predecessor and are confident that President-elect Biden will govern in the interest of all Americans, strengthen multilateralism and be a positive force both for the USA and for the rest of the world.

A new horizon in the United States

21 January 2021

The assumption of office by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as the new President and Vice-President of the United States marks a significant turning point for the country and is a welcome moment for the world. Democracy in the United States has delivered a new course, in which the people once again have reaffirmed long held values and principles upon which that nation was built. At this crucial time during which the world is facing unprecedented challenges, the new administration is clearly focused on dealing with

priorities recognised by the majority of its people and that are also present today on the agendas of many countries and governments around the globe.

Today's most important priorities converge on combatting and neutralising the virus that has so far ended the lives of over 2 million people, the recovery of national economies, halting the destruction of the environment, implementing humane responses to migration crises, countering racism and discrimination, promoting gender equality, the resolution of conflicts and securing peace and, above all, strengthening democracy and its institutions at a time when they are under threat by populist and authoritarian ideas in different parts of the world.

The executive orders signed by President Biden on the very day he took office, which we strongly welcome, reflect his commitment to these crucial issues and are in stark contrast to his predecessor whose policy was characterised by insularity, hostility and mistrust. They highlight his understanding that only with a common approach will the nations of the world be able to overcome the many global challenges that humanity faces.

The path he has chosen, one of searching for common agreement through multilateralism, is well reflected in his internationally widely applauded decisions to rejoin the World Health Organization and the Paris Climate Accord.

In the battle to prevent catastrophic climate change, President Biden's executive order to rejoin the Paris Accord is a hugely significant move at a time when our planet is facing a climate emergency, and when progress on reducing emissions to limit global warming has been hampered not only by the withdrawal from the agreement by the United States, but also the delay to COP26 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year is therefore a vital moment for the new US administration and the rest of the world to re-evaluate their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and strengthen their commitment to new and existing plans for emissions reductions.

The global battle to contain and overcome the Covid-19 pandemic is also an urgent priority and one which will be aided by the commitment by President Biden to rejoin the World Health Organization. The pandemic will continue to be a threat and a problem for all countries as it continues to spread in different parts of the world. The announcement that President Biden will bring the US into COVAX is therefore particularly welcome, as it will enable greater access to vaccines for countries regardless of income levels.

The SI welcomes the announcement that the discriminatory travel ban enacted by the former president in 2017 in order to target predominantly Muslim countries will be repealed as well as the announcement to halt construction of the wall, regularise the situation of over 11 million undocumented migrants in the country and that of the so-called 'dreamers'.

We equally look forward once more to the role of the US as a fully engaged partner for peace, defending human rights globally and prioritising international development after four years of aggressive and threatening rhetoric and concerted efforts to slash

development funding. A matter of particular importance is the Middle East, where the one-sided and transactional approach of the previous administration has severely damaged the prospects for a two-state solution and jeopardised long-term peace. In a positive step, President Biden has reiterated his support for the two-state solution and pledged to restore US aid and development funding to the West Bank and Gaza.

The US continues to have an extremely significant global influence in the economic, global and cultural spheres and the consequences of its decisions are felt far beyond its borders. Long-term success for President Biden requires more than simply reversing the worst policies of his predecessor and there are many global challenges ahead that may require the kind of consensus-building that has been severely lacking over the last four years. The Socialist International is encouraged by the early commitments and actions of President Biden and will, together with its member parties, offer its support to multilateral initiatives that are in line with the aims and principles of the social democratic family. We will continue to work for a progressive, democratic and internationalist agenda that can thrive on the global stage.

Djibouti, a country neither free nor democratic

28 January 2021

Djibouti remains today one of the least free and least democratic countries in the world, living under a system of single-party rule that has prevailed since its independence in 1977, and where expected democratic reforms have failed to take place.

In the face of severe challenges, the opposition SI-member Movement for Democratic Renewal (MRD), led by Daher Ahmed Farah, is seeking to advance the democratic and institutional reforms that were agreed as part of a framework agreement signed by the government and the opposition in December 2014, including the establishment of an independent joint national electoral commission. The regime's failure to implement these reforms places Djibouti at odds with the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which it has signed and ratified and requires state parties to both establish and strengthen independent and impartial national electoral bodies.

The Socialist International renews its call for the full implementation of the December 2014 framework agreement, including the establishment of an independent joint electoral commission, which is a prerequisite for the holding of a free and fair presidential election in Djibouti in April 2021. We express our solidarity with the MRD and all those in the country working for democracy, individual freedoms and human rights. The international community should bring pressure to bear on the ruling regime so that this year the people of Djibouti will finally be able to freely express their democratic will and elect their president without the fear of fraud and the use of force that have been a permanent feature of previous elections in the country.

SI denounces the arrest of one of the main opposition leaders in Paraguay

29 January 2021

Efraín Alegre, a presidential candidate in the 2018 elections in Paraguay representing a broad coalition of opposition political forces, including the SI member Progressive Democratic Party, PDP, was arrested on the 28th of this month under a pre-trial detention order following an obscure accusation by the regime in power led by the Colorado Party, a political organisation identified for decades with the long dictatorship of General Stroessner and the excesses of abuse and crimes to which it subjected the Paraguayan people. Efraín Alegre, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, who has participated as a guest in meetings of the Council of the Socialist International and its Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, carried out a notable presidential campaign in the last elections that mobilised the Paraguayan people, bringing together leaders and democratic forces under an agenda of change and progress that had broad citizen and popular support. Amid multiple complaints of irregularities and the absence of objective impartiality by the electoral authority, the candidate of the Partido Colorado was declared elected by a narrow margin.

In the past two and a half years since the elections, Efraín Alegre has become a spokesperson for the feelings shared by the opposition and the daily frustration of the Paraguayan citizens, and a personality who day by day raises the voice and opinion of the Paraguayans who bear the burden and the real cost of growing corruption and of the distance and indifference of a government that serves the interests of a visible and narrow minority. On this occasion, the regime is trying to hold him responsible for an alleged crime of producing a false document to an accounting process in a district of the country, related to gasoline expenses by managers in that region during activities of the last campaign, which in no way concerns him personally, and furthermore, as expressed in the country's legal system, is not the responsibility of a presidential candidate.

It is evident that the Paraguayan government, in the hands of President Mario Abdo of the Colorado Party, has decided to set out to destroy the image and authority of this Paraguayan leader who ranks high in the esteem and appreciation of the people.

This global organisation of social democratic, labour and democratic socialist parties strongly denounces this operation by the Paraguayan regime and demands the immediate release of Efraín Alegre, while at the same time we extend our full solidarity to his family and colleagues from his party, as well as to the different political forces that seek to build a new society, a new country, a new morality and a new destiny that Paraguay longs for and that it needs today.

SI call to respect democracy in Kosovo

29 January 2021

The Socialist International is closely following the situation in Kosovo, where snap parliamentary elections are scheduled for 14 February. In light of recent developments, the SI would urge that all measures are taken by the electoral authorities of the country to ensure that these elections take place with full respect for the principles of democracy and the rights of all voters, candidates and political parties.

The recent years have seen significant change in the political landscape in Kosovo, with new challengers emerging to the parties that had held a grip on power. The SI-member Movement for Self Determination (Lëvizja Vetvëndosje, LVV), has steadily grown in strength since first entering parliament in 2011, and became the largest party at the most recent parliamentary elections in 2019. Polling for the upcoming election, which takes place after a court declared the election of the sitting prime minister by parliament to be illegal, shows a clear lead for LVV, which would put Albin Kurti, the party's candidate for prime minister, in a strong position to be elected to that post.

In the context of the strong public support for LVV, the recent decision by the Central Election Committee (CEC) of Kosovo to ban Albin Kurti and a number of other candidates from LVV from standing in the elections is of considerable concern. This move by the CEC, infringing on the rights of Albin Kurti and others on the LVV list to participate in the election as candidates, is in contradiction to the recommendation of the independent Office for Party Registration and Certification.

The SI calls for the obstacles that have been imposed on its member party, LVV, to be removed in order to allow the people of Kosovo to freely express their will and elect the parties and candidates of their choice. We express our solidarity with LVV and its candidates as they work to ensure that the next government of Kosovo is social democratic, and guided by the shared principles and objectives of our global movement.

SI condemns military coup in Myanmar

2 February 2021

The Socialist International strongly condemns the military coup in Myanmar on Monday 1 February, and calls for the immediate release of the political leaders detained by the military in flagrant violation of the rule of law. As an organisation for which developing and strengthening global democracy is a central objective, this regressive step represents a severe blow. This illegitimate seizure of power has been accompanied by measures to restrict telecommunications in Myanmar and fears of further curbs on individual freedoms and human rights.

There must be no return to the years of military dictatorship in Myanmar. Though a degree of democratic progress had been made in the country in recent years, including the holding of elections in 2015 and most recently in November 2020, the military has maintained its power and influence under the 2008 constitution, which reserves 25% of the seats in parliament and three ministries for serving military officers. This coup comes just months after the confirmation through the electoral process that the overwhelming majority of Burmese citizens want to see civilian leadership of their country.

At a time when the democratic future of Myanmar is under threat, it is important to keep in mind the plight of the Rohingya people there, who have suffered immensely in recent years. The forces that have overthrown the democratically elected government of Myanmar are complicit in the human rights atrocities and ethnic cleansing that have taken place in Rakhine province and regrettably were defended at the International Court of Justice in The Hague by Aung San Suu Kyi. There is a grave danger that an already desperate situation could worsen for the 600,000 Rohingya remaining in the province and the international community must be ready to act to prevent a further humanitarian catastrophe and secure the rights of both the Rohingya in Myanmar and the more than 700,000 refugees currently stranded in neighbouring Bangladesh.

The coup of 1 February was not the first in the history of Myanmar, but for the sake of the future well-being and prosperity of its citizens it must be the last. In addition to the immediate relinquishing of power by those responsible and the restoration of civilian rule, Myanmar needs further reforms to ensure the military does not wield political power but is under the authority of the democratically elected government. Those responsible for the coup and for violations of human rights in Myanmar must be held to account, while the political prisoners who have continued to be deprived of their liberty since 2015 should be released. Measures to remove the grip still held on the country by the military leadership, ensure accountability and guarantee the rights of the political opposition, are a prerequisite for the long overdue transition of Myanmar to full democracy, with equal rights for all its citizens, regardless of religion or ethnic group.

In defence of democracy in Haiti

4 February 2021

On Sunday, 7 February 2021, the mandate of the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, comes to an end. The Socialist International expresses its rejection and deep concern over the decision of the president not to convene elections as per the constitution, making it impossible for his term to come to its legal end and deepening the grave deterioration of democracy in the country. With this, there are now seven elections of different authorities, of president, parliamentarians, territorial authorities and others, that have not been called or carried out.

The SI's work with Haiti is permanent and long-standing. At each of the meetings of its last presidiums, the organisation has heard interventions on the gravity of the local situation from its vice-president Victor Benoit, leader of the SI-member Social Democratic Assembly for the

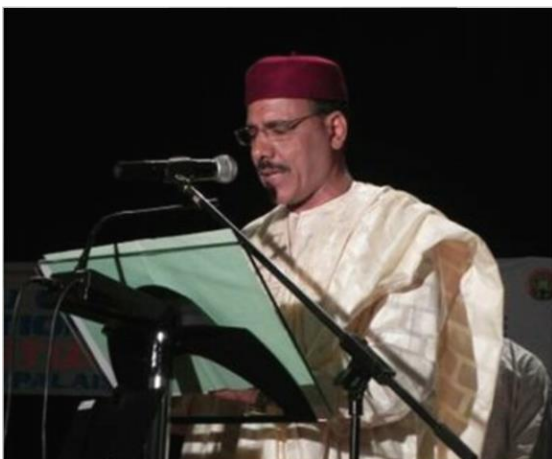
Progress of Haiti (RSD), and has also received reports on this from Edmonde Supplice Beauzile, leader of the Fusion of the Haitian Social Democrats, also an SI member party. Less than two months ago, at its meeting in December 2020, the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean denounced the authoritarian drift of the Haitian president, who has been ruling by decree and has illegitimately concentrated different public powers in his hands. On that occasion, the Committee hailed the efforts of the Haitian democratic opposition in demanding the holding of free elections in accordance with the constitution. The same Committee, at its meeting in Jamaica in December 2019, condemned the attacks on human rights in Haiti, the excessive use of force in suppressing demonstrations, the assassinations and other crimes committed by agents of the state, by its militias and by criminal gangs that act with the connivance of the regime, demanding investigations and that the judiciary establish the facts and responsibilities.

Furthermore, in the same year 2019, the Secretary General of the Socialist International travelled to Port-au-Prince to meet with the two member parties of the organisation and with their agreement he met with the President of the Republic, proposing already then to initiate a national political dialogue that would include the government and the forces of the opposition to achieve a normalisation of the situation in the country.

Disregarding the alerts of Haitian political actors and the proposals for dialogue by the SI and other members of the international community, on 18 September last year, and outside of all constitutional provisions, Jovenel Moïse created by decree a Provisional Electoral Council, which de facto extended his mandate until 7 February, 2022. Our International rejects the presidential interpretation of the existence of an “institutional vacuum” and its illegitimate consequence of seeking to fill it irregularly through the creation of new bodies and authorities.

We see today in Haiti how crime and impunity, human rights violations, corruption of the public apparatus and the political persecution of social protest are realities that on a daily basis aggravate the economic, social and political crisis afflicting the country.

Faced with the great challenge to democracy and the constitutional order of the nation, the Socialist International reiterates the need for a national dialogue including all the political and social forces, to get Haiti out of the recurring spiral of crises. It is essential that free and transparent elections are convened as soon as possible, from which new authorities can emerge with full legitimacy. The Socialist International reaffirms its commitment to its member parties and to the Haitian democratic forces in pursuit of this objective.



Niger elects Bazoum as President

24 February 2021

The Socialist International warmly congratulates Mohamed Bazoum, the candidate of the SI member party PNDS, for his clear victory in the second round of the presidential elections held in Niger last Sunday 21 February. As announced yesterday evening by the

Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), Bazoum obtained 55.75% of the vote while his opponent Mahamane Ousmane got 44.25 %. The Constitutional Court should now confirm the outcome in the coming days.

For the first time in the history of the country, there will be a transition of power between democratically elected leaders, from President Mahamadou Issoufou to Mohamed Bazoum. The Socialist International is particularly proud of this historic achievement representing a major step in the process of strengthening democracy in Niger and in the region. This milestone in the democratic life of the country requires that all parties, candidates and citizens of Niger respect the final outcome of the election and refrain from any action that could jeopardise the democratic process.

One of the major challenges for the incoming president is the security of Niger, which has suffered greatly in recent years from the scourge of terrorism and armed conflicts in the wider Sahel region, with particular concern regarding the situation in the Tillaberi region in the south-west of the country. Instability and violence have sadly had a direct impact upon the election itself, claiming the lives of at least eight election workers, seven of whom were killed when their vehicle hit a landmine in Tillaberi.

These great steps forward for democracy in Niger would not have been possible without the efforts and personal commitment of outgoing President Mahamadou Issoufou whose role in the re-democratisation of Niger will be his enduring legacy to his people, to his continent and to our global political family.

International Women's Day

8 March 2021



This International Women's Day on 8 March, our global social democratic movement, which is and has long been part of the historical struggle for women's rights and equality, pays homage to all the women engaged in the political battles of our time, a striking example of which we are currently witnessing in Myanmar.

Since the coup, which our International condemned from the outset, there have been unprecedented protests across Myanmar, calling for the restoration of democracy. At the forefront of these protests have been Myanmar's women, in defiance of those who seek to suppress and intimidate them, limit their freedoms and reduce their role in society.

Women protestors in Yangon (*The New York Times*) Instagram



The deadly violence used in response to these demonstrations by security forces against peaceful protesters is utterly disgraceful and reflects the brutality of the military regime which has illegitimately seized power. We now know that at least 54 people have been killed during the anti-coup demonstrations, many of them victim to the abhorrent use of live ammunition against unarmed civilians.

The global social democratic movement mourns the deaths of these innocent people, noting with great sadness that these include women. Those responsible for these murders must be brought to justice and the international community must play its part in supporting the democratic aspirations of the people of Myanmar.

On this 110th anniversary of International Women’s Day, the origins of which were promoted from within our movement, the Socialist International strongly and proudly reaffirms its commitment to the struggle of women for equal rights and opportunities everywhere in the world.



Kyal Sin, aged 19, was shot dead by the military while protesting in Yangon

Turkey’s withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention

22 March 2021

The Socialist International is extremely concerned by the announced decision of Turkey to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention, through a decree issued by President Erdoğan. This unilateral act, apparently in violation of the Turkish constitution, is a significant setback for women’s rights in Turkey and a deep symbolic blow to the ongoing struggle for women’s rights across Europe and the world. The SI expresses its solidarity with all 42 million women in Turkey, whose human rights are threatened by this reckless and unacceptable action.

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, commonly known as the Istanbul Convention, came into existence a decade ago with the aim of preventing violence, protecting victims and ending the impunity of those who perpetrate violence against women. Turkey was the first country to ratify the treaty, which bears the name of its largest city, following its unanimous adoption by the parliament. Violence against women is a violation of human rights, and the convention makes it the responsibility of states to prevent domestic violence, protect victims and prosecute accused offenders.

As Turkey signals its withdrawal from the convention, levels of violence against women are increasing. The last decade has tragically seen a rapid rise in femicide in Turkey to three times previous levels, which is an unacceptable development that needs urgently addressing. In this context, withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention is the precise opposite of what is required from their government by the women of Turkey and is tantamount to a direct attack on the rights of women by an increasingly authoritarian and conservative regime.

The Socialist International calls on President Erdoğan and the government of Turkey to reverse the ill-advised, illegitimate and damaging decision to withdraw from the Istanbul Convention. At a time when all governments must do more to bring an end to the scourge of gender-based violence, there is no justification for regressive steps such as those announced in Turkey. The SI offers its full support to the CHP, member party of the SI in Turkey, in its efforts to defend the rights of women and ensure that Turkey remain in the convention.

A call to uphold democracy in Turkey

23 March 2021

The chief public prosecutor of Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals has issued an indictment for the closure of the People's Democratic Party, HDP, accusing its members of flouting the democratic and universal rules of law. The indictment also requests a political ban on 687 members of the HDP, representing a serious threat to the party.

The HDP has today 55 members of parliament. It is the second largest opposition party and the third largest political party in the country. In the last two years as many as 50 HDP mayors have been removed from office, and a worrying number of HDP members have been detained. In recent days HDP MP, Ömer Faruk Gergerlioğlu, who has also been sentenced to imprisonment due to a comment on social media, was stripped of his parliamentary seat by the Speaker of Turkey's parliament. Former co-chair of the HDP, Selahattin Demirtaş, was sentenced yesterday to three and a half years for comments he made to the press at an airport; and a further two HDP officials have today been accused of spreading terrorist propaganda and being members of a terrorist organisation and will face a lengthy prison term if convicted. These latest developments highlight the difficult

circumstances faced today by political forces in the opposition under the rule of president Erdogan.

Members of the HDP have expressed great concern over the future of their party and fear they may be prevented from running in the next parliamentary elections. The SI will continue to closely monitor these grave developments which undermine fundamental principles and pillars of democracy in the country.

Preserving the constitutional order in Bolivia

31 March 2021

Aware of the differences that have occurred within Bolivia and among its citizens since the 2019 electoral process, our International has followed with concern the levels of polarization of society in that country and calls on the different political actors to come together in mutual recognition and in the shared values and principles of democracy.

Coexistence within the framework of the rule of law and legal protection, which establishes and ensures freedoms and rights for all, guarantee that political life as well as the strengthening of its institutions generate the necessary trust for all within our nations.

Faced with the wishes of the whole of the Bolivian people and their desire to advance with these objectives, all the guarantees of due process to former authorities, today deprived of their liberty, become essential to ensure respect for the law, coexistence, the common value of peace and respect for the country's own constitution.

Myanmar - urgent action by the international community is needed

1 April 2021

The continued brutal crackdown by the Myanmar military against unarmed and peaceful protesters is a horrifying atrocity that must be brought to an end. The Socialist International is appalled by the systematic targeting of civilians by the security forces, who are murdering protestors on the streets and in their homes, and using assault, torture and mass detentions in inhumane conditions to try to suppress the uprising. The unrelenting bravery shown by all those protesting in Myanmar in spite of the severe danger to life is a source of both great concern and inspiration for democrats across the world, and the SI reiterates its full solidarity with those risking everything to stand up for civilian rule, democracy and human rights in Myanmar.

The death toll since the coup has tragically exceeded five hundred in recent days and continues to grow, including over a hundred people in one day on Saturday 26 March. Among the victims are a number of young children and teenagers whose lives have been cut dreadfully short and many more who have lost parents, friends, relatives and mentors and been exposed to harrowing and traumatic events that will leave deep emotional and psychological scars. The deliberate killing of men, women and children with live ammunition rounds aimed at the head and upper body is a travesty of human rights and a deeply criminal act. For too long the military in Myanmar has been able to act with impunity. It will continue to do so unless both the perpetrators of these criminal acts and those who have ordered the use of deadly force against protesters are held to account, as well as those responsible for past crimes, including atrocities against the Rohingya and other minorities.

The international community has overwhelmingly reacted with shock, horror and anger at the massacres taking place in Myanmar, but widespread condemnation and sanctions have not been sufficient to bring an end to the bloodshed. The state of Myanmar, currently under the illegitimate control of the military junta, is not simply failing in its responsibility to protect its people from atrocities but is directly responsible for these outrages and as such it is incumbent upon the international community to act in line with the UN Charter to protect civilian populations, with the cooperation of regional partners such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Myanmar's neighbours must be ready to offer humanitarian assistance to those fleeing the terror in their country, by giving sanctuary to those seeking asylum from indiscriminate violence against civilians.

Though the most pressing concern is an immediate halt to the violence and loss of life in Myanmar, as the SI has previously urged, it is also imperative for the future of the country that the results of the democratic election in November 2020 are upheld and the government chosen by the people is reinstated. The tragic events of the last two months are a further reminder of the urgent need for reform in Myanmar to restrict the power of the military, who have once more shown their willingness to use force to rapidly reverse and overturn the steady progress made towards democracy in recent years. It remains evident that a deeper transformation is needed to remove the grip still held on the country by the military leadership, ensure accountability and guarantee the rights of the political opposition, steps which are a prerequisite for Myanmar to realise its long-awaited transition to full democracy, with equal rights for all its citizens, regardless of religion or ethnic group.

Social democracy delivering in Niger

2 April 2021

The Socialist International conveys its warmest greetings and congratulations to outgoing President Mahamadou Issoufou and to incoming President Mohamed Bazoum.

We are, across all the continents, extremely proud to stand with our comrades of Niger at this important moment in the history of the country.

It is a true pleasure to congratulate Niger's president-elect, Mohamed Bazoum, on this historic occasion. We are witnessing the first democratic transition of power in this country's history, as our dear friend and comrade President Mahamadou Issoufou comes to the end of his second term.

Niger has been a functioning multi-party democracy for a decade, since President Issoufou was first elected in 2011, and this transition today demonstrates an example and a much observed moment for Niger's democratic future. The failed attempted assault on the Presidential palace yesterday is firmly condemned by the international community and we reaffirm that any attack against democracy in Niger is an attack against democracy everywhere.

President Issoufou's achievements during his two terms in office are fundamental to this democratic process, and the Socialist International warmly celebrates his many accomplishments. Niger has advanced in many areas, including economic growth, human and social development, and opening new economic opportunities for the future of this country.

In thanking President Issoufou for his commitment and service, it is a great pleasure for our political family to welcome Niger's new incoming President, Mohamed Bazoum, who has long served his country in different capacities. He is a long-standing comrade, who also has been involved in the work of the Socialist International and is well known in the international community.

In the election of Bazoum, the people of Niger have chosen to continue the democratic path, and we sincerely congratulate them.

Our International is particularly proud of this victory, which is not only one for democracy, but for our member party, our comrades, and for the shared values and principles of our global movement, values that both President Issoufou and President-elect Bazoum have both served well in their many responsibilities. These values and principles, which are today shining in Niger, unite our entire political family across the world.

We wish President Bazoum every success in continuing to strengthen democracy and in advancing growth and progress with equal opportunities for all, confident of the solidarity and support of our organization and all its members in all his endeavours.

In Guatemala the case against Sandra Torres is political persecution

23 April 2021

- The case of Sandra Torres is a political case and not a legal one. The political persecution against her has unfortunately been based on misinformation by some public prosecutors, who until now have not shown their impartiality and independence in accordance with international standards.



- The rule of law and Guatemalan democracy are once again going through a critical moment. It is necessary to strengthen its institutions and the protection of human rights, as well as democratic elections, with transparency and accountability.

- All citizens, voters and candidates must have the necessary guarantees to participate in electoral processes, in accordance with international standards.

- No one can be prosecuted for conducts that were not crimes at the time; and furthermore, criminal proceedings must scrupulously respect the judicial guarantees enshrined in the Constitution and the laws of Guatemala, as well as in international instruments on human rights.

- Due to the aforementioned, one of the oldest guarantees of due process is the *presumption of innocence*. A person cannot be convicted neither by the prosecutors, nor by the press, nor by their political enemies. In a democratic state, a person can only be subjected to proceedings when there are objective elements that seriously presume their responsibility; but they cannot be convicted unless an independent and impartial judge declares them legally guilty, beyond all reasonable doubt.

- **The process undertaken against Sandra Torres has revealed the political persecution against her**, to thereby try to exclude her and disqualify her as an electoral candidate. This is evidenced by the facts themselves: the day after (February 6, 2019) the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala handed Sandra Torres the credentials as presidential candidate of the National Unity of Hope (UNE) party, the Public Ministry, through the Special Prosecutor's Office against Impunity, filed against Sandra Torres (and 4 MPs of UNE) the request for their criminal preliminary trial.

- Despite the fact that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, as the highest authority on electoral matters, verified and audited the UNE party with a favorable opinion on financial matters without any qualms, just three (3) days before the second presidential

round, the Public Ministry requested the cancellation of the UNE party, supposedly for the crime of illegal electoral financing; and on those same dates, the other presidential candidate (supported by businessman tycoon Dionisio Gutiérrez) presented to the Public Ministry a request for an arrest warrant promising that if he won he would put Sandra Torres in jail.

- Subsequently, once Sandra Torres had lost in the second round of the presidential elections and therefore was without immunity (September 2, 2019), the Public Ministry requested an arrest warrant against Sandra Torres for the alleged crimes of Unreported Financing and Illegal Association.

- **The crimes for which Sandra Torres is accused show the arbitrariness of the case fabricated against her, in violation of the universal principles of human rights:**

1. Retroactive application of criminal law, that is, the intention to apply crimes that at the time of the conduct were not crimes, in violation of the Constitution and human rights treaties¹.
2. Violation of the principle of criminal legality, due to the non-existence of the crime of “illicit association”².
3. Violation of the principle of personal criminal responsibility and not for acts of another natural or legal person³.

- In conclusion, by virtue of the facts of this case, it is evident that **there is no fact or proof to support the criminal complaint against Sandra Torres** for either of the two crimes. Therefore, it is evident that this case against Sandra Torres is a gross maneuver of **political persecution**.

- The case against Sandra Torres should be closed as soon as possible because it lacks foundation and is a case of clear political persecution, which compromises the international responsibility not only of the Guatemalan State, but also of the prosecutors and judges who participate improperly.

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1. The fiscal complaint refers to article 407 “O” of the Penal Code on the crime of “unregistered electoral financing” which was approved in November 2018 and the facts of the complaint refer to the 2015 campaign.
 2. The crime of “Illegal Association” does not apply because the political party UNE is a legitimate institution; and in the crimes of law there is no Illegal or Unreported Electoral Financing.
 3. The accusation is so absurd that it is based on the fact that in 2015 the UNE received from the Maariv company a contribution of Q5,664,000 in its accounts that were not reported to the party. Sandra Torres was the General Secretary of the party at that time. However, the contribution of said company (actually Q2,562,226.00) was duly registered and noted in the party's accounting, as well as in the reports of the Electoral Tribunal, with receipts issued and notarized. In any case it was a contribution to the party and not to Sandra Torres. And the cheque that the Public Ministry relates with Sandra Torres, that Mr. Michael Erichsen contributed in the second round, never entered the party or Sandra Torres' account. Furthermore, Sandra Torres was not the Secretary General at that time.

Solidarity with the people of India

26 April 2021



The Socialist International expresses its deep sadness and regret at the catastrophic suffering and loss of life in India in recent days due to the rampant spread of the coronavirus across the country. We have witnessed with shock the scenes of distress and anguish, and our thoughts and solidarity are with the people of India at this incredibly challenging and distressing time.

The healthcare system in India has been stretched to breaking point and beyond, and without immediate action the situation could significantly worsen. In the face of this growing crisis, we call on the international community to urgently offer all possible assistance to India in the form of medical supplies, vaccines and supplies for vaccine factories, and tools to help identify and control emerging variants of the disease.

The Socialist International endorses the call of Rahul Gandhi, former president of its member party, the Indian National Congress, for free vaccines for all Indians. Access to the vaccine should in no circumstances be determined by ability to pay. As our organisation has consistently stated, equitable access to vaccines and their distribution to all countries of the world in sufficient quantities is the only way to truly protect the global population from the coronavirus. No one is safe from the pandemic until we all are safe and the tragic recent developments in India are a stark reminder that the struggle against the pandemic is a global one.

Defending democracy and the constitution in Mongolia

28 April 2021

The Socialist International rejects the unconstitutional attempts by President Battulga Khaltmaa in Mongolia to disband the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP) by a presidential decree. In taking this anti-democratic and anti-constitutional step, he has irresponsibly provoked a potential crisis at a time when the country needs to unite and confront the health, economic and social challenges resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

The SI-member MPP, which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, has overseen the transition of Mongolia into a multi-party democracy and was overwhelmingly backed by the Mongolian people as it won a parliamentary majority in elections last year. The accusations made by the president against the MPP of manipulating the constitutional

court and militarising the state are not justified or backed up by evidence. Presidential elections are due in June this year, and in line with the constitutional amendment that he himself signed, the current president cannot stand for reelection. President Battulga Khaltmaa, in seeking to ban the MPP and thereby preventing Mongolia's largest party from presenting a candidate for the presidency, is undermining democracy and the right of the Mongolian people to freely elect their head of state.

The SI will continue to be vigilant around the situation in Mongolia and offers its support to the MPP in the face of this illegal decree. We are confident that the MPP will continue to govern in the interests of all the Mongolian people and look forward to a free and fair presidential election in which the MPP will be allowed to participate, and a peaceful transition of power to the duly elected president.

Online meeting of the SI Kurdish Working Group

1 May 2021



Representatives of SI Kurdish member parties took part in an SI virtual working meeting on 1 May, in which exchanges were held on their respective circumstances and current political challenges, including respect for their human and political rights. Participants also put forward views and ideas in relation to future work within the SI.

The challenges outlined included many common elements, while remaining specific to the particular circumstances faced in each country. In the current global context, all had been impacted by the scourge of the coronavirus pandemic, and the crucial and much-debated issue of global access to vaccines as a way out of the crisis was touched upon. Participants were also united in their desire for future in-person meetings on the issues that were being discussed, as soon as it was safe and feasible.

In Iraq, the key political objective was decentralisation and a transfer of power to elected authorities, which was considered to be advancing at a very slow pace. There had been some positive developments as far as the security situation was concerned, following the fall of ISIS, however its ideology still continued to pose a threat. In Syria, where the Kurds had similarly had a major role in the battle against terrorism and extremism in the region, it was reported that their struggle to establish democratic rights and freedoms continued, and there was a feeling that more international solidarity was required to support them in this effort.

The struggle for the human rights of the Kurdish people in Iran was underlined, along with the destructive approach of the Iranian regime against the peaceful aspirations of the Kurds. Iran continued to employ violent internal policies against its own people. A particular concern for many was the absence of human rights in the recently restarted discussions on the nuclear issue, while the situation for women and minorities in the country was as bad as it had ever been. In Turkey, where the Erdogan regime was trying to suffocate democratic struggles, the persecution of the Kurds was continuing, with the government using anti-democratic measures and mass detentions to suppress all opposition, as could be seen with the current Kobani trial, while pursuing a militaristic approach both domestically and abroad.

With regard to the political aspirations of the Kurdish people, all those present expressed a great willingness to work with other parties and to cooperate with other groups having similar values and principles. Participants highlighted that the Kurdish issue was relevant to all countries in the region, and a positive outcome for the Kurdish people could have hugely beneficial effects on the whole of the Middle East. It was considered necessary to ensure that Kurds are a part of any roadmap to future democratisation and reforms in the region. In this context, other progressive forces from the region could be included in future discussions on the Kurdish question. It was noted that the SI had a long track record of advocacy on the Kurdish question, and through its global meetings had led to a greater understanding of the issue by political parties worldwide.

Turning their attention to the future work on the Kurdish question, participants were in agreement that this would need to be done taking into account the significant and complex issues discussed that are present in all regions inhabited by the Kurdish people. Suggestions put forward for future actions included the opening and development of a dialogue between Kurdish and non-Kurdish political parties in the region, building understanding and bridging the cultural gaps.

There was a will among those present to pursue these discussions and hold further exchanges of views with interested member parties of the Socialist International, building on the work within the SI in favour of the political and human rights of all Kurdish people, in line with the basic principles and objectives of the global social democratic family.

The meeting was attended by the SI Secretary General, by Soran Jamal Taher and Sarkawt Muhammed Ghafour from the PUK, Iraq; Khalid Azizi and Mouloud Swara from the KDP

of Iran; Loghman Ahmedi from the PDKI, Iran; Kako Alyar and Diniya Rahemzada from the KPIK of Iran; Salih Muslem and Ibrahim Muslem from the PYD of Syria; and Hişyar Özsoy, Evren Çevik and Lokman Sazan from the HDP, Turkey.

El Salvador: democracy requires control of the exercise of power

3 May 2021

The Socialist International, the worldwide organisation of social democratic, labour and socialist parties, has learned with grave concern of the decision of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador to dismiss the five members of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, in its first session the day before yesterday, as well as the Attorney General of the nation.

Ignoring and bypassing the division of the powers of the State, in a vote approved by a majority of 64 votes out of a total of 84 members, the Legislative Assembly, currently controlled by the New Ideas party of the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, voted for this dismissal, which was defended by the President of the country. For their part, the members of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of El Salvador declared the Assembly's decision unconstitutional by violating the republican, democratic and representative form of government.

Likewise, the Constitutional Chamber pointed out that "with a marked intention of suppressing effective controls towards the Executive and Legislative organ" the decision adopted by the members of the Assembly "has a negative impact on the control of the exercise of power" carried out by said Chamber.

The Socialist International fully shares what was expressed by the dismissed members of the Constitutional Chamber, that "only by controlling power, there is assurance that democracy and rights do not depend on the discretion of a person or a group."

Our International, which prioritises democracy as the highest value in the conduct of our governments and respect for their institutions, will closely follow the development of the management of the current government of El Salvador, at a time when this can only be achieved with the full protection of the freedoms and rights of all.

Solidarity with Colombia

6 May 2021

The Socialist International has been following with deep consternation the brutal violence that has been carried out in Colombia against protesters, women and men, throughout different cities of the country, who have denounced and firmly rejected the

project presented by President Iván Duque for tax reform and tax increases, intended to cover the impact that Covid-19 has had on the country's economy.

The measures were immediately questioned by important sectors of Colombian society and thousands of citizens took to the streets en masse to denounce the fact that the popular sectors and the middle class would be the ones most affected. The popular outpouring comes to a certain extent as a continuity of the social mobilisations seen at the end of 2019 against the economic and social policies of the government. The demands for greater equality and better living conditions by the most disadvantaged sectors have continued and after more than a year of pandemic the crisis has only worsened. The outbreak that we have been witnessing now in Colombia is one of social protest.

The government has since withdrawn the measure and President Duque has called for dialogue. The mobilisations, however, have not ceased, rather they have grown throughout the country and count with the support of Colombians living abroad and other actors beyond their borders.

In this context, the Socialist International, which will always support a dialogue between the different political and social actors in the country, condemns the measures that forcibly prevent or restrict social protest rather than seek to restore public order. The current context of health emergency cannot serve as a justification for arbitrary, illegitimate or excessive restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, which are rights that should never be violated.

The SI vigorously rejects and condemns the violence and the excessive use of force by police groups. During these days of protest, twenty-four people have already lost their lives and the number of injured is close to a thousand. The serious accusations of brutal actions by those in uniform and of the violation of the human rights of Colombians who were the victims must be promptly clarified and responsibility established, and the corresponding sanctions must be applied.

The SI considers that statements such as those of former President Uribe, founder of the Democratic Center party, currently in government, do not promote a peaceful solution to the current crisis and do not appear to accept the fact that the country carried out with effort and perseverance a Peace Process concluded in recent years. In post-conflict Colombia, mobilisations must take place within a democratic framework that is recognised as an expression of legitimate social demands, the actions of the police force must be oriented towards maintaining public order and not towards the criminalisation of protest, and the lives and rights of all Colombian women and men must be respected and protected by their leaders in government.

In these difficult times the country is going through, the Socialist International expresses its full solidarity with the people of Colombia and with its member party, the Colombian Liberal Party.

SI calls for end to deadly violence between Israel and Palestine

12 May 2021

The Socialist International is deeply dismayed by the outbreak of deadly violence in Israel and Palestine, which has led to the loss of innocent life on both sides of the border. The SI mourns the civilian casualties and calls for an immediate end to the rocket attacks and airstrikes that indiscriminately kill, injure and destroy. Further violence will only serve to harm innocent citizens of both Palestine and Israel and only benefits those who have no interest in peace.

This severe escalation in the conflict has been provoked by the evictions by Israel of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem and the demolition of their homes, which are intensely damaging to the prospects for peace. Demonstrations against this have been met by unacceptable violence and aggression from Israeli security forces, which has in turn led to rocket attacks against Israel and airstrikes on Gaza. The evictions of Palestinian families and the demolition of their homes must stop, in East Jerusalem and across the Palestinian Territories. These provocative and calculated acts in recent days and weeks against Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem are a continuation of a policy of hostility from the Israeli government, and the systematic and intentional denial of the basic rights of the Palestinian people. This includes violent police action against Palestinians exercising their right to worship at the Al-Aqsa mosque during the holy month of Ramadan.

Illegal and oppressive acts will not change or reduce the demands for an end to 54 years of occupation, discrimination and the system of segregation, and the right to full equality and self-determination for Palestinians, which are a prerequisite for peace. In the pursuit of these aims, the SI reiterates its solidarity with the Palestinian non-violent opposition. The SI continues to fully support a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and the legitimate aims of the Palestinian people for an independent state based on the 1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem.

The SI remains committed to working with its member parties in Palestine and Israel, whose voices are among the most prominent for peace and a two-state solution, and needed now more than ever. The support and engagement of the international community in favour of Middle East peace and the recognition of Palestinian statehood remain vital. The legitimate demands of the Palestinian people will not be diminished by unilateral moves taken by Israel in violation of international law, and the SI will continue to act in support of the rights of both peoples to live in peace.

Lukashenko's tyranny intensifies persecution of social democrats and pro-democracy leaders

24 May 2021



Mikalai Statkevich

Despite almost a year of unprecedented pro-democracy demonstrations in Belarus, the situation in the country is worsening and requires the urgent attention of the international community. The dictatorial regime continues to violently persecute demonstrators and members of the opposition, in the face of massive and sustained protests against the fraudulent victory claimed by Alexander Lukashenko after the presidential election in August 2020. Belarusians have been targeted for demonstrating and for their communications on social media, but also for such innocent actions as displaying or simply wearing colours associated with the protest movements. Meanwhile, those responsible for violence and brutality are able to escape justice, as police officers who have killed protesters have not faced any repercussions or reprimand for their actions, showing the extent to which the rule of law has been undermined in Belarus.

The Socialist International is particularly concerned by the situation faced by members of the leadership of its member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Hramada. These include Mikalai Statkevich, the party president, and Syarhei Sparysh, the general secretary. Additionally, three-quarters of the party's presidium have been forced into exile as a result of persecution by the regime. Members of Narodnaya Hramada and other opposition politicians have been arrested and incarcerated for their political beliefs and convictions, facing false charges, inhumane conditions and daily violations of their human rights.



Syarhei Sparysh

Mikalai Statkevich has been persecuted over many years as a result of his opposition to the Lukashenko regime. As a presidential candidate in 2010, he was arrested and imprisoned for five years, and in May 2020, prior to the last presidential elections, he was again arrested and imprisoned under harsh conditions, where he remains to this day. He is falsely accused of organising mass disorder, stopping the activities of the electoral commission and inciting hate, with the total absence of any presumption of innocence. He has been denied contact with his family throughout his latest period of imprisonment, causing additional pain and suffering, and it is likely that when he is tried the proceedings will be concealed by the authorities and take place in closed court. On 6 May 2021,

Syarhei Sparysh was sentenced to six years in a penal colony on charges relating to using Telegram as a messaging channel, which he had nothing to do with. He has also been falsely accused of preparing for riots and obstructing the work of the electoral commission.

The Socialist International reiterates its call for the immediate release of Mikalai Statkevich, Syarhei Sparysh and all other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Belarus and urges the international community and its member parties to increase pressure on the Belarusian authorities. The only acceptable outcome in Belarus is for the will of the people to be heard and for free and fair elections to be held, with independent vote monitoring. Those responsible for state sponsored violence and violations of human rights must be brought to justice. We express our continued solidarity with Narodnaya Hramada, its members, the Belarusian opposition and all those citizens of Belarus who continue to bravely stand against the dictatorial and authoritarian regime.

SI condemns second coup in Mali in nine months

26 May 2021

The Socialist International vigorously condemns the second military coup headed by Colonel Assimi Goita in Mali, this time removing and detaining President Bah Ndaw and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane, who were both appointed last September to lead the transitional government that followed the military ousting of the democratically elected President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.

Nine months on from the previous coup, Mali once again finds itself suffering the consequences of a military takeover, destroying the hopes and wishes of the Malian people and blocking the return to democracy and the timetable agreed for democratic elections that Malians and the international community had accepted.

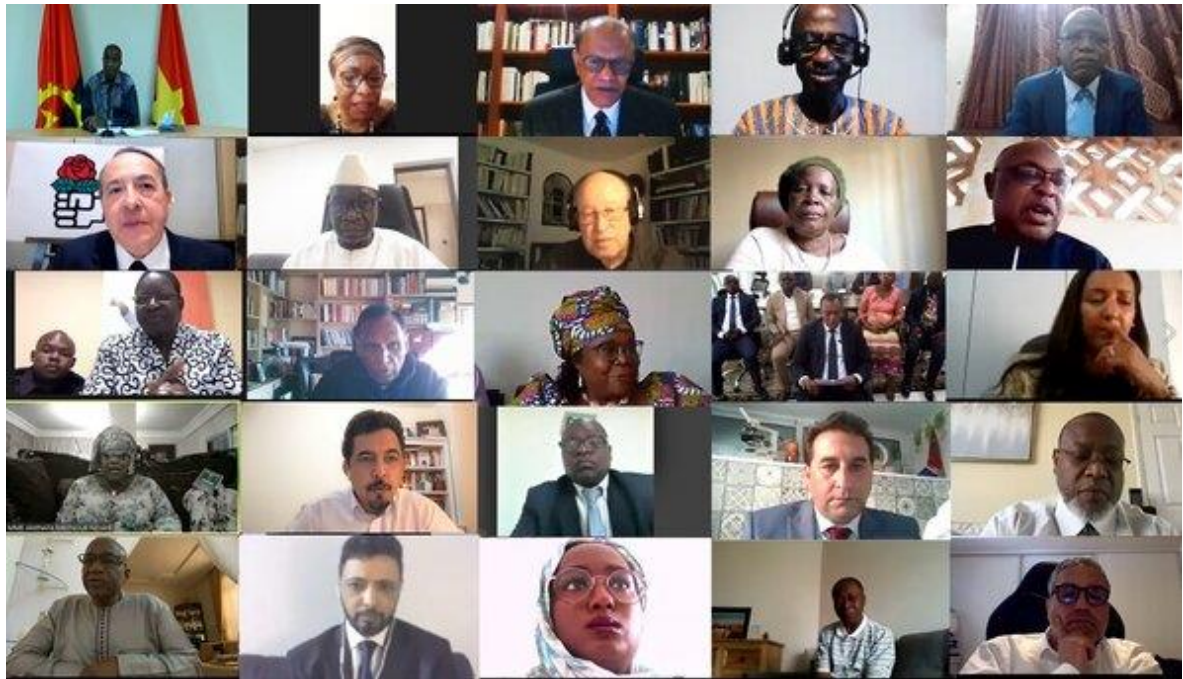
Following the rupture of democracy, despite the commitments previously agreed by the initiators of the transitional government, the people of Mali and their political leaders are still not allowed to become the real protagonists in defining the framework to guarantee full rights and freedoms for all Malians.

The Socialist International demands the immediate release of the detained President and Prime Minister, and calls for the swift resumption of the agreed framework and timetable for the restoration of democracy in Mali. Member parties of the Socialist International from throughout the continent have been, and are, in the forefront of the efforts to secure democratic governance in countries of the region and the SI stands firmly today with its two member parties in Mali, the RPM and ADEMA, and all democrats in that country.

We are encouraged by the response of the international community, including global and regional organisations such as the United Nations, the African Union, ECOWAS, MINUSMA, among others, and look forward to agreement on a common position by the UN Security Council.

Priorities on democracy, Covid-19 and peace discussed by SI members in Africa

5 June 2021



The SI Africa Committee held a virtual session on Saturday 5 June 2021 with the participation of member parties from across the continent. Delegates addressed some of the most important issues of the day from a national, sub-regional and African perspective, focusing on continental priorities in relation to defending and strengthening

democracy in the region, the impact of Covid-19 and its social and economic challenges, and overcoming conflicts and ensuring peace.

The meeting was opened by SI Secretary General Luis Ayala, who emphasised the common nature of the challenges that would be discussed during the course of the meeting and the opportunity that it presented to engage in a meaningful conversation in order to advance common positions and be a strong voice for democracy, resolving conflicts and to ensure access to vaccines for all countries of Africa. Our International has today a clear profile on the continent through the work of its members, and a record as a force for progress and development, with respect for freedoms and rights.

The chair of the committee, Bokary Treta (RPM, Mali), referred in his opening remarks to the importance of the committee as a valuable platform for exchanges. He considered that discussions from an African perspective on issues of common concern for all members was of great benefit, and underlined the need to promote multilateralism in the face of the challenges of inter-community armed conflicts, terrorism and drug trafficking. Referring to the recent coup d'état in Mali, he stressed the fundamental need to restore a solid democracy and respect for the will of the people.

At the heart of many of the contributions made was the subject of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on health, social cohesion and economic well-being. In the face of the immediate health crisis, there were unanimous calls for more equality of access to vaccines, at a time when delivery and distribution of these life-saving doses is exposing vast inequalities on an international scale, with less than 2% of the population of Africa having received a vaccination at the time of the meeting. There was enthusiastic support for the Socialist International's stand for fair and equal access to vaccines and prevent Africa becoming marginalised. Any and all necessary measures to facilitate the rapid manufacture of vaccines for use in Africa, including waivers of intellectual property related to these vaccines would be strongly supported.

In addition to the cost in terms of human health and life, the pandemic continues to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable countries and populations in economic terms, in particular women and the poor. The potential for the economic damage of the coronavirus crisis to cause long term harm to developing economies must be addressed on a global scale, and with this in mind there were calls from a number of participants for debt relief and annulment in order to enable developing economies to allocate funds to addressing the devastation caused by the pandemic and create the conditions for the achievement of the SDGs. With Africa potentially heading for its most serious recession as a result of the pandemic, measures were also proposed to boost cooperation and bolster trade across the region with a focus on investment and sovereignty.

With regard to the conflicts and insecurity that continue to scourge multiple African countries, a number of interventions were made by those directly affected. Terrorist groups continue to destabilise many regions of the continent, with a significant presence in the Sahel. The threat was gravely underlined by reports of a terrorist massacre on the morning of the meeting on a village in northern Burkina Faso that claimed over 100 lives.

This despicable act was condemned by members of the committee, who called for the international community to redouble efforts to bring stability to the Sahel.

The committee was updated on the continued crisis in Cameroon, where the SI and its member party have spoken out over several years on the need for an end to violence and respect for the rule of law. The multiple conflicts in Africa were responsible for a sense of insecurity extending beyond those countries suffering most directly, leading participants in the meeting to underline the importance of developing dialogue, democratic consent and regional collaboration to achieve the goals of our movement for peace and security, as mentioned, among others, by Senegal. The recent end to the ceasefire in Western Sahara was also a cause for concern among the attendees at the meeting, who listened to the views of representatives of the parties in Morocco and Western Sahara. The situation continues to require the full engagement and mobilisation of the United Nations and the international community to ensure that a peaceful solution is reached.

Another challenge that is central to the identity of SI member parties in Africa is the struggle to defend and strengthen democracy. In many countries, a democratic system is the result of a hard-fought struggle by member parties of the SI against colonialism, dictatorships and authoritarianism, but recent events have demonstrated that democratic gains cannot be taken for granted. Military influence over the political process remains a serious threat in many countries, a fact underlined by recent developments in Mali and Chad and the committee reiterated the importance of taking a firm stance against any attempt to seize power through military force.

Speakers equally warned of the need to remain vigilant to efforts to manipulate or undermine democracy in favour of ruling parties, and the danger that governments that come to power through free elections can then seek to deny the same opportunity to their political rivals in the future, with particular concern over recent anti-democratic developments in Ghana and Mauritius. Interventions from a South African and Namibian perspective equally underlined the importance for ruling parties to continue to grow and strengthen democracy and foster African democratic institutions to safeguard advances on a continental level. The Democratic Republic of Congo was one such country where regional support was needed for the defence and reinforcement of democracy, a viewpoint shared in Angola where a concerted strategy involving governments, the African Union and sub-regional organisations was a priority.

The difficult conditions faced by opposition parties in countries across the continent were underlined by accounts of democratic crises in Djibouti, where there had been a massive boycott of the presidential elections by the electorate, and Togo, where a political crisis was ongoing and the regime had used the pandemic as a means to achieve its ends. In Algeria, the conditions were not present to conduct snap elections scheduled for June in a safe manner, leading to a boycott by opposition parties and a loss of inclusiveness and legitimacy in the political process. Though Tunisia had seen positive change through a new constitution, democrats there needed to be vigilant and persistent in order to build democratic institutions and prevent a return to the previous system.

The perseverance of Socialist International member parties in Africa and their willingness to work towards the common aims of the organisation were in evidence throughout the meeting. Diverse views were heard and appreciated, and there was a shared resolve to advance the well-being of the people of Africa by making progress on peace and democracy, and actively working for a global response to the pandemic that takes into account the needs of Africa for fair access to vaccines and a path to economic recovery.

Grave concern at the deterioration of the political situation in Nicaragua

15 June 2021

The Socialist International has been following with deep concern the continuing deterioration of the political situation in Nicaragua, where general elections are to be held on 7 November this year. Already in January 2019 the world Council of the SI, at its meeting in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, decided by a large majority to withdraw the ruling party, the Sandinista National Liberation Front, FSLN, from its membership as a result of “gross violations of human rights and democratic values committed by the government of Nicaragua”.

In the run-up to the elections in November, a number of prominent opponents and critics of President Daniel Ortega have been arrested in recent weeks and days, including Cristiana Chamorro, daughter of the former president, who leads the Foundation named after her mother Violeta Barrios de Chamorro; Félix Madariaga; Juan Sebastián Chamorro; the former ambassador Arturo Cruz; the economist José Adán Aguerri; the sociologist Violeta Granera; the lawyer José Pallais; the president of Unamos, Suyen Barahona, and the vice president of Unamos, Hugo Torres; Dora Téllez, a former combatant along with President Ortega and today an opponent; the lawyer and activist of Unamos Ana Margarita Vijil; the lawyer Tamara Dávila, an activist of Unamos, and the former deputy foreign minister of Nicaragua, Víctor Hugo Tinoco Fonseca. Likewise, a number of other social actors and activists on human rights in opposition to the Ortega government have been detained in recent days, some of whom are incommunicado and their whereabouts unknown.

Not only for Nicaragua but for the entire region of Latin America and Caribbean and beyond, it is grave to observe that in recent years the institutional framework and democratic legitimacy in that country have been progressively deteriorating and degrading, in full view of all. Today the situation has become critical, as the fundamental rights and freedoms of Nicaraguan citizens are being violated.

The massive social demonstrations of 2018 and the serious human rights violations that accompanied their violent repression by the government, are in part a reaction to the increasing concentration of public functions by the Sandinistas and to their project to keep President Daniel Ortega in power. Following those events, various legislative,

administrative, and judicial initiatives were adopted leading to a restriction of democracy in Nicaragua, measures which today are being applied for illegitimate political ends.

Given the need for conditions that will allow credible, participatory and inclusive elections next November, the government of Nicaragua must immediately release all those who have been detained for political reasons, and prevent all illegitimate restrictions against the rights of its citizens to express their support for the different proposals and alternatives that seek the backing and confidence of the Nicaraguan electorate.

Impending trial of Mikalai Statkevich in Belarus

19 June 2021



Mikalai Statkevich, leader of the SI's member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Hramada, has been held as a political prisoner by the Lukashenko regime for more than a year. His trial is scheduled to take place at 10am on 24 June 2021, at Homiel pre-trial detention centre, 305 kms from the capital Minsk, where he is being held. The trial, like other sham trials in Belarus, will be carried out behind closed doors. Mikalai Statkevich previously served a five year sentence in 2010, when he ran as a presidential candidate against Lukashenko.

The Socialist International is deeply concerned for his fate. During his time in detention, Statkevich has been denied all contact with his family and has had limited access to his lawyer.

Mikalai Statkevich is an active member of the Socialist International and is co-chair of the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea. He has worked tirelessly, at the risk of his freedom, to bring change and democracy to Belarus and to free the Belarusian people from Lukashenko's dictatorship.

The Socialist International reiterates its demand for his immediate release, and for the release of all political prisoners in Belarus. Today there are over 500 political prisoners behind bars in Belarus. They all face torture and abuse. In recent weeks a prisoner has died of undetermined reasons and another has attempted suicide during his own trial. Political prisoners are labelled with yellow tags.

The Socialist International, the global organisation of social democratic, labour and democratic socialist parties, calls on all its members worldwide and on the international community at large, to once again vigorously protest against this political persecution by the Lukashenko regime and to demand the freedom of Mikalai Statkevich and all those who are unjustly incarcerated in Belarus.

SI condemns assassination of President Moïse in Haiti

7 July 2021

The Socialist International expresses its condemnation and abhorrence of the brutal assassination of HE Jovenel Moïse, President of Haiti, by unidentified gunmen who stormed his home in the early hours of this morning. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this time, in particular with his wife, Martine Moïse, who is recovering in hospital having also been shot during the attack.

Such a heinous act further weakens democracy in Haiti, a country which has long struggled with socio-economic and political challenges, and targets a vulnerable nation at a complex time in its political life.

The Socialist International has for years been present in the country, where it counts with two member parties, supporting the consolidation of democracy and the securing of peace, and was involved in efforts to promote dialogue between the President and the opposition in discussions held by the SI Secretary General in Port-au-Prince with the Haitian SI member parties on the one hand and President Moïse on the other.

At this painful time for Haiti, the SI once again reiterates its hope for an inclusive dialogue with all the political and social forces, in order to achieve political stability in the country, to maintain peace and security for its citizens, and to keep the nation on a democratic path.

SI condemns detention of Freddy Guevara in Caracas

13 July 2021

The Socialist International expresses its strongest condemnation of the arrest of the former vice president of the Venezuelan National Assembly, Deputy Freddy Guevara, a well-known political figure of Voluntad Popular (VP), a member party of this organization in Venezuela, carried out on Monday, July 12, by agents of the intelligence services of the Bolivarian regime (SEBIN).

While Guevara was traveling along a Caracas highway, the car in which he was traveling was intercepted by hooded State agents, who proceeded to kidnap him without showing any judicial document, description of charges or any accusation. This violent and illegitimate loss of his freedom was recorded and transmitted by Guevara himself via his mobile phone and the images and audios were immediately uploaded to social networks through which they have circulated profusely, provoking immediate reactions of astonishment and repudiation both in the country and abroad. It is also worth mentioning and condemning that the same day a situation of similar nature and gravity affected the president in charge, Juan Guaidó. These actions show the absolute disregard

for human rights and for the basic guarantees of physical integrity and personal freedom that are characteristic of the Nicolás Maduro regime.

The SI considers unacceptable the statement of the Attorney General of the Republic, Tarek William Saab, dated the same day of the events, which, ignoring the essential procedural rights of any accused, links Guevara with extremist and paramilitary groups associated with the Colombian government. The Prosecutor anticipates that he will file charges for very serious crimes, such as terrorism, attacks against the constitutional order, conspiracy to commit a crime and treason. It is not the first time that Guevara has faced illegitimate accusations and political persecution, already in 2017 he had to take refuge in the Chilean embassy in Venezuela, where he remained until he was pardoned along with a hundred opposition activists in 2020.

The Bolivarian government, judicial and criminal prosecution and police bodies must immediately cease any act that violates the human rights of the inhabitants of Venezuela. The SI holds the Nicolás Maduro regime responsible for the physical integrity and security of Freddy Guevara and demands that he and all prisoners of conscience be released. Any trial that any Venezuelan faces must fully respect the presumption of innocence and the procedural guarantees. The criminalisation of political action, harassment and deprivation of liberty for merely opposing a regime that has distanced itself from all democratic norms, are unacceptable. In addition to their condemnation, these acts should mobilise the international community to stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people and to act in support of respect for the fundamental rights of all Venezuelans.

The situation in Cuba

28 July 2021

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International has been following with deep concern the latest events that have taken place in Cuba, which continue to generate reactions throughout the international community and serious concern among democratic political forces in various regions, including members of this organisation.

The images of repression of various demonstrations in recent days in a number of Cuban cities reached different parts of the world, of women and men protesting lack of food, medicine, and access to basic services, while raising their voices with strength and determination, calling for freedom. These two demands encapsulated key challenges facing this nation today.

In 1958, the struggle of the Cuban people against the corrupt dictatorship of that time opened a path of liberation for an oppressed and overlooked people, which was received at the time with great attention and feelings of solidarity across the globe.

Years later, longstanding dictatorships in Southern Europe fell due to the determination and courage of the citizens, just as the struggles against colonialism and for independence led to new times in Africa. In Latin America and the Caribbean, dictatorial military regimes which had multiplied, were obliged to give way to the pressure and demands of their inhabitants and leave office, in times when also in Asia and Eastern Europe, not only walls, but authoritarian regimes fell to the demands for freedom by their citizens.

All these democratic revolutions opened up a new path for millions and millions of citizens on all continents, empowered by the triumph of their ideals and ready to build a different future. New and old parties, movements, fronts and government programmes, today define and identify political actors in the 21st century, in recognition and respect for the common rules of democracy with very few exceptions.

From the defence and protection of human rights in all circumstances, to the fundamental commitment of the State to the due recognition of those who have a different opinion, as well as the equality of all citizens before the law and the strict division of the powers of the State, these are today basic pillars of the system of rights and freedoms upon which democracy has developed throughout the world.

Cuba, sixty-two years on, must arrive to living in a society where all Cuban women and men are able to freely adhere, defend, oppose or criticise the decisions of their government or of the opposition without restriction. In a democracy there is and must always be space for everyone, and everyone must freely contribute their opinion without any type of retaliation, so that it bears its fruits.

In face of the difficult economic situation and the consequences of the pandemic in Cuba, President Biden's announcement to facilitate the transmission of remittances to the country by relatives residing in the United States is a welcome sign, and we hope that further initiatives can be taken by his administration to reverse the inhumane measures imposed on the people of Cuba by Donald Trump which add to the US economic blockade that every year since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly has voted to end.

Solidarity with the people of Afghanistan

27 August 2021

The Socialist International expresses its solidarity with the people of Afghanistan following the deadly terrorist attack at Kabul airport that claimed the lives of many civilians, including children, and military personnel securing the area. We mourn the loss of life and condemn this horrific attack in the strongest terms. There is never any justification for acts of terrorism, and the SI rejects this latest act of violence and the ideology and objectives of Islamic State in Khorasan Province, which has claimed responsibility. The terror attack was particularly heinous in its targeting of desperate and vulnerable people fleeing Afghanistan, in fear for their lives and futures following the takeover by the Taliban.

The return to power in Afghanistan by the Taliban is a grave setback for the development of the country and the advances made in terms of peace, democracy and human rights. There are already documented reports of serious violations of international humanitarian law and the imposition of restrictions by the Taliban in spite of their public statements to the contrary. The SI is particularly concerned at the implications of Taliban rule for the day-to-day lives of women and girls in Afghanistan and their right to personal liberty, freedom of movement, education, self-expression and employment. The international community must be vigilant to abuses of human rights in Afghanistan under the new regime, and work in conjunction with the UN Human Rights Council to monitor and prevent continued violations of fundamental rights and freedoms and the oppression of women and girls, ethnic and religious minorities and political opponents. Those who wish to leave Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US and NATO forces must be allowed to do so without fear of persecution and reprisals.

The Socialist International and its member parties call on the international community to offer their support to the civilian population of Afghanistan, beyond the immediate efforts being made to evacuate vulnerable and at risk civilians, using all available means to safeguard the well-being of who remain in the country. The security crisis in Afghanistan is exacerbating the existing humanitarian challenges faced in ensuring adequate food and medical supplies for the Afghan population, and a concerted international effort will be required if aid and humanitarian relief is to reach populations in desperate need of assistance.

Afghanistan cannot develop and prosper while continuing to lack basic security and while the human rights of its citizens are routinely violated. The SI, in line with its fundamental principles on democracy, sovereignty and human rights, will continue to advocate for an Afghan-led process of peace and reconciliation with the support of the international community. A sustainable and just solution to the decades of conflict in Afghanistan will only be achieved through an inclusive process that takes into account the political, humanitarian, human rights and development tracks.

SI condemns military coup in Guinea

5 September 2021

The Socialist International is deeply concerned by reports of a coup in Guinea, where President Alpha Condé has been shown in videos and images as being detained by members of the armed forces. The global social democratic movement will always reject the seizing of political power by military force, and President Condé must be immediately released.

Today's developments in Guinea have the potential to greatly increase instability and in this context, reports of gunfire on the streets of Conakry and injuries to civilians are very disconcerting. With contrasting claims emerging regarding the status of the president

and the government, it is vital to prevent an escalation of the situation and avoid further violence.

The challenges faced by Guinea in regard to political stability, development and modernisation will not be resolved by this coup d'État, but will only be worsened without legitimate government in the interests of the Guinean people. For this to take place it is crucial that civilian control over the institutions of government prevails.

The Socialist International has accompanied Guinea and its people through their democratic transition in 2008 and subsequent electoral processes, progress which is severely jeopardised by the events of today. We will continue to be engaged in Guinea and in collaboration with relevant regional actors to work for peace and democracy in the country.

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cancun, Mexico

8-9 October 2021



Declaration of Cancun

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in the city of Cancun, Mexico, on 8-9 October 2021, expresses its satisfaction at having been

able to carry out, in the framework of these challenging times, the first in-person meeting since its last gathering in Kingston, Jamaica, in December 2019.

The delegates and representatives of member parties and guests present also register their gratitude to the host party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI, of Mexico for its warm hospitality and fraternity that has ensured the success of the meeting.

COVID-19, which has struck in all corners of the world, has hit our region hard, particularly in terms of the loss of human life and the deterioration of the conditions and quality of life of our people, and has caused a drastic decline in our economies.

In its deliberations, the Committee insisted on the need to continue strengthening our health systems and to guarantee fair and timely access for all to the vaccine and other medicines and supplies necessary to combat the pandemic.

Member parties from throughout the region have reaffirmed the need to continue mobilizing the resources required to ensure that the post-pandemic recovery puts people at the centre, maintaining support programmes as long as they are needed, and promoting the recovery of economic activity and employment with a focus on the most vulnerable groups. All efforts required must be deployed in order to prevent the worrying inequality gap that exists from being exacerbated by the pandemic.

Democracy in the region faces tough challenges due to the health emergency that we are currently enduring. Strong democratic systems and nations with robust institutions have proven to be better prepared to deal with it. Our parties in the region must continue to strengthen citizen support and consolidate our electoral advances, as we have more suitable and democratic proposals than those emanating today from populist sectors of various origins.

A successful democracy also requires the full participation of women in the life of our political institutions and their incorporation in decision-making, a dimension that our organization promotes and defends.

The Committee expresses its resolute support for SI Vice-President Sandra Torres (UNE, Guatemala), who has not been able to be present at this meeting because the authorities in her country have prevented her from traveling. The process that she faces has dragged on for too long and the accusation against her stems from a political motivation to restrict her fundamental right to participate freely in public life in her country.

For the members of this Committee, the situation in which Torres is a victim is an expression of the politicization of justice ("Legal War" or Lawfare), which we denounce and which we are committed to fighting against throughout our region. Courts of justice, administrative bodies, parliaments and other instances, at the time of issuing and applying norms, must remain faithful to the nature of their functions, avoiding the danger of allowing themselves to be exploited and the temptation to seek an illegitimate influence on the political life of our countries.

The Committee stands in solidarity with Haiti, a nation that was recently stuck by the assassination of its president Jovenel Moïse and then by a devastating earthquake, less than a month and a half apart. The Haitian Constitution and institutionality have been surpassed, the magistrates of its Supreme Court have not been appointed, no elections have been held to allow the renewal of parliament and even the Chief of its National Police holds today an interim appointment. Insecurity, kidnappings, and the presence of criminal gangs that act with total impunity are worsening day by day and with them the country's humanitarian crisis deepens and thousands of Haitians are driven to migrate. The Committee urges the SI member parties in Haiti to work towards a concerted, inclusive and participatory political solution that takes on the challenge of restoring the democratic legitimacy of its institutions and, for its part, the Committee undertakes to closely monitor the situation and actively support the initiatives that ensure these objectives.

After listening to the contributions of the delegates of its member parties in Venezuela, Acción Democrática (AD), Un Nuevo Tiempo (UNT) and Voluntad Popular (VP), who are participating in the negotiations currently underway in Mexico City between the Maduro regime and the opposition, the Committee expresses its support for the process as a mechanism to achieve a peaceful, electoral and democratic solution to the crisis that the Venezuelan people have been living in and suffering for a long time. We call for the release of political prisoners, some of whom are in a grave state of health, and we express our deep concern at the poverty and inequality afflicting Venezuela today.

The Committee is in agreement that climate change is today the main challenge facing humanity, and its member parties express their determined commitment to continue working throughout the region to combat it. Latin America and the Caribbean is among the areas most affected globally by the phenomenon and by the consequences that follow, such as hurricanes and storms, floods, droughts, water scarcity and degradation of biodiversity, among others.

The Committee recognizes and congratulates once again the tireless and long-term work carried out by the SI on this matter. The member parties of our political family must redouble their efforts and urge the international community, governments, parliaments, civil society organizations and citizens, to remain mobilized and to act now in the face of this challenge, honouring the commitments of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

Nicaragua a contemporary victim of absolute power

25 October 2021

Original: Spanish

Since the grave events of April 2018, when the violent repression of social protests by the government of Daniel Ortega left hundreds of fatalities among the thousands of

citizens who demonstrated in the streets and cities of the country to make their voice heard for their rights, the sombre will of authoritarianism emerged in Nicaragua.

It is within this context that in recent months a number of citizens in opposition to the regime made known their aspirations to stand as presidential candidates in the elections on November 7, and ended up in prison. Today there are 37 opponents arrested, including seven who had made known their intention to run as candidate for the presidency.

Today, Ortega and his wife, Rosario Murillo, are registered as candidates for president and vice-president of the country and along with them are five other lists that were accepted by the current electoral bodies that will supervise the elections.

The United Nations, the European Union and the Organization of American States have spoken out and reiterated their concern over these developments, which indicate that elections can hardly be considered free, fair and transparent, faced with complaints of selective persecution in the country. The Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference (CEN), in a recent statement, stressed that a democratic state is characterized by the unrestricted subjection to the law by its authorities and the separation of powers. In Nicaragua, these elementary pillars of the rule of law are currently ignored and are weakened on a daily basis.

Anyone who expresses and promotes a position other than that advocated by the regime is considered an adversary not only of the government, but of the nation, and many have been persecuted for acts against sovereignty and treason against the fatherland. A compliant and government-controlled prosecutor's office is responsible for promoting these processes. The world of art and culture has not emerged unscathed either from this unstoppable wave of persecution.

The human rights violations of thousands of Nicaraguans in April 2018 led the SI to publicly denounce the state violence that eventually resulted in the death of hundreds of innocent civilians, and the SI had called for the facts to be clarified and the responsibilities to be established. The SI's concern for Nicaragua and its commitment to follow up on the serious events of April 2018 was further reflected in its statement on the situation in Nicaragua on April 23, then in the resolution of its Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean in May, and by the declaration of its Council in Geneva in June, all in the same year, 2018. Finally, at its Council meeting in Santo Domingo in January 2019, with the participation of representatives of its member parties from all continents, the Socialist International took the decision to expel the FSLN for serious violations of human rights and democratic values in their country.

Today, two weeks before the elections, the SI once again reiterates its rejection of government interventionism and condemns the repression that the government has been deploying throughout the country, on Nicaraguan society as a whole. The regimes of one party and the restriction of freedoms and fundamental rights of the people are

incompatible with democracy and contrary to the principles that inspire the Socialist International.

Urgent call to support the people of Myanmar

1 November 2021

The situation in Myanmar continues to be of grave concern to the Socialist International and its members, and requires the urgent attention of the international community. Millions in the country are in need of life-saving assistance and protection, faced with conflict and oppression, food insecurity, and the devastating effects of natural disasters and Covid-19. This predicament has worsened dramatically since the seizure of power by the military in February and subsequent repression of protestors, opposition figures and minority ethnic groups.

There is strong evidence of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the military regime in Myanmar. This has once more manifested itself in recent military assaults on Chin state in the north-west of the country, where the majority-Christian population is under sustained persecution.

The targeting of Christians in north-western Myanmar is strikingly similar to the ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Burmese military against the Rohingya Muslim population of Rakhine state in 2017, and is once more causing death, destruction of property and livelihoods and internal displacement. These aggressive and tyrannical actions are intensifying and have the potential to escalate into a civil war. Further international action is required to protect the civilian population from violence and deliver humanitarian aid. This must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that power is returned to the democratically elected government of Myanmar.

We recognise the unprecedented step taken by the Association of South Eastern Nations (ASEAN) to block the participation of the illegitimate military leadership at its recent regional summit. As previously noted by the SI, the people of Myanmar require the assistance of the international community in order to place pressure upon the military to end violence and respect the will of the electorate.

Since the coup, the military has imprisoned more than 7000 people, including children. Despite recent promises of a major release of political prisoners, these have to date been extremely limited in scope with total lack of clarity on who will be freed and the terms of their release. Those detained continue to face inhumane conditions, torture and a denial of fundamental legal rights. Among the political prisoners are Myanmar's elected President, Win Myint, and State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, who are both currently being tried behind closed doors.

No one in Myanmar should be above the rule of law, least of all those responsible for the atrocities and human rights abuses committed across the country that have taken an

almost unfathomable toll in terms of the physical injuries and loss of human life, and the emotional and psychological trauma. The leaders of the military junta who have ordered and authorised these actions must be held to account alongside those responsible for carrying out these crimes against humanity.

The Socialist International reiterates its full solidarity with the people of Myanmar who have been victims of so many atrocities, and its profound sadness at the intense humanitarian suffering caused and exacerbated by the Burmese military forces.

Lukashenko resumes closed trial of Statkevich and other political prisoners in Belarus



Opening of the closed trial in Homiel, 24 June 2021

The closed trial of Mikalai Statkevich, leader of our member party in Belarus, Narodnaya Hramada, NH, has resumed after a break since 4 November. The closed trial, which began on 24 June this year, is taking place inside Homiel, the prison where he is being held. Mikalai Statkevich, who has been denied his rights throughout the trial and has no access to legal representation or defence, has been incarcerated for almost a year and a half.

Political prisoners, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Ihar Losik, Uladzimir Tsyhanovich, Dzmitry Papou and Artsiom Sakau, all of whom have also been in jail for more than a year, are also being tried.

COP26 - The challenge of saving our planet



The climate crisis is deepening, with emissions and temperatures continuing to rise and extreme weather events becoming more frequent and more intense. As countries across the world have struggled to deal with the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, action within the global community to address the climate crisis has fallen short of what will be required to prevent irreversible climate change. The damaging impact of the historical and current actions of humanity on the planet and the climate are a matter of fact. As the COP26 summit in Glasgow opens, the Socialist International once again urges united, swift and concerted action from all countries and governments, to prevent the planet from passing a tipping point beyond which permanent climate change is unavoidable.

In the last months, two major reports have been published that leave no room for doubt that on current trends, we are heading towards a climate change catastrophe. On 9 August, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) presented its first major assessment report since 2013, noting the unprecedented changes taking place to the Earth's climate 'in every region and across the whole climate system'. It reiterates that without immediate, strong and sustained reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, ambitions to limit global warming to safe levels are unachievable. Regrettably, despite this year marking five years since the signing of the Paris Agreement, there is no evidence that we are on course to achieve such goals. After a temporary reduction in CO₂ emissions during 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, emissions are once again rising, as outlined in the United in Science 2021 report compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), released on 16 September.

As underlined by the UN secretary general, we are as a planet way off course when it comes to the actions and commitments necessary to prevent this climate crisis from escalating into an environmental disaster from which there is no recovery. The United in Science 2021 report notes that it is likely that the threshold of a 1.5 degree increase above pre-industrial levels will be breached in the next five years. Although immediate and sustained reductions in CO₂ emissions could quickly bring benefits when it comes to air quality, according to the IPCC report, even a stabilisation in global temperatures could now take 20-30 years, underlining how costly inaction could prove to be.

There is also overwhelming scientific consensus that global warming is behind the increased frequency in extreme weather events in recent years. The IPCC report confirmed that human-induced climate change is responsible for increasing the frequency and intensity of many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Such events have in the last year alone caused great suffering, loss of life and environmental destruction as a result of wildfires, flooding, storms and heatwaves. The spiralling impacts of extreme weather on economies and societies must not be underestimated.

Governments around the world have the capacity to act with unprecedented speed and in cooperation, yet when it comes to the existential threat of climate change there remains a lack of urgency in global coordinated action, compounded by climate denial and an unwillingness to make necessary sacrifices for the future of the planet as a result of misguided self-interest. The effects of the pandemic make this moment in time particularly crucial, as emissions are now rapidly accelerating after a temporary hiatus as a result of Covid. More must be done on a global level to work for a green recovery after the pandemic and avoid a return to 'business as usual'.

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference taking place in Glasgow is now underway. Due to the postponement of the summit last year, this is the first of the planned quinquennial global stocktakes agreed in 2015 at COP21, under which Parties are expected to re-evaluate their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in light of the most recent climate science, and strengthen their existing commitments. The unconditional NDCs under the Paris Agreement are manifestly insufficient to limit global warming to the 2C goal, let alone 1.5C, with the emissions gap as large as ever.

It will therefore not be enough for world leaders to simply reiterate prior commitments. Parties must surpass 50% reductions in global emissions by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050, an ambitious but necessary goal, if there is to be any chance of limiting global warming and preventing a climate catastrophe. It is clear that this should take place in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as developed countries are at present in a position to make earlier and deeper cuts to emissions. But it requires all countries to have a net zero goal, which to be achieved will need increased focus on green growth in developing countries and financial assistance in order to transition to a low-carbon economy.

The delay to COP26 was largely unavoidable due to the effects of the pandemic, but there is no excuse for continued delays in taking decisive action on a global level on climate change. Scientists, multiple UN bodies, environmental groups and organisations such as the Socialist International have for many years been documenting and analysing the phenomenon of human-induced climate change, outlining the steps necessary on a global level to prevent irreversible damage to our planet and advocating for all governments to come together to overcome this common threat. The SI has taken many initiatives on climate change, with the participation of senior government figures, experts and ministers in order to come up with concrete policy proposals and solutions for ensuring climate justice by tackling climate change without restricting development potential in the developing world.

The Socialist International will continue to be dedicated to advocating strong action on climate change through the efforts of its member parties and the regular work and initiatives of its regional and thematic committees on this issue, as well as of its statutory bodies. It is a task to be approached with the utmost seriousness and urgency, to secure the future of our shared planet and the welfare of the generations to come.

COP26 - Despite progress, threat of catastrophic climate change remains unacceptably high

15 November 2021



The Socialist International closely followed developments in Glasgow during the COP26 Summit, which focussed on crucial issues that have long been at the heart of the SI's global agenda. Members of this political family could be found among national delegations attending the conference, and the SI Secretary General was present, holding wide-ranging exchanges on the expectations of our International from the COP26 and the ongoing work of the SI to ensure that tackling the climate crisis remains a priority.

The single most important objective of the summit was for the countries and leaders of the world to make binding pledges on reducing emissions that would give a realistic chance of achieving the target agreed in Paris of limiting global warming to 1.5C. Keeping 1.5C alive requires, at a minimum, a 45% reduction in global emissions by 2030. As urged by the SI in advance of COP26, developed economies that are responsible for the bulk of

current and historical emissions need to commit to reductions far in excess of that figure over this period.

As stated in the Glasgow Climate Pact, it is estimated that current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) would lead to greenhouse gas emissions that are 13.7% higher than 2010 levels in 2030. Analysis by Climate Action Tracker (CAT) of the NDCs show that the world is heading for at least 2.4C of heating, and that by 2030 it will already be too late to stay within the 1.5C target. This would be a catastrophe for the planet, and it is evident that deeper and earlier cuts to emissions are required. The inability or unwillingness of parties to commit to NDCs in line with the Paris Agreement temperature goal, means that COP26 is not the success we had hoped for, but it is nonetheless important that the declaration explicitly calls on parties to submit new or updated NDCs in advance of COP27, and that the UNFCCC secretariat will henceforth monitor progress towards these goals on an annual basis. Though COP26 has not delivered the required commitments on emissions reductions, the framework is in place to make this happen if the political will can be found. It therefore remains vitally important to maintain pressure on all governments that have not delivered 1.5C Paris Agreement compatible NDCs to urgently scale-up mitigation ambition in advance of COP27.

The importance of action by the world's largest economies cannot be understated. As recognised by the High Ambition Coalition, if all G20 countries were to commit to a 1.5C pathway, this could be enough to limit warming to 1.7C by 2100. Yet with regard to the immediate and deep cuts to emissions that are a precondition for limiting global temperature rises, too many of these high-emitters have shown insufficient ambition and in some cases an alarming lack of engagement, focusing on pledges to reach net zero emissions by much later in the century. Net zero targets should be acknowledged and are an important part of the overall solution, but long-term ambition cannot compensate for the short-term inadequacies of current targets. Reaching net zero in 30 or 50 years will be in vain if short-term commitments are not dramatically increased. Still worse is the danger that the promise of net zero in the future gives rise to a "burn now, pay later" approach whereby short-term emissions remain unacceptably high as countries rely on untested and often unrealistic CO2 removal techniques and offsetting strategies.

COP26 has seen some incremental progress in a number of significant areas that will contribute to the future inhabitability of the planet. For example, real headway has been made towards ending the use of coal worldwide, with more than 40 countries now committed to phasing out coal power and over 100 countries, organisations and financial institutions pledging to end financing of new coal, which should make it financially unviable. Nonetheless, the timeframe for ending coal-fired power needs to be brought forward in order to be in line with what is required to stay within 1.5C, and the large coal-dependent economies including Australia, China, India and the US need to commit to phasing out coal. Last minute changes to the text of the Glasgow Climate Pact, to remove any reference to a phase out of coal are disappointing and reflect the scale of the challenge that remains in moving towards a future free of fossil fuel. A swift and comprehensive end to all fossil fuel subsidies is an essential part of this process.

A landmark pledge by over 100 countries to reduce global methane emissions by 30% below 2020 levels by 2030 could, if met, prevent 0.2C of warming by the middle of the century. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), human-caused methane emissions can be reduced by up to 45% this decade, preventing 0.3C of warming, so it is crucial that this is seen as a starting point, with focus on increasing ambition, quantifying policies and goals that can be monitored on a national level, and encouraging major emitters of methane that are yet to sign up, such as China, Russia and India, to join the pledge.

A deal to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, including over 100 world leaders representing 85% of the planet's forests is a substantial step in the right direction, and includes countries with significant tracts of forest and deforestation activity such as Brazil, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Forests naturally capture billions of tonnes of carbon annually, and deforestation activity accounts for approximately 10% of all global carbon emissions, making an end to deforestation an important component of emissions reduction, which will also boost efforts to safeguard biodiversity. Crucial to the success of this deal will be delivering the promised funding to protect forests, restore damaged land, tackle wildfires and support indigenous communities.

Funding remains a contentious issue, as wealthy nations have broken the promise made in Copenhagen in 2009 to deliver US\$100 billion per year to developing countries by 2020, to help adapt to climate change and mitigate further temperature rises. This failure to deliver on the target, recognised by all parties in the Glasgow Climate Pact, endangers trust and prevents progress. It is no secret that many countries' emissions reduction goals are conditional on international support, making climate finance one of the most important components in delivering what has been pledged. As the SI has always stated, it is a matter of climate justice - the problem was largely created by countries in Europe, North America and east Asia, yet it is the southern hemisphere and in particular countries with low historical emissions that are suffering, and lack the means to cover heavy losses and humanitarian disasters, even if promised climate finance is delivered. The Glasgow Pact recognises the need for a stronger loss and damage mechanism to compensate vulnerable countries for climate impacts, but does not go far enough in ensuring funding to enable countries to help their citizens deal with regular climate-caused devastation.

The deadly effects of climate change and global warming are already upon us. Powerful testimony has been given at COP26 by those suffering from extreme weather events and others whose very existence is threatened by sea level rises. Though the science has been clear for many years, too many decision-makers have remained sceptical until they have witnessed record-breaking temperatures and the increased frequency of natural disasters. Following decades characterised by prevarication, denial and inaction there is now a sense of urgency and important impetus given by coalitions of countries united by their determination to safeguard the future of the planet.

Nonetheless, there remains a disconnect between the gravity of the situation and the consequences of not taking immediate action, and the pledges emerging from Glasgow.

Half-measures and vacillation today cannot be put right in the future, and there is palpable frustration and anger around the world as millions have raised their voices in defence of the right of generations to come to an inhabitable planet. Though significant breakthroughs have been achieved at COP26, the scale of the climate emergency as a result of prior inaction means that there is a grave danger that the measures agreed are too little, too late, and will be seen in years to come as the moment when the last chance to step back from the precipice of irreversible and catastrophic climate change was missed. As COP26 comes to an end, there is still hope that the countries of the world can raise their collective ambition and unite to confront the greatest threat to humanity. The Socialist International and its members will continue to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to this goal.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November 2021



SI Meeting at the 143rd Assembly of the IPU in Madrid

27 November 2021



For the first time in two years, due to the Covid19 pandemic, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held an in-person meeting of its Assembly, an occasion on which the Socialist International convened its usual meeting of parliamentarians from SI member parties attending that global assembly.

Extending a warm welcome to participants, the SI Secretary General noted the enthusiasm and sense of fraternity felt

by all those present at being able to share this opportunity in person after such a long absence.

The agenda of the meeting included exchanges on issues to be addressed by the IPU Assembly and on the emergency items to be voted on. Equally, the meeting provided participants with the opportunity to share issues of concern in their respective countries.

Hana Jalloul, the newly elected Secretary for International Policy and Development Cooperation of the PSOE, Spain, and a Member of the Assembly of Madrid, welcomed everyone, pleased that the city was hosting the IPU Assembly. She also conveyed greetings from the PSOE leader and President of the Spanish government, Pedro Sánchez, a Vice-President of the SI, committed to supporting social democracy around the world as the only viable response to the challenges we face.

Addressing the question of the emergency items to be voted on by the Assembly, the meeting heard from the Palestinian delegation, who informed on the current situation facing the Palestinian people affected by violent extremists attacking holy places in Palestine. It was reported that the change in government in Israel had not improved the situation and there was no plan for moving forward with the peace process. On the contrary, the eviction of Palestinians and the demolition of their homes in Jerusalem, Hebron and elsewhere was proceeding. It was highlighted that none of the international resolutions adopted by the UN have been implemented, and their calls continue for an end to the occupation, ceasing settlement activities, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

The meeting heard from the Venezuelan participants on the current situation in that country. The member of Acción Democrática informed that their party had been seized, the report of the Electoral Observers of the EU accurately reflected that there was a lack of transparency, and the report of the UN human rights Commissioner, Michelle Bachelet, was damning. 87% of the population was facing poverty and forced migration was chronic. They were calling on international support for the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections.

The dire situation in the English speaking part of Cameroon was a subject of great concern, where it was reported that the existing accord was being steadily eroded by the French speaking part of the country, citizens were taking up arms and demanding liberation. There were many displaced people and it was common to find corpses littering the streets while the international community remained silent. The participant from the SDF made an appeal to the IPU to address this issue as an emergency. More than half the English speaking part of Cameroon had migrated to Nigeria and to Congo while the Cameroonian government deploys arms against them.

The meeting heard from the representative from Portugal, where the Socialist Party had been in power for 10 years and the country had undergone a recovery that had sustained and enabled cohesion policies at European level, enhancing European solidarity in face of the pandemic. The country was currently in a phase of transition ahead of new

elections at the end of January and the PS was hopeful that they would win. Along with Spain, Portugal counted with around 80% of their population vaccinated, enabling them to deal more forcefully with the catastrophic consequences of the pandemic. Solidarity with the developing world in terms of vaccination was essential.

The question of women's rights and gender equality was addressed by the representative from Hungary, who furthermore pointed out that in her country there was no democracy and the situation was dramatic. Her party, the MSzP, had a key role to play, but uniting the opposition to this fascist government was a challenge. However, after 11 years of Orbán dictatorship, there was a good chance of winning the next elections.

The participant from Mozambique described two particular challenges his country was facing. The threat of terrorism was growing daily and becoming more visible, the latest attack close to the border with Tanzania. International support, particularly from Rwanda, was crucial and he expressed gratitude for the support and solidarity of the Portuguese parliamentarians in the European Parliament and the members of the international socialist family. In regard to the Covid19 pandemic, his country had been unable to vaccinate half the population of about 30 million people. They joined calls for fairness in the distribution of vaccines.

The current situation in Pakistan was highlighted, where a right wing government ruled, not understanding that extremism is a menace that leads to terrorism. The economic situation continued bad and the people had not received financial relief, while poverty and unemployment were on the increase. The ruling regime had no regard for parliament. The situation of Kashmir continued of concern, the people forced to live under a curfew. The PPP leader, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, had been very vocal in questioning the Pakistani regime's policies vis-à-vis Afghanistan, insisting on an inclusive government respecting the freedoms of all.

In regard to Cyprus, the meeting heard from representatives of both the CTP and the TDP of Northern Cyprus. Reference was made to the critical effects of the Covid19 pandemic and the current difficult situation following the international conference of 2017. It was pointed out that the longstanding dispute in the Eastern Mediterranean needed to be resolved within the framework of international law and required international support to reduce tension and should not be ignored. A call was made for greater engagement by the international community for a resumption of negotiations, and for social democrats in government to lead the way.

In Panama, where the SI member PRD was in government, there was a will to find inclusive solutions to issues affecting the country. The level of migration into the country was an increasing problem, and some of the migrants were in transit to North America. It was pointed out that all the countries involved had to face this question jointly, working together and addressing the problem in the country of origin. Concerning Covid19, big efforts had been made and there was a successful rate of vaccination. If the pandemic had shown something, it was that it was a common battle and we had to fight it together.

The representative from the USFP of Morocco described the situation in the country, where national and local elections had been held on the same day for the first time. The USFP increased its' seats in the parliament from 21 to 40 and is today the main opposition party. For the first time there are 96 women members of parliament representing also the south and mid central regions of the country. The USFP was working to listen to the people and to ensure a caring state offering social protection.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the SI member UDPS was in government, it was reported that efforts were being made to ensure a social democratic policy that was people-centred. They had implemented a policy of free primary education, something that had taken years to achieve. A great challenge facing the country was the war in the East and they were looking to other social democratic governments for assistance and cooperation. International stability is threatened by Jihadism and a global response was needed.

In regard to Spain, it was pointed out that President Sánchez had demonstrated that social democracy was the antidote to liberal policies which had diminished people's rights. Spain had shown the way in vaccination and in donating vaccines, as well as policies such as minimum vital wage, and social and health protection. Their policies on refugees from Afghanistan was an example that they could manage crises at international level. Social justice, a just recovery and being a government that delivers were key and they were ready to work together with colleagues in the Socialist International.

In closing the meeting, the Secretary General noted that while the pandemic had delayed our in-person meetings, it had clearly not affected our solidarity and our resolve to work together. The many expressions of satisfaction at being able to meet face to face and share experiences was a great source of encouragement. During this difficult period the SI had remained active, connected with its members, and taking a stand as necessary on matters of concern to our movement. The work will continue on democracy building, conflict resolution, solidarity, the struggle against Covid19, advocating for vaccine equality, the effort to stop climate change and protect our planet, promoting human rights, and advancing our values and principles.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

29 November 2021



29 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
NOV **SOLIDARITY**
WITH THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

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In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (resolution 32/40 B). On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine (resolution 181 (II))

In resolution 60/37 of 1 December 2005, the Assembly requested the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on

29 November, to continue to organize an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN.

The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

Mikalai Statkevich imminent sentencing in Belarus

9 December 2021



On 14 December, the sentencing of Mikalai Statkevich, chair of Narodnaya Hramada, the SI member party in Belarus, is scheduled to begin, following a closed trial that has taken place inside Homiel prison where he is incarcerated. During this sham trial, Statkevich has had no access to legal representation or defence and throughout the 560 days he has spent in detention, he has been denied all contact with his family, as

the illegitimate regime of Alexander Lukashenko reveals its determination to suppress all democratic forces in the country.

The sentencing of Mikalai Statkevich will be another dark day for those struggling for the political and human rights of the Belarusian people. For many years a central figure in the democratic opposition to the Lukashenko dictatorship, Statkevich has worked tirelessly, at the risk of his freedom, to bring change and democracy to Belarus and actively participated in the activities of the Socialist International, as the current co-chair of the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea.

Other members of Narodnaya Hramada have also been arrested and tried without due process, among them the secretary general of the party, Sergei Sparish, who has received a six-year sentence, and activist Andrei Khrenkov, condemned to five years' imprisonment. Both have already been detained for well over a year. The Socialist International reiterates its firm condemnation of the politically motivated detention and trial of Mikalai Statkevich, Sergei Sparish, Andrei Khrenkov and many others. The dictatorial Belarusian regime, lacking democratic legitimacy and popular support, has intensified its blatant oppression of the political opposition in order to maintain its grip on power.

The full solidarity of the Socialist International and its member parties is with the detained members of Narodnaya Hramada and all political prisoners in Belarus. We vigorously protest against this political persecution and demand the freedom of Mikalai Statkevich and all those who are unjustly incarcerated in Belarus. We reiterate our call for members worldwide and the wider international community to take action in support of those who have sacrificed their freedom for the cause of democracy in Belarus, and to exert pressure on the regime in order for the true will of the people to be freely expressed.



Mikalai Statkevich sentenced to 14 years

14 December 2021

Mikalai Statkevich, chair of the SI member party Narodnaya Hramada, NH, and co-chair of the SI Committee for the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea, has been sentenced today to 14 years in prison in Belarus following a sham trial behind closed doors. Throughout the 565 days he has spent in detention, Statkevich has had no access to legal representation or defence and he has been denied

all contact with his family, as the illegitimate regime of Alexander Lukashenko continues its determination to suppress all democratic forces in the country.

Along with Statkevich, five other political prisoners were also sentenced today: blogger Siarhei Tsikhanouski, who had intended to run as a presidential candidate against Lukashenko, sentenced to 18 years; Ihar Losik, a media consultant for Radio Liberty, sentenced to 15 years; Uladzimir Tsyganovich, a blogger, sentenced to 15 years; Artsyom Sakau, who ran a YouTube channel Country for Life, sentenced to 16 years; and Dmitry Popov, a moderator for Country for Life, sentenced to 16 years.

Previously, other members of Narodnaya Hramada have also been tried without due process, among them the secretary general of the party, Sergei Sparish, who has received a six-year sentence, and activist Andrei Khrenkov, condemned to five years' imprisonment.

The Socialist International vigorously protests against this outrageous political persecution and repression and calls for international condemnation of this sentencing. Lukashenko must be held accountable, and the SI reiterates its previous call for action to be taken in support of all those who have sacrificed their freedom for the cause of democracy in Belarus.

Mikalai Statkevich, who has worked tirelessly at great personal risk to bring change and democracy to Belarus, has so far been held in isolation for 565 days, and previously he served five years in prison for running as a presidential candidate against Lukashenko in 2010. The Socialist International will never cease in calling for freedom for Mikalai Statkevich and for all political prisoners in the country, and for full respect for the freedoms and rights of all the people of Belarus.



**The Socialist International
congratulates Gabriel Boric and
the Chilean people on the
election results of Sunday 19
December 2021**

SI condemns violence in Kazakhstan

7 January 2022

The Socialist International condemns the deadly violence used during the course of recent anti-government protests in Kazakhstan. Though the protests are reported to have started peacefully, the situation significantly deteriorated, leading to the deeply regrettable loss of multiple lives among both protesters and police.

The orders given to troops by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to use lethal force against protesters without warning is a dangerous and illegal move that seeks to deny people the right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression and is in clear violation of the principles of necessity and proportionality. Violence must end on all sides, but the government and its security forces have a clear legal responsibility to avoid the use of deadly force and must never indiscriminately target protesters.

This troubling situation is made more complex by the lack of verifiable information emerging from Kazakhstan, exacerbated by severe disruption to communications networks in the country. These disturbances have made it impossible to establish contact with the leadership of the Nationwide Social Democratic Party (OSDP), SI member party in Kazakhstan, since the outbreak of the protests. At this difficult time the full solidarity of the SI is with the OSDP and its members, and all those struggling for human rights and democratic values in Kazakhstan.

For too many years Kazakhstan has been in the grip of an authoritarian government that has not tolerated any dissent and persecuted opposition parties. The protests, triggered by a doubling in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), reveal the deep underlying and legitimate grievances from Kazakh citizens against a regime that has overseen drastic economic and social decline. The government of Kazakhstan must turn its attention to addressing the concerns of its population, allowing democratic opposition, tackling corruption and offering credible solutions to the severe economic difficulties faced by many Kazakhs.

SI calls for swift restoration of democracy in Mali

9 January 2022

The Socialist International is deeply concerned by the delays announced to elections due to be held in Mali next month and calls on the transitional government to expedite the restoration of democracy in the country. It is unacceptable to all democrats that Mali, which has suffered two military coups in the last 18 months, is facing an extended period under the leadership of a regime that took power through a coup and has no democratic legitimacy.

The possibility raised by the recommendations of the National Refoundation Conference that elections are delayed by up to five years risks setting a dangerous precedent where those who have overthrown democratically elected governments are able to maintain a grip on power indefinitely without elections. If this goes unchallenged, Mali and other countries of the region could be further destabilised, as other groups may seek to overturn governments by force in the absence of elections, in particular if there are no serious consequences to this clear subversion of the democratic process.

In this regard, the SI is encouraged by the firm position taken by ECOWAS today in response to the announcement of the delay, and urges the transitional government to stick to the agreed timeframe for the elections. Any delay to the holding of elections beyond 27 February is in direct contradiction to the agreement reached by the transitional government and ECOWAS in the wake of the most recent coup in May 2021.

The SI reiterates its view that the current interim president came to power illegitimately and its vigorous condemnation of the military coups he led, which have stolen democracy away from the people of Mali. The SI member parties in Mali, the RPM and ADEMA-PASJ, continue to play a leading role among the democratic forces in the country and have our full support and solidarity. Only through the restoration of democracy can full rights and freedoms be guaranteed for all Malians.

SI demands release of President Kaboré in Burkina Faso

24 January 2022



Burkina Faso has today seen the destruction of its constitution and democratic order following an uprising of the military forces that began yesterday, which the Socialist International condemns in its strongest terms.

President of the Republic, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, from the SI member party People's Movement for Progress, MPP, and other members of

the government, have been detained against their will.

The military has now torn up the constitution, dissolved government and parliament, implemented a curfew, and closed the country's borders.

In the face of this military coup, the SI expresses its firm solidarity with President Kaboré, with the MPP, and with the people of Burkina Faso. The President, who called today for

safeguarding the democratic achievements of the country, must be released unconditionally, as must the others who are being held.

The military forces have destroyed years of work by the people of Burkina Faso to bring about respect for democracy, human rights, freedoms and security. It is not acceptable to rob the people of their democracy, built with their efforts to secure a life in peace, and an open and secure society.

In the last year and a half, three democratically elected governments and heads of state in West Africa - in Mali, Guinea and today in Burkina Faso - have suffered military coups against their people.

The Socialist International, the world's largest political family of social democrats, has always been committed to working with its member parties across the globe to defend and advance democracy, freedoms and human rights for all, and in these endeavours it will never cease.

SI observes presidential elections in Costa Rica

6 February 2022



SI Secretary General Luis Ayala with presidential candidate Jose Maria Figueres, during the first round of the elections in Costa Rica, 6 February 2022





SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, with Kattia Rivera, President of the PLN, Costa Rica, and SI Vice-President

Meeting with members of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE, in Madrid

11 February 2022



PSOE Secretary for International Policy and Cooperation, Hana Jalloul, SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, and PSOE Secretary for Equality, Andrea Fernández

Meeting of the SI Presidium on Ukraine

19 February 2022



In light of the perilous and deeply worrying security situation developing in Ukraine, the SI Presidium convened for an online meeting on 19 February 2022, with participation from the global leadership of the Socialist International. This allowed all those present to hear diverse perspectives on the situation and benefit from the collective insight of the social democratic political family on the urgent and challenging scenario that is facing Europe and the world.

There was an overwhelming sentiment, expressed by all those who intervened, of the necessity to avoid war in Ukraine at all costs. Participants reflected on the fundamental commitment of the global social democratic movement to peace and conflict resolution, and the catastrophic human cost that a war would bring, urging all parties to find a way to resolve their differences through diplomatic means. Members of the Presidium reiterated their faith in the multilateral approach and the rules-based world order, underlining the need for the United Nations to have a central role in mediating in the crisis, with the concern that the UN was being marginalised at a crucial moment in a potential military conflict that could have profound implications for world peace.

Issues raised during the interventions of Presidium members included the importance of upholding the principles of national sovereignty with regard to Ukraine and the need for international law to be respected at all times. Also of paramount concern was the respect for human rights and the rights of minority populations. In the wider context of security, strong calls were made for progress on disarmament and for coordinated multilateral action to address the threats posed by new forms of weaponry and warfare.

Many of those participating underlined the role of the SI in communicating the concerns of the global social democratic movement on this issue, and also through initiatives building on the common principles of the organisation, working for a diplomatic solution in the spirit of the Socialist International.

The conclusions of the Presidium are presented in the following statement.

Statement of the SI Presidium on Ukraine **19 February 2022**

The Socialist International Presidium, meeting on 19 February 2022, expresses its grave concern over the prevailing security situation in Ukraine and its wider implications. In line with the fundamental principles of the global social democratic family and the shared values and objectives of all SI member parties, the SI will continue to work for a peaceful solution to the current tensions and urges all parties to do their utmost to avoid the catastrophe of war.

The threat of war

A war in Ukraine would be disastrous on all levels, and inevitably lead to large numbers of casualties on both sides and severe and long-lasting damage to livelihoods and economic prosperity. The unquestionable priority at this time is therefore to avoid war at all costs, sparing no effort and exhausting all possibilities for de-escalation. This includes a commitment to end the hostilities in eastern Ukraine that have escalated in recent days and are further destabilising a precarious situation. The SI will continue to support any diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing war in Ukraine, recalling that all parties have expressed their determination and desire to avoid this devastating outcome.

The multilateral approach

The SI reiterates its firm conviction in the role of multilateralism to resolving disputes and conflicts between countries. The SI has always supported the rules-based order enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, which as the cornerstone of the multilateral world society, must be central to this process, acting as a mediator and guarantor in efforts to resolve tensions between Russia, Ukraine and other parties to the conflict. The OSCE also has an important role to play in promoting dialogue and monitoring the situation from the perspective of security and human rights.

Finding multilateral solutions to conflicts requires a commitment to diplomacy, and respect for international law. It also requires an end to violence, provocations and threats of aggression aimed at undermining and destabilising the situation and creating a pretext for war.

Sovereignty and human rights

In line with the UN Charter the right of all states to territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected, and the internationally recognised and sovereign borders of Ukraine are inviolable. Any invasion of Ukraine, or the use of external force to overthrow its democratically elected government would be in clear violation of international law and the principles of sovereignty and self-determination.

We also reiterate and emphasise the importance of defending human rights and minority rights in every context, and each government has a duty to ensure that the human rights of all those residing in its territory are respected, without discrimination on the basis of political beliefs or ethnic background. Reports of violations of human rights should be addressed as a matter of the highest priority, with the involvement of independent observers as necessary.

The fundamental democratic principles upon which our movement is founded enshrine the belief that all people have the right to freely elect their governments and leaders. Governments gain their legitimacy through the freely expressed will of their people and have in their turn a sovereign right to make their own decisions regarding the security and well-being of the country, on the condition that these actions do not diminish the sovereignty, security and well-being of others.

Working for disarmament

The SI continues to support efforts for disarmament, underlining the benefits of joint security through disarmament and cooperation. This is particularly relevant as a conflict in Ukraine has the potential to draw in the nuclear-armed states, with the possibility of catastrophic consequences for the entire world.

We welcome the recent joint statement issued by the leaders of the five nuclear-weapon states on preventing nuclear war and avoiding arms races and support multilateral efforts aimed at hastening the process of nuclear disarmament, with the ultimate aim of a world free from nuclear weapons. We must also be vigilant to the changing threats emerging from recent technological developments, with specific focus on the dangers of unregulated use of drones and the rise of cyber warfare.

The role of the SI

The Socialist International continues to have a role as a unique forum in which parties united by their shared political and ideological beliefs from all continents can cooperate to advance their common values and where differences are discussed in a spirit of friendship and partnership. This has been a characteristic of the work of the SI and we will remain engaged on this issue and pursue initiatives for the advancement of de-escalation and the resolution of this conflict. In the tradition of the Socialist International, we will strive to advance the causes of peace and democracy, multilateralism and human rights through dialogue and collaboration with members of our global family on all sides.

The integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine must be respected

22 February 2022

The Socialist International is gravely concerned that Russia has chosen to ignore the path of dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation which the international community, including our International, has strongly advocated. Instead, Russia yesterday chose to unilaterally recognise Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics and has sent tanks and troops to these areas of Ukraine.

This act is a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, which we firmly condemn. This action by Russia, which opens a dangerous new juncture, brings with it an escalation of tensions that will benefit no one.

In line with our strong convictions, the role of multilateralism is key to solving disputes and conflicts, and therefore last week we supported and called on all parties involved to seek a resolution to differences through diplomatic means, respecting international law and international borders. The Secretary General of the United Nations has expressed concern over the latest move by Russia, as a "violation" and "inconsistent with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations", a position the Socialist International fully shares.

Our International will continue to closely follow the situation on the ground and remain engaged in support of the people of Ukraine and of a peaceful resolution.

Socialist International condemns Russian invasion of Ukraine

24 February 2022

The Socialist International wholly condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine which began at dawn today, 24 February, with the aerial bombardment of targets across the Ukrainian territory. It is a tragedy that diplomatic efforts have failed to prevent this war and the catastrophic humanitarian cost it will bring in terms of lost life and human suffering. We echo the words of the United Nations Secretary General in calling on President Putin to end this offensive and return his troops to Russia, in order that a truly devastating ground war may be averted.

This premeditated war of aggression, described by Russia as a 'special military operation', comes after months of provocation and belligerence. It follows the unilateral recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics and the sending of Russian tanks and troops to those areas of Ukraine on 22 February, an act condemned by our International and the international community as a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine which is wholly inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.

The Socialist International further rejects the claims made by the Russian president over the sovereign territory of Ukraine and its allegations of oppression and genocide, repeated as a pretext for the invasion that began this morning. The responsibility for this war and the death, suffering and destruction it will bring, lies with Russia, which must be held accountable.

Today Ukraine and its people are at war, as a result of an attack which all those in the world who value peace must oppose. We offer our full solidarity to the people and government of Ukraine in the face of the existential threat posed by this hostile invasion and urge the United Nations and the international community to defend the UN Charter, international norms, the rules-based order and the sovereignty of Ukraine by standing firm against this unjustified act of aggression.

SI receives delegation from the PNP, Jamaica

28 February 2022



The SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, was pleased to receive Fitz Jackson MP, Senator Janice Allen and Hugh Graham MP, a delegation from The People's National Party, PNP, of Jamaica, at the Socialist International Secretariat.

Decision regarding membership of A Just Russia-Patriots-For the Truth Party

7 March 2022

The Socialist International has been following with grave concern the position of the party A Just Russia-Patriots-For the Truth in support of the horrific war waged by Russia against Ukraine.

During the online discussions of our Presidium held on the 19th of February with leaders of our political family from different continents of the world, the fundamental commitment of the global social democratic movement to peace was clearly stated, underlining the catastrophic human cost that a war would bring, which should be avoided at all costs. The members of the Presidium reiterated their faith in the multilateral approach and the need to resolve differences through diplomatic means, working for a peaceful solution to the tensions and urging all parties to do their utmost to avoid the catastrophe of war. In the SI we have always supported the rules-based order enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, whereby internationally recognised borders must be respected as well as the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states.

Less than 48 hours after the meeting of the Presidium of the Socialist International, on the 21st of February, Russia chose to unilaterally recognise Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics and sent tanks and troops to these areas of Ukraine. Subsequently, in the early hours of the 24th, with the aerial bombardment of targets across the Ukrainian territory, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began. Reacting swiftly to these deplorable actions which contravene international law, and in line with our shared principles and our dedication to preserve and ensure peace between nations and peoples, the Socialist International immediately expressed its unequivocal condemnation.

The humanitarian tragedy that has ensued is indefensible. Thousands have been killed, including children. More than one and a half million people have been forced to flee their homes, leaving family and loved ones behind. Many remain in Ukraine, forced to fight, or attempting to shelter without food or water in towns and cities whilst the bombing in civilian areas continues despite Russia saying from the outset it would not do so. Russia has allegedly used illegal weapons such as thermobaric 'vacuum' and cluster bombs, and it continues to hold the threat of nuclear war over Ukraine and the international community at large.

In supporting the illegitimate use of military force by Russia in Ukraine and ignoring international action in favour of peace, dialogue and understanding, A Just Russia-Patriots-For the Truth party is in violation of the Ethical Charter of the Socialist International. The declared positions adopted by the party on this issue are neither in alignment with the Declaration of Principles of the SI, which should guide the policies and actions of all our member parties.

In light of the graveness of the current situation in Ukraine and the unwillingness of the party to reassess its position in the face of the indefensible acts committed by Russian forces in that country, the Ethics Committee has made the difficult decision that the only appropriate course of action is to cease the membership of A Just Russia-Patriots-For the Truth party in the Socialist International, in accordance with the Ethical Charter. This decision has the full support of the President and the Secretary General of the Socialist International.

This global political organisation of the Socialist International stands firm in the defence of its principles and values which are shared by all those who are its members. It has always stood as a platform for peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and we strive for a world where nations can live in peace despite our unique differences.



Socialist International celebrates International Women's Day

8 March 2022

SI expresses deep concern for the welfare of Almazbek Atambayev

31 March 2022

The Socialist International, the worldwide organisation of socialist, social democratic and labour parties, expresses its deep concern for the well-being of Almazbek Atambayev, the former president of Kyrgyzstan and former leader of the SI-member party in that country, the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, SDPK. Atambayev, who was first detained in 2019, has been suffering from ill health during his incarceration, and was sentenced in his absence to a jail term of 11 years and 2 months.

The detention, trial and sentencing of Almazbek Atambayev have not been conducted in line with the Kyrgyz Code of Criminal Procedure, in stark contravention of international judicial norms and the legal and human rights of the defendant. Despite Atambayev not attending court due to his ill health, the trial continued in a closed session, denying him the opportunity to properly defend himself. It is imperative that the former president is

granted his full legal rights and that the procedures are held openly and transparently, free from political influence and interference.

The SI is further concerned by reports from family members who have visited Atambayev that he is being subject to mistreatment during his detention, corroborated by bruises found on his legs and arms by the National Center for the Prevention of Torture. He has also been forced in an inhumane manner by officers to stand barefoot in the snow dressed in only his underwear, exacerbating his health conditions, and brought to the court against his will in spite of his ill health. The Kyrgyz authorities must ensure that these allegations are fully investigated and appropriate action is taken to ensure the human rights of Almazbek Atambayev are guaranteed at all times.

The SI has closely followed recent political developments in Kyrgyzstan, both through the work of its regional committee, and by engaging in dialogue with various political actors in the country. It remains ready to contribute in any way it can to bring a positive solution to this deplorable situation, in order that justice may be allowed to take its course, and will continue to offer its support and solidarity to the SDPK in its efforts to advance the common objectives of socialists and social democratic parties around the world.

SI observes second round of presidential elections in Costa Rica

3 April 2022



Presidential candidate Jose Maria Figueres, from SI member party the PLN; SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala; chair of SICLAC and the PRD, Dominican Republic, Miguel Vargas; Peggy Cabral, member of the leadership of the PRD; and Angelita Vargas, during the second round of elections, 3 April 2022

Socialist International condemns war crimes in Ukraine

4 April 2022

The Socialist International unreservedly condemns the massacre of civilians by Russian forces in Ukraine, the true scale of which was devastatingly laid bare over the last two days in the commuter town of Bucha, northwest of Kyiv. Since the Russian retreat from areas around Kyiv, concrete evidence has emerged of war crimes committed by invading forces during their advance on, occupation of and retreat from those areas. In Bucha, the bodies of unarmed Ukrainian civilians have been found in mass graves and in the streets, some with their hands bound, close gunshot wounds and evidence of torture. There can be no question that the most heinous crimes against humanity have been committed by the occupiers in Bucha and elsewhere in Ukraine.

Our entire International grieves with those who have lost loved ones during the Russian invasion. The most recent report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) records more than 1,400 civilian deaths in Ukraine since the start of the invasion, with the true total believed to be considerably higher. The majority of the casualties accounted for in the report were caused by missile and air strikes and shelling, and it does not include the deaths uncovered in Bucha over the weekend or numerous reported civilian casualties in locations where intense hostilities are ongoing. These are dark moments for humanity, and concrete and united action is needed as a matter of utmost urgency to prevent further atrocities and loss of life.

Tragically, the evidence of war crimes in Ukraine is by no means limited to the areas around Kyiv. Russian forces have repeatedly and systematically directed attacks against civilian populations, using explosive weapons with a high impact area against civilian targets, including the heartless bombing of a maternity hospital, theatre and art school in Mariupol in recent weeks. Ukrainians in occupied areas have been forcibly relocated to Russia and harrowing reports have come of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in areas under Russian control. Each of these acts constitutes a war crime.

There are no words strong enough to adequately condemn the actions of those who torture, rape and murder innocent and defenceless civilians. Each and every one of these crimes must be independently investigated, with those responsible held accountable and brought to justice. This accountability extends to those in the military chain of command who ordered and oversaw these actions; the ultimate responsibility for the death, destruction and suffering since the start of the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine lies with President Putin, who has under false pretences launched this unprovoked attack on a neighbouring country.

The Socialist International and its members have been deeply moved by the tragic and avoidable suffering of the Ukrainian people and once more offer their utmost sympathy and solidarity to all those who have suffered as a result of this illegal war. The international community must continue to stand firm against this criminal aggression

and pursue all available means to bring an end to the fighting and get humanitarian assistance to those who are in truly desperate need.

Socialist International SG attends the PAICV Congress in Cabo Verde

10 April 2022



President of the PS, Portugal and SI Vice-President, Carlos César, and SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, at the PAICV Congress in Cabo Verde

Meeting in Lisbon with the Socialist Party of Portugal

14 April 2022

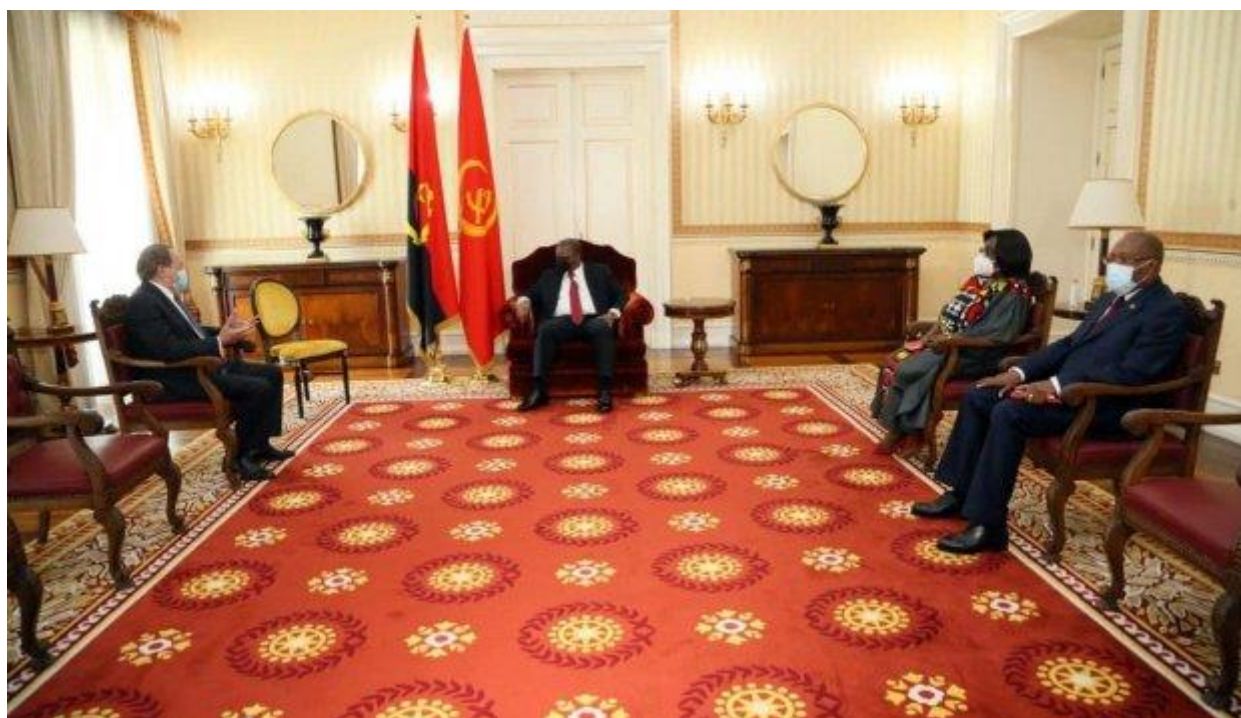
The National Secretary for International Relations, Jamila Madeira, received the Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, at the PS national headquarters. Issues relating to the Socialist International and the international political situation were addressed during discussions.



Photos : José António Rodrigues/PS

SI Secretary General in Angola

18 April 2022



His Excellency President João Lourenço of Angola receives Secretary-General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala

In support of justice for Atambayev in Kyrgyzstan

25 April 2022



April.kg, TV Channel, 25 April 2022

Несколько дней назад Кыргызстан посетил генеральный секретарь Социалистического Интернационала о Луис Айала. Он приехал на заседание по делу об октябрьских событиях 2020 года, навестил экс-президента Алмазбека Атамбаева в ИК №27 села Молдовановка, почтил память погибших в мемориальном комплексе "Ата-Бейит".

Socialist International Secretary General: We see lack of freedom and rights

24.kg, 25 April 2022

Hearing of the criminal case on the October 2020 riots continues in the Pervomaisky District Court of Bishkek. Farid Niyazov, ex-chief of the presidential staff, was brought to the court under escort. Former head of state Almazbek Atambayev was not brought to court. The Secretary General of the World Organization of Socialist and Social Democratic Parties (Socialist International) Luis Ayala is present at the trial today. He said that today he would visit the former president Almazbek Atambayev in the prison colony 27.



Socialist International Secretary General: 'We see deficit of human rights and freedoms in Kyrgyzstan with Atambaev's case as example'

AKI Press, 25 April 2022

"We follow the situation in Kyrgyzstan with deep concerns," Socialist International Secretary General Luis Ayala told reporters today. "Of course, we are concerned about fate of [ex-President] Atambaev. We follow the situation in Kyrgyzstan with deep concerns, since democracy needs fairness," he said. The Socialist International Secretary General said they see themselves as democrats, who fight for freedom and fairness all over the world.

*SI SG after having met President
Almazbek Atambayev in Prison,
with his son Khadyrbek Atambayev
(below)*



SI condemns attempted assassination in Guinea-Bissau

9 May 2022

The Socialist International has been following with concern the increasing political insecurity in Guinea-Bissau, and condemns unreservedly the assassination attempt on Agnelo Regala, a member of parliament and leader of opposition party the Union for Change, UM, which took place on Saturday 7 May.

Parties of the opposition in Guinea-Bissau, including the SI member party the PAIGC, have reported that they have received threats against themselves and their families. Such reports, along with fears from the opposition over the rise of a dictatorial regime in the country, are deeply concerning and we call on the government to ensure that democracy, freedom and the fundamental human rights enshrined in the constitution are thoroughly and consistently respected.

The SI calls on the government to lead an immediate enquiry to find and bring to justice the perpetrators in the case of Agnelo Regala, and in doing so reassure the people of Guinea-Bissau that such political intimidation and violence will never be tolerated.

The Socialist International has a long history of supporting the efforts of all those working to strengthen and advance our principles of democracy and social justice, along with peace, freedoms and rights, and will always continue to do so.

SI denounces further repression of the opposition in Turkey

13 May 2022

The SI strongly denounces the sentencing of Ms. Canan Kaftancıoğlu, Chair of Istanbul's branch of the Republican People's Party, CHP, a full member party of the Socialist International, to almost five years in prison and a ban on any further political work for a series of tweets she made during the mayoral political campaign in Istanbul in 2019. The CHP candidate, Ekrem İmamoğlu, won those elections, taking the post from the AKP, the party of president Erdogan, which had held the mayoral position for the previous 25 years.

Originally sentenced to ten years in prison after campaigning on behalf of the CHP, an appeal at the Court of Cassation has now reduced the sentence to four years and eleven months and she has been charged with 'insulting a public official', 'openly degrading the state of the Republic of Turkey' and 'insulting the president'.

The Socialist International condemns the Turkish government's attempt to silence the opposition in this way by fabricating such charges, as well as the entire trial process which has been unlawful and which goes against Canan Kaftancıoğlu's fundamental human right to free speech.

It is utterly unacceptable that the government is attempting to remove Canan Kaftancıoğlu from her political responsibilities, and it sets a grave precedent for the future of other opposition figures. The Socialist International has previously highlighted the mounting democratic erosion of Erdogan's government and now reiterates that the Turkish president must abide by and uphold the universal rules of law and democracy.

The SI calls for the immediate annulment of the charges against Canan Kaftancıoğlu and will continue to closely monitor her case and political developments in Turkey. The government's actions reflect the growing strength of the opposition, and the Socialist International stands with the will of the Turkish people who are demanding a fair, democratic and just society, where all human rights and freedoms are protected.

The SI reiterates urgent call for medical attention for Almazbek Atambayev

14 May 2022

The Socialist International is critically concerned for the health and well-being of the former president of Kyrgyzstan, Almazbek Atambayev, former leader of the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, SDPK, who has so far already served over one thousand days in prison.

On 31 March 2022 the SI made a public call for justice and for the protection of his health, and since then, the SI Secretary General visited President Atambayev in his cell in Kyrgyzstan and witnessed his startling decline in physical health.

The SI has appealed on a number of occasions to the government of Kyrgyzstan to ensure that the former president receives medical attention as a matter of the utmost urgency, but until this date, President Atambayev has received no medical care of any kind. The family of the former president, along with our global political family, is now gravely concerned for his life.

As the Socialist International has previously stated, the detention, trial and sentencing of Almazbek Atambayev have not been conducted in line with the Kyrgyz Code of Criminal Procedure, in stark contravention of international judicial norms and the legal and human rights of the defendant. President Atambayev has not had the opportunity to defend himself, and is now too ill to properly attend the ongoing trial personally. He has also been subject to mistreatment and abuse in prison, which has been corroborated by bruises found on his legs and arms by the National Center for the Prevention of Torture.

Medical attention for prisoners is a fundamental human right. Such essential care is recognised by the United Nations, of which Kyrgyzstan is a member, in the UN Human Rights Charter, in the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the General Assembly in 1990, which states that prisoners should have access to health services without discrimination.

The Socialist International once again calls on the government of Kyrgyzstan to uphold its duty and responsibility, as it has pledged to do as a member of the United Nations and in line with the fundamental pillars of a democratic society, protecting the rights of their citizens, to immediately facilitate urgent medical attention and care to President Atambayev. The Socialist International will actively continue to monitor this situation and will not cease in its efforts to seek justice for Almazbek Atambayev.

SI welcomes response to our call for medical attention for Almazbek Atambayev

25 May 2022



The Socialist International welcomes the response of the government of Kyrgyzstan to our call by finally facilitating medical care for former President Atambayev, former leader of SI member the Social Democratic Party of Kyrgyzstan, SDPK, who has served over one thousand days in prison and suffered grave ill health, as well as having been subjected to mistreatment and abuse whilst incarcerated.

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Luis Ayala, visited President Atambayev in his prison cell in April and witnessed his startling decline in health. The Secretary General has, since then, been calling on the Kyrgyz authorities for urgent medical attention for the former president, as is his fundamental human right.

The SI welcomes the news that President Almazbek Atambayev has now been moved to the National Cardiology Center for medical examination and treatment, and insists that he stay hospitalised for thorough and ongoing treatment.

The Socialist International reiterates that the detention, trial and sentencing of President Almazbek Atambayev violates the Kyrgyz Code of Criminal Procedure and breaches international judicial norms and the legal and human rights of the defendant.

The Socialist International extends its best wishes to the former president, and his family, for a full recovery back to health.

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, La Romana, Dominican Republic

3-4 June 2022



Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean convened in La Romana, Dominican Republic, on 3-4 June, 2022.

At the opening of the meeting, the leader of the host party (PRD), Chair of the Committee and a Vice-President of the SI, Miguel Vargas, addressed delegates and thanked them for their presence at the meeting. He emphasised his satisfaction at resuming the face-to-

face activities of the organisation after more than two years marked by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, and highlighted the constant effort of the SI Secretariat during this time allowing us to continue meeting regularly by electronic means to give a timely response to the challenges that have marked this period. The social democratic family, he pointed out, must now think about its priorities for the agenda that will characterise the post-pandemic stage. The topics proposed for this meeting – the economy, migration and citizen security - are undoubtedly the most significant challenges facing the region today. Covid19 brought to light the fragility of many of the advances that had been made in recent years in our countries, which today face scenarios marked by social and economic setbacks, increased poverty and inequalities. These realities constitute threats to our democracies, many of which are experiencing social unrest and advances in populist and authoritarian trends. Vargas reiterated that the commitment of our political family must always be to democracy and the fight against the lack of opportunities and the exclusion of important sectors of our peoples. Promoting recovery processes in employment and the economy that coordinate public and private initiatives and emphasise social justice continues to be an imperative of our movement today, he stressed. He concluded his words of welcome by calling for unity and solidarity between the different social democratic forces in the region.

Luis Ayala, SI Secretary General, thanked the PRD for its hospitality and constant support for the organisation. He recalled that it was in the Dominican Republic more than three decades ago, where this Committee was formed under the influence and determined will of its leader at the time, José Francisco Peña Gómez, with his commitment to democracy, freedom and the solidarity of the progressive political forces of the region. Today, Ayala emphasised that Peña's legacy continues with strength in the figure of Miguel Vargas, highlighting his commitment to the SI and his valuable contribution to Dominican politics. He expressed his confidence that the PRD and its president will continue to be the voice of the progressive forces in national politics and noted the support of the entire social democratic political family in this regard. Luis Ayala stressed that although we are in difficult times due to the pandemic, the conflict in Ukraine and its effects on the global economy, the SI remains active and mobilised to respond to various challenges. As an example, he recalls some recent actions of the SI, such as the organisation's sanction of the Just Russia party for not having made a determined commitment to peace; calls for human rights where they have been violated; the denunciation of coups in African nations such as Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali, among others. These are times when the commitment of the movement and its members to social democratic values and global challenges has been reaffirmed and will continue. At the SI World Council to be held in Geneva in just over a month, we will review applications received in recent years from more than 45 parties around the world that want to be part of the SI, a good sign that the daily work of our political forces is recognised and valued at a global level, concluded the Secretary General, who in closing took the opportunity to once again welcome all the delegates and wish for two days of fruitful debate.

After the inaugural speeches and a press conference in which the Secretary General and the Vice-Presidents of the SI present at the meeting participated -Miguel Vargas (PRD,

Dominican Republic), Kattia Rivera (PLN, Costa Rica), Víctor Benoit (RSD, Haiti) and Rafael Michelini (NE, Uruguay) - the delegates began their review of the proposed agenda: Priorities in the new post-pandemic scenario: Challenges and proposals for the region; working to strengthen democracy and end populism and authoritarianism in Latin America and the Caribbean; for a fair, regulated and humane migration policy on the continent; and towards the construction of a citizen security model based on our social democratic vision to confront the growing crime in Latin America.

In their speeches, the delegates addressed the different topics on the agenda with a regional perspective, as well as reconciling it with recent political developments in their nations.

The delegates from Chile, Marco Antonio Núñez, Claudio Vásquez (PPD) and Ricardo Navarrete (PR), shared with the Committee the progress of the constitutional process underway in the country and the first three months of the government of President Boric, who has sought to broaden its base of support with the SI member parties. The Vice-President of the SI and leader of the New Space Party of Uruguay, Rafael Michelini, shared the steps that the Frente Amplio, today in opposition, has been taking to strengthen its presence in Uruguayan society and to be able to look with renewed confidence at the future elections due to be held in two years. The delegates of the PNP of Jamaica, Horace Dalley and Janice Allen, expressed their joy at reuniting with the region's members of this political family, whom they had not seen since the Montego Bay Committee meeting at the end of 2019, and said that their party seeks to respond to the economic and social crises provoked by the pandemic with progressive formulas. Dalley commented that democracy in the '70s had come up against aggression and ignorance in practically the entire continent but flourished again, and they were confident that in the face of the new onslaughts of populism and authoritarianism, social democracy will once again react energetically and be strengthened. Dalley also pointed to insecurity as a very central challenge for the entire region. José Inés Castillo (UNE, Guatemala), intervened in the same sense: to work tirelessly for the most dispossessed in our countries. He also informed the members of the Committee that the leader of his party and Vice-President of the SI, Sandra Torres, is in a good position in the Guatemalan polls for the 2023 elections and expressed his hope that this time her candidacy will not be hit by illegitimate judicial or administrative constraints.

José Murat (PRI, Mexico) brought greetings from the leader of his party and Vice-President of the SI, Alejandro Moreno, and contributed to the debate by emphasizing that the economic deterioration and the living conditions of our peoples explain to a great extent the populist and authoritarian trends, migration and insecurity. Delegates Sandra Noriega and José Castillo (PRD, Panama) recalled that in the face of conflicts such as the one Ukraine is experiencing today, it is appropriate to once again highlight the commitment of the social democratic forces to peace, multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Regarding migration, they pointed out that their country, like others in the area, is not a nation of origin or destination, but fundamentally a nation of transit; distinguishing between these three conditions is relevant for the clarity of the debate, they noted, as well as addressing both regionally and sub-regionally -as Panama

does in the PARLACEN- crimes related to migration. Finally, they informed the Committee that the PRD is preparing with great force to obtain the best electoral result in 2024. The delegate of the Dominican PRD, Juan Carlos Guerra, shared with the attendees his reflections on the migratory phenomenon, among which he highlighted the co-responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination and the phenomenon of growing intra-regional migration since 2010.

The representatives of the two member parties in Haiti, Chantal Ociel (RSD) and Mozart Clerisson (Social Democratic Fusion), expressed that their country continues to be strongly aware of the migratory phenomenon and the degradation of the living conditions of its population. For his part, the leader of the RSD party and Vice-President of the Socialist International, Victor Benoit, in his remarks highlighted Haiti's persistent institutional weakness and the seriousness of the worrying increase in the phenomenon of insecurity and crime: in Haiti, some strongly organised gangs, that are armed and often have an understanding with the authorities, control important territories and operate in strategic locations for the territorial unity of the country. Marcelo García (UCR, Argentina) highlighted that in Argentina living conditions have also deteriorated considerably, despite the fact that during the last two years the country's exports have increased by 45%, however these resources were largely spent by the government on subsidies. The UCR today, as an opposition party, is committed to maintaining a democratic government, with the separation of powers and with the strengthening of the mechanisms of supervision and management control. At the same time, he said, the party around the Alem Foundation is advancing in a process of reflection and reactivation, with a view to recovering Santa Fe's relevance in future regional elections.

The leader of the PLN of Costa Rica and Vice-President of the SI, Kattia Rivera, reflected on four priorities for the social democratic parties of the region: recovering the trust of our peoples with transparency and accountability; achieving a more efficient and effective State that promotes where appropriate the synergy between the public and the private; promoting an economic reactivation with social equity and a gender approach; working for robust, inclusive educational systems that fulfil their role as an essential tool for human development, promoting, among other things, the consecration of connectivity as an essential human right to close gaps and inequalities; and ensuring environmental respect. The delegates from Venezuela, Mauricio Poler (AD) and Carlos Valero (UNT), recalled that there are more than 6 million Venezuelans who currently live outside their country, so migration represents a major challenge for them. They updated the members on the dollarization of the Venezuelan economy, which in their opinion is far from producing the phenomenon of the beginning of the economic recovery announced by the Nicolás Maduro regime, a very marginal improvement for a nation that has known the destruction of over 75% of GDP. They also highlighted the problems some opposition political parties are going through due to an attempt at official control, in response to which they proposed a declaration by the Committee. Finally, they expressed their confidence that the negotiation process being carried out in Mexico under Norwegian auspices is an initiative to be supported for progress in overcoming the country's crisis.

Miguelina Vecchio (PDT, Brazil), spoke on the issue of democracy, emphasising how it is rapidly deteriorating with the emergence of populist leaderships such as the one that her country is living today with Jair Bolsonaro. She recalled that although the Lula government made great progress in lifting more than 45 million people out of poverty, it was also left with significant debts in matters as important for the country as agrarian reform. She concluded by pointing out that the upcoming presidential elections in her country are being presented in polarised terms between the figures of Bolsonaro and Lula, but that the PDT has confidence in the experience and proposal of Ciro Gomes, their candidate. Miguel Ángel Sánchez (PLC, Colombia) explained to the Committee that with a view to the presidential elections, of which the second round will take place in two weeks, the PLC has decided not to support the candidate Gustavo Petro; he appreciates the Committee's openness to understand this situation and try to learn in depth about the internal politics of the country with the tolerance and respect that characterise democratic socialism.

The first day of work concluded with the interventions of Luis Ernesto Camilo and Janet Camilo (PRD, Dominican Republic): the first made a call to strengthen the institutional framework in the face of the proliferation in our countries of symptoms of what he called inorganic democracies, such as constitutional amendments to the charter, increase in public debt, use of the judiciary, constitutional judges and control bodies by the authority, management of the media, among others. For her part, Janet Camilo urged us to strengthen our political parties and actively work to regain the trust of the electorate to allow the social democratic forces to be in the governments of the nations of the region.

During its second day of work, the Committee listened to Fernando Martín (PIP, Puerto Rico), who urged delegates to support a declaration for the self-determination and independence of his country; and the president of the Bolivian UN party, Rita Elizabeth Reyes, who asked the delegates to adopt a decision in favour of judicial independence and the legitimate protection of freedom in political action without threats or judicial or administrative sanctions motivated by political persecution, as in the case of her country or Guatemala, among other nations in the region.

Having reviewed its agenda and discussed the political situations in the different countries of the region in light of its main themes, the Committee concluded its meeting with the adoption of six resolutions: Declaration of La Romana, Declaration on Judicial Independence, Declaration on Venezuela, Declaration on Haiti, Declaration on Uruguay and Declaration on Puerto Rico.

The Committee reserved a moment between its exchanges and debates to hear from the president of the PLN of Costa Rica and of NE of Uruguay, Kattia Rivera and Rafael Michellini respectively, both vice-presidents of the SI, who expressed words of tribute, admiration and affectionate memory for Bernal Jiménez, a Costa Rican public figure, leader of his PLN party, a very active and beloved vice-president of the SI, who recently passed away. The Committee observed a minute of silence in his memory.

Before concluding the meeting, the Chair of the Committee, Miguel Vargas, and the SI Secretary General, Luis Ayala, reiterated their satisfaction with the participation of the delegates, the quality of the debates and the resolutions agreed upon at the meeting, and expressed their confidence that Latin America and the Caribbean will have a significant presence of parties and an up-to-date and clear position on the main challenges in the region at the SI World Council to be held in Geneva on July 7 and 8, 2022.

Declarations, Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, La Romana, Dominican Republic
3-4 June 2022

Declaration of La Romana

Original: Spanish

The Socialist International Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in La Romana, Dominican Republic, on June 3-4, 2022, declares:

The Covid19 pandemic which has hit the entire planet since the first months of 2020, presents difficulties and challenges that should guide the social democratic priorities for the region in the construction of a post-pandemic scenario.

With regard to health, the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean must continue advancing in the reform, modernization and strengthening of their health systems. Coordinated efforts between the public and private sectors are needed to ensure access to vaccines and medicines, as well as timely and universal hospital coverage. Likewise, the pandemic has highlighted the need to strengthen the instances of multilateral cooperation and regional coordination to successfully face challenges of this magnitude.

The economic and social consequences of the pandemic have been very harsh for the region, with negative results in terms of employment, poverty and deep inequality. More recently, the conflict in Ukraine has meant a global increase in the price of food, energy and raw materials that has raised the cost of living in our countries and aggravated the crisis that the region is going through.

Democracy and its institutions have been challenged by populist and authoritarian proposals that promote simplistic and insufficient responses with the uncertain promise of quickly recovering a path of security and well-being in our countries. Blaming corruption and delinquency for today's problems has become commonplace in many of our nations and has won favour with the electorate in various recent polls. The Committee considers that these types of political proposals are negative, they often manipulate social discontent using disinformation or directly spreading false news. The social democratic response involves strengthening democracy and maintaining the trust of the people with programmes and public policies that promote economic recovery, with a hallmark of solidarity, of inclusion and social protection and of environmental justice.

Migration is a phenomenon that has also worsened with the deterioration of economic and political conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Committee underlines its commitment to migration policies that are regulated, orderly, safe and respectful of the human rights of migrants. The Committee recalls that migrants constitute an

important factor for development in many of the countries of destination and an important source of economic remittances to their countries of origin. International coordination and addressing the phenomenon with a focus on co-responsibility between nations of origin, transit and final destination are aspects that the Committee considers essential to take into account in the formulation of progressive migration policies.

Finally, the Committee expresses that citizen security today represents another of the great challenges of the social democratic agenda in the region. The increase in crime has a direct relationship, although it is not its only cause, with the increase in poverty and exclusion. The Committee emphasises that the social democratic approach to responding to the population's legitimate demands for security must intelligently and appropriately reconcile preventive measures, such as the creation of job opportunities and the construction of more integrated societies, with efficient and professional methods to combat crime. In this sense, the Committee stressed that modern technologies today constitute a tool that can be decisive for the prevention and punishment of crime. The Committee concludes that the justice systems, the police forces and all the actors involved in matters of public security, must live up to the task incumbent on them to give peace of mind to our peoples within the framework of full respect for the fundamental rights of all.

Declaration on Haiti

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its meeting in La Romana, heard from its member parties in Haiti about recent developments in the situation in that country.

The economic, social and institutional crisis that is afflicting Haiti continues to be of concern to the SI member parties of all the countries in the region.

The Committee reiterates its call to the international community, particularly to multilateral organizations and to the United States, France, Canada, and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to support Haiti and act as promoters in building a broad consensus among the various social and political actors of the country with a view to its stabilization, security and overcoming of the crisis, in order to enable the social and economic reconstruction that would take Haiti along the path of development.

Declaration on Judicial Independence

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its meeting in La Romana, took note of recent developments in the judicial and administrative processes to which political leaders from different countries in the region have been subjected. The situations of Bolivia and Guatemala, among others, were addressed.

The Committee reiterates its call for the countries of the region to have independent judicial powers that carry out their important functions with full adherence to the guarantees of due process and the fundamental rights of all people.

The Committee condemns any attempt or misuse of judicial powers, with the aim of hindering candidacies, restricting rights or generally threatening the course of political activities in our countries. Likewise, the Committee expresses its solidarity with those who have been sentenced for this type of cause and calls for the review of unjustly imposed sanctions and the cessation of all persecution.

Declaration on Puerto Rico

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, at its meeting in La Romana, reiterates its historical recognition of Puerto Rico as a Latin American and Caribbean nation, and expresses its solidarity with the repeated resolutions adopted by the Special Committee on Decolonization of the United Nations whereby a call is made to the government of the United States to take the necessary measures so that the people of Puerto Rico can fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

Declaration on Uruguay

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean congratulates the Uruguayan people for resolving their disputes peacefully and highlights the work of the National Commission for the SI (Pink Ballot) for:

1. Achieving almost 800,000 signatures, 30% of the electoral roll, achieved one by one, including "the fingerprint of the right thumb", among other demands in the midst of a pandemic, until reaching the objective of calling for citizen consultation;
2. For the extraordinary vote achieved in the referendum on March 27, very close to achieving victory.

Although the objective of annulling the 135 most negative articles of the Law of Urgent Consideration (LUC) that affected, among other things, the right to strike was not achieved, the popular pronouncement marked the following: 1.- that this type of law is not one you can vote on without a real and deep discussion and even less so in a pandemic; 2.- That there will be no more Laws of Urgent Consideration on more than 40 different themes all together, many of them without any type of urgency, since the attitude of the Uruguayan people, summoned by that citizen movement, does not tolerate it anymore.

It is clear, in view of the Uruguayan experience, that the struggles for principles must be carried out without prejudging the final result.

Declaration on Venezuela

Original: Spanish

The SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, meeting in the Dominican Republic on 3-4 June, 2022,

Considering:

As the Maduro regime has not been able to exercise control over the main Venezuelan opposition political parties, in the course of 2020 it used its Supreme Court of Justice (TSJ) to issue sentences whereby it imposed on three of the largest political parties of the opposition, that is AD, PJ and VP, political leaderships made up of former militants of those organizations to whom they handed over the representation, symbols and headquarters of the said parties. In the specific case of the AD party, they handed over control to a former member of the party, who is today at the full service of the Venezuelan regime.

This situation was denounced by the SI on July 8, 2020, declaring its rejection and condemnation of these new actions by Maduro to eliminate opposition political parties.

Resolves:

FIRSTLY: To disregard the illegitimate authorities imposed by the Venezuelan regime on the Democratic Action (AD), Justice First (PJ) and Popular Will (VP) political parties, as well as to disregard the electoral events that they may carry out.

SECONDLY: To ask the member parties of the Socialist International not to recognize these spurious representatives of AD, PJ and VP in the service of the regime, who are making representations to various international organizations and political parties with the aim of being recognised as the legitimate authorities of the parties fraudulently acquired.

SI SG present in Maputo, Mozambique for 60th anniversary of Frelimo

25 June 2022



His Excellency President
Filipe Nyusi of
Mozambique receives the
Secretary General of the
Socialist International, Luis
Ayala

In Memoriam



Antoine Gizenga
1925 – 2019

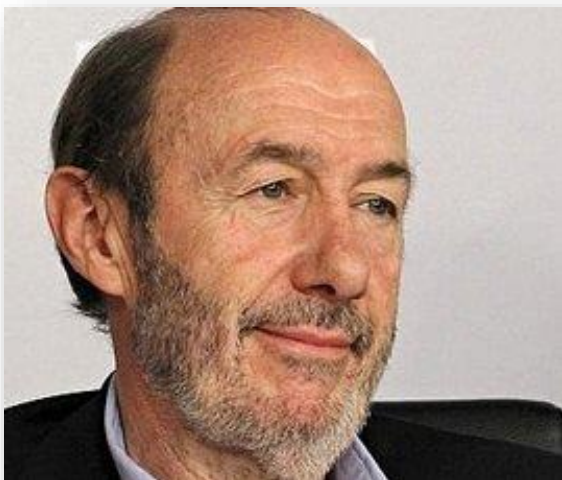
*Secretary General of United
Lumumbist Party, PALU former
Prime Minister of DR Congo*



Alan García
1949-2019

*Former President of Peru and
former leader of the Peruvian
Aprista Party, APRA*

SI Honorary President



Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba
1951-2019

*Former leader of the Spanish
Socialist Workers' Party, PSOE*

SI Vice-President



Ousmane Tanor Dieng
1947-2019

*Former leader of the Socialist
Party of Senegal*

SI Vice-President



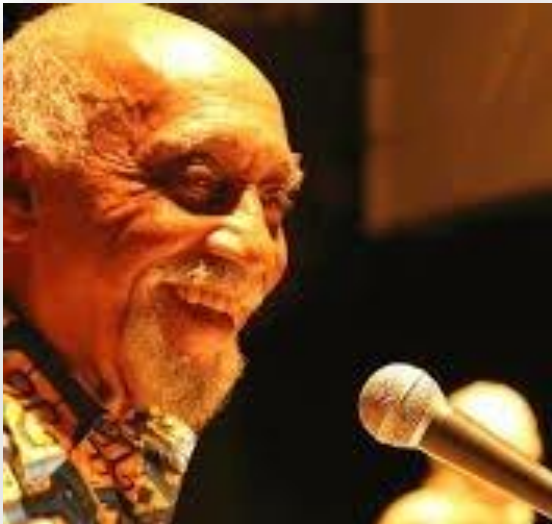
Dolores Renau
1936 - 2019

*Former President of the
Socialist International
Women, Spain*



Maarit Feldt-Ranta
1968 - 2019

*Former Vice-Chair and
Secretary General of the
Social Democratic Party of
Finland*



**Marcelino dos Santos
1929-2020**

***Founding member of Frente de
Libertação de Moçambique,
FRELIMO, and former President
of the People's Assembly of
Mozambique***



**Abderrahmane Youssoufi
1924 - 2020**

***Former Prime Minister of
Morocco, former First
Secretary of the Socialist
Union for Popular Forces,
USFP***

SI Vice-President



**Lugi Gizenga
1965 - 2020**

***Former Secretary General of
the United Lumumbist Party,
PALU, DR Congo***



Pentti Väänänen
1945 – 2020

***Socialist International
Secretary General 1983-1989,
Finland***



John Hume
1937 – 2020

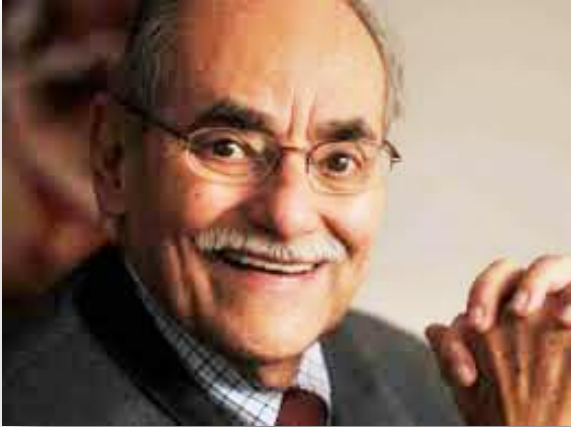
***Founding member and former leader
of the Social democratic and Labour
Party, SDLP***

***Key architect of the Northern Ireland
peace process, Nobel Peace Prize
winner***



Jan Sithole
1953 – 2020

***Former Member of Parliament
for Manzini North, Eswatini, and
President of the Swaziland
Democratic Party, SWADEPA***



Horacio Serpa
1943 - 2020

***Former leader of the Liberal
Party of Colombia***

***SI Vice-President and SI
Honorary President***



Saeb Erekat
1955 - 2020

***International peace negotiator
for Palestine, Secretary of the
Executive Committee of the
Palestine Liberation
Organization, member of the
Fatah Central Committee***



Serge Gilles
1936 - 2021

***Founder of the Union of
Haitian Social Democrats,
Fusion***



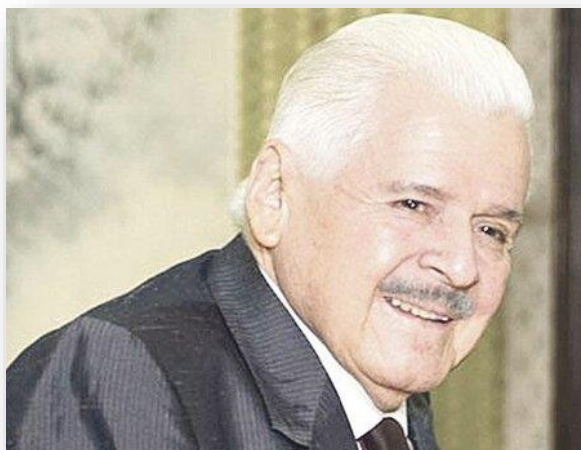
Jorge Sampaio
1939 – 2021

***Former President of Portugal and
former Secretary General of the
Socialist Party, PS, Portugal***



Vassos Lyssarides
1920-2021

***Founder of the Movement of
Social Democrats, EDEK, Cyprus***



Bernal Jiménez Monge
1930-2021

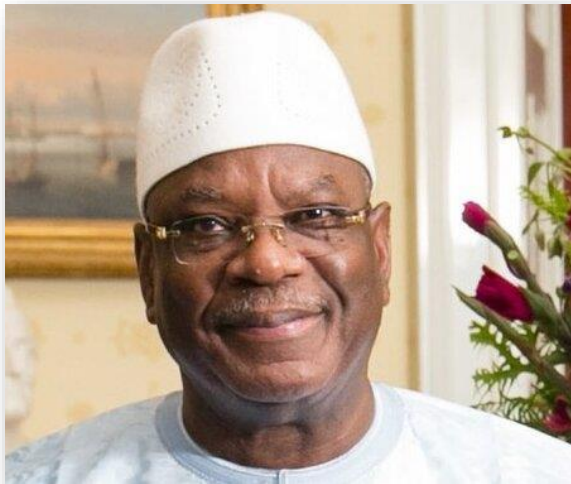
***Former President of the
National Liberation Party, PLN,
Costa Rica***

SI Vice-President



Fofi Gennimata
1964 - 2021

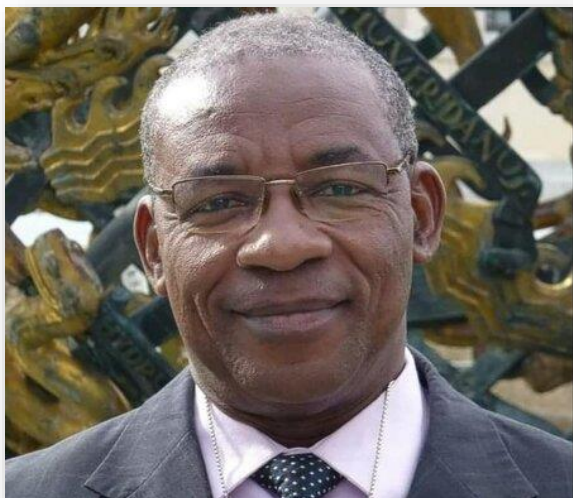
Former leader of the Movement for Change, KINAL, and the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement, PASOK



Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
1945 - 2022

Former President of Mali, former Prime Minister, a former leader of Rally for Mali, RPM, a former leader of the Alliance for Democracy in Mali, ADEMA-PASJ

SI Vice-President



Wenceslao Mansogo Alo
1955-2022

Member of the leadership of the Convergence for Social Democracy, CPDS, Equatorial Guinea

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

from the Santo Domingo Council in January 2019 to the Geneva Council in July 2022

2019

JANUARY

Meeting with SI President in Athens, Greece

Meetings of the SI Ethics and Finance Committees, and of the SI Presidium, Dominican Republic

Meeting of the SI Council in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Meeting of the SIW Council in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

FEBRUARY

Mission to Venezuela

In Memoriam for Antoine Gizenga, DR Congo

MARCH

Participation in event organised by the PSOE (Gala Afrosocialista), Spain

SI marks International Women's Day

SI condemns despicable terrorist attack in Christchurch

SI in solidarity with the victims of Cyclone Idai

The world social democratic movement demands the release of Roberto Marrero in Venezuela

President Trump's decision on the Golan Heights

Participation in Congress of the PSI in Rome, Italy

APRIL

Attendance at 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Doha, Qatar

Meeting of SI parliamentarians, Doha, Qatar

SI statement on the death penalty: In reference to Brunei and 54 other countries

SI calls for respect for the democratic process, Istanbul

Belarus and Equatorial Guinea: A call for urgent action in two continents

Visit to SDP headquarters, Finland, for elections

An election win for Finland

In Memoriam for Alan García, Peru

SI mourns terror victims in Sri Lanka

Release of Mikalai Statkevich and Andrés Esono Ondo

Participation in Congress of the RSD in Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Meetings with SI Haitian member parties, Haiti

Visit to the PSOE headquarters, Madrid, Spain, for elections

Socialists win in Spain

MAY

Observation of the general election, Panama

Election victory in Panama

In Memoriam for Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba, Spain

The National Assembly, the only legitimate institution of the Venezuelan State, under authoritarian assault

Meetings with the PRD, Dominican Republic

Meetings in Helsinki, Finland with SDP and the Finnish SI Vice-President

Meeting with management of the ISSG which houses SI archives, Amsterdam, Netherlands

JUNE

Civilian rule and democracy for Sudan

Istanbul: SI calls for respect for democracy

Meetings in Tel Aviv with SI members and Israeli SI Vice-President, Israel

Meetings in Ramallah, Palestine, with SI member parties, with Palestinian SI Vice-President, and with the Prime Minister

Meetings, Washington

Meeting with the Chair of SICLAC, Dominican Republic

JULY

Participation in the Symi Symposium in Crete, Greece

In Memoriam for Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Senegal

Funeral of Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Senegal

Meetings in Dakar, Senegal, with the President and Foreign Minister

SI Meeting in Ramallah, Palestine

SI Meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel

AUGUST

Meetings with party representatives, Chile

Meeting at the State Department with Elliott Abrams, Washington, USA

In Memoriam for Dolores Renau, Spain

SEPTEMBER

Meetings in Rome, Italy

Attendance at UN Climate Summit, New York

Meeting of the SI Presidium and Heads of State and Government at the United Nations, New York, during the high-level segment of the UN General Assembly

OCTOBER

Deep concern for stability and human rights in north-eastern Syria

Attendance at the 141st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Belgrade, Serbia

Meeting of SI parliamentarians, Belgrade, Serbia

Meeting with leadership of the SDPS, Serbia

Meeting with HE Mahamadou Issoufou, President of Niger

SI SG attends regional SIW meeting in Niger, hosted by the PNDS-Tarayya

“Women’s participation in Decision-Making Process – the challenges for a 50/50 World”

NOVEMBER

Meeting of the SI Committee for the CIS, Caucasus and Black Sea in Minsk, Belarus

Attendance at general elections, Spain

Meeting of the SI Africa Committee in Praia, Cape Verde
US Declaration on Israeli settlements an obstacle to peace
In Memoriam for Maarit Feldt-Ranta, Finland
Participation in Congress of the DPS in Podgorica, Montenegro

DECEMBER

SI at the COP25 in Madrid, Spain
SI calls for increased ambition and immediate action on the climate emergency
Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (SICLAC) in Montego Bay, Jamaica

2020

JANUARY

Meetings with SI members, Chile
For the restoration of democratic order in Venezuela
Mission to Kyrgyzstan: Meetings with the President of the Republic, the speaker of the Parliament, parliamentary leaders and officials of the SDPK
SI commemorates International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Trump and Netanyahu have not proposed peace
Colloque Pierre Mauroy at the Senate in Paris, France

FEBRUARY

Attendance at Congress of the PAICV, Cabo Verde
In Memoriam for Marcelino dos Santos, Mozambique
Meeting with Chilean representatives in London, UK
Meeting with Kyrgyzstan Ambassador to London, UK
SI delegation to observe municipal elections in the Dominican Republic
Meeting with representative from Denmark
Attendance at homage to Ousmane Tanor Dieng, Senegal
Meeting with Secretary General of Finnish Social Democratic Party

MARCH

Conference organised by the Colosio Foundation in Mexico
SI marks International Women's Day
SI Delegation to observe second municipal elections in the Dominican Republic

APRIL

A time for true solidarity – SI statement on the Covid19 pandemic
COVID19: Views and updates 2020 - 2021
SI observes 50th anniversary of Earth Day

MAY

SI on the new coalition government in Israel
Venezuela, a concern for all democrats

In Memoriam for Abderrahmane Youssoufi, Morocco

JUNE

In Memoriam for Lugi Gizenga, DR Congo

SI denounces arrest of Mikalai Statkevich in Belarus

SI declares No! to all forms of racism and discrimination

SI on Venezuela - Democracy and its actors - enemies of Maduro

SI renews its call for international rejection of Israeli annexation and to support the two-state solution

SI protests against increased persecution of SI members and opposition in Belarus

JULY

SI calls for the immediate release of Mikalai Statkevich

SI rejects and condemns new steps by Maduro to eliminate opposition political parties

SI marks 25th anniversary of Srebrenica

In Memoriam for Pentti Väänänen, Finland

USA, Milwaukee - Virtual attendance at the Democratic National Convention

AUGUST

In Memoriam for John Hume, Northern Ireland

Solidarity with Beirut and the people of Lebanon

Belarus: SI rejects announced election results and condemns police violence

SI condemns military coup in Mali

SI on SDP election of Sanna Marin in Finland

SEPTEMBER

In Memoriam for Jan Sithole, Eswatini

SI on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations

SI calls for immediate ceasefire over Nagorno-Karabakh

OCTOBER

Deep concern over assassinations of political, social and human rights workers in Colombia

Virtual Meeting of the SI Presidium

SI honours the founding day of the United Nations, 24 October 1945

SI declaration on the plebiscite in Chile

SI on Escalating tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean

In Memoriam for Horacio Serpa, Colombia

NOVEMBER

A welcome victory for Biden in the USA

In Memoriam for Saeb Erekat, Palestine

Solidarity with Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu and the CHP in Turkey

SI marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

SI statement: Victory for President Kaboré in Burkina Faso

DECEMBER

SI calls for release of CDPA leader in Togo

Virtual Meeting of the SI Committee for the CIS, the Caucasus and the Black Sea

SI denounces illegitimate elections in Venezuela

Virtual Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

SI calls for respect of the democratic process and election results in Romania

The SI protests the sentencing of Loujain al Hathloul in Saudi Arabia

2021

JANUARY 2021

Work with SI Vice-President Sandra Torres in pursuit of her freedom

SI deplores assault on democracy in the US

A new horizon in the United States

Djibouti, a country neither free nor democratic

SI call to respect democracy in Kosovo

SI denounces the arrest of one of the main opposition leaders in Paraguay

FEBRUARY

SI condemns military coup in Myanmar

In Memoriam for Serge Gilles, Haiti

In defence of democracy in Haiti

A Just Russia Party Congress – via video

SI welcomes Mohamed Bazoum's election as President of Niger

MARCH

SI marks International Women's Day

In Memoriam for Bernal Jiménez, Costa Rica

Turkey's withdrawal from Istanbul Convention

SI calls to uphold democracy in Turkey

Preserving the constitutional order in Bolivia

APRIL

Myanmar - urgent action by the international community is needed

Social democracy delivering in Niger

In Guatemala the case against Sandra Torres is political persecution

In Memoriam for Vassos Lyssarides, Cyprus

SI in Solidarity with the people of India

Defending democracy and the constitution in Mongolia

Participation in SIW online Council meeting

MAY

Virtual meeting of the SI Kurdish working group

El Salvador: democracy requires control of the exercise of power

Solidarity with Colombia

SI calls for end to deadly violence between Israel and Palestine

Lukashenko's tyranny intensifies persecution of social democrats and pro-democracy leaders

Virtual meeting of IPU Assembly

SI condemns second coup in Mali in nine months

JUNE

Pursuit of international support for Mikalai Statkevich ahead of his trial on 24 June

SI SG meeting with the PRI, Mexico

Virtual meeting of the SI Africa Committee

Grave concern at the deterioration of the political situation in Nicaragua

Impending trial of Mikalai Statkevich in Belarus

Statkevich and other political prisoners at closed trial in jail

JULY

SI condemns assassination of President Moïse in Haiti

SI statement in protest at arrest of Freddy Guevara in Caracas

SI attention to situation in Tunisia

SI on the situation in Cuba

AUGUST

SI speaks out over the assassination of a member of the KDP-Iran

Meeting with the Chair of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

Statement on solidarity with the people of Afghanistan

SEPTEMBER

Meetings in Washington

SI condemns military coup in Guinea

In Memoriam for Jorge Sampaio, Portugal

OCTOBER

Meeting in Mexico of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean

Attendance at the PSOE Congress in Valencia

Meeting with new International Secretary of the PSOE, Madrid, Spain

Nicaragua a contemporary victim of absolute power

In Memoriam for Fofi Gennimata, Greece

NOVEMBER

Urgent call to support the people of Myanmar

Lukashenko resumes closed trial of Statkevich and other political prisoners in Belarus

COP26 – The Challenge of saving our planet

SI presence at COP26 in Glasgow

SI declaration on COP26: Despite progress, threat of catastrophic climate change remains unacceptably high

SI presence at general elections in Chile

SI marks International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
Attendance at 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Madrid, Spain
Meeting of SI parliamentarians in Madrid
SI marks International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people

DECEMBER

Mikalai Statkevich imminent sentencing in Belarus
SI protests as Mikalai Statkevich is sentenced to 14 years in prison
SI presence at second round of presidential elections in Chile
The SI congratulations to Gabriel Boric and the Chilean people on the election results of Sunday 19 December 2021

2022

JANUARY

Meetings with the PRD in the Dominican Republic
SI condemns violence in Kazakhstan
SI calls for swift restoration of democracy in Mali – SG in contact with Chair of the SI Africa Committee
Meeting with PSOE, Madrid
SI SG video message for USFP Congress, Morocco
In Memoriam for Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Mali
SI demands release of President Kaboré in Burkina Faso

FEBRUARY

Meetings in San José, Costa Rica
SI observes legislative and first round of presidential elections in Costa Rica
Meeting with PSOE, Madrid, Spain
Virtual meeting of the SI Presidium regarding Ukraine and global security
Meeting with Ambassador of Azerbaijan, London
The integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine must be respected
SI condemns Russian invasion of Ukraine
Meeting with delegation from the PNP, Jamaica, in London

MARCH

Meeting with representatives from DRC, Brussels, Belgium
SI SG message for the Congress of the PAIGC, Guinea Bissau
SI SG video message for the 40th anniversary of UNT, Venezuela
SI welcomed to the inauguration of President Boric in Chile
Decision regarding membership of A Just Russia-Patriots-For the Truth Party
SI celebrates International Women's Day
SI expresses deep concern for the welfare of Almazbek Atambayev

APRIL

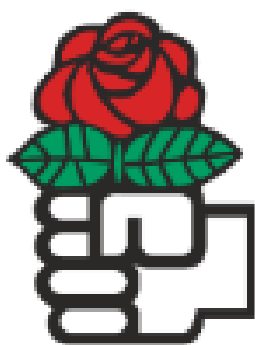
SI observes second round of presidential elections, Costa Rica
SI condemns war crimes in Ukraine
SI SG at the Congress of the PAICV, Cabo Verde
Meeting with the President of Cabo Verde, José Maria Neves
Meeting at PS Portugal headquarters with Jamila Madeira
Meeting with HE President of Angola, João Lourenço
Meetings with MPLA, Angola
SI message to Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu regarding electricity cut in Turkey
In Memoriam for Wenceslao Mansogo Alo, Equatorial Guinea
SI SG visit to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, meetings with SDPK
Attendance at Court hearing for Almazbek Atambayev Court, Kyrgyzstan
Visit to Almazbek Atambayev in prison, Kyrgyzstan
Attendance at the 130th anniversary event for the PSI, Genoa, Italy

MAY

SI condemns attempted assassination in Guinea-Bissau
SI denounces further repression of the opposition in Turkey
The SI reiterates urgent call for medical attention for Almazbek Atambayev
SI welcomes response to our call for medical attention for Almazbek Atambayev

JUNE

Meeting of the SI Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
SI SG present in Maputo, Mozambique for 60th anniversary of Frelimo



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