

# WORLD YOUTH

World Federation of Democratic Youth's Magazine



**60 years  
of NATO:**

**60 years  
of imperialist crimes**



Pg 12

**All about  
the 50  
years of  
the Cuban  
Revolution**



AÑO 50 DEL TRIUNFO DE LA REVOLUCIÓN

Pg 13

**& much  
much  
more  
inside!**



# Welcome to WFDY Magazine - World Youth! **Editorial**

World Youth is back!! The World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) resumes the publishing of its magazine after several years of stopping due to past financial and logistic problems. Now World Youth is back as one more element of the anti-imperialist struggle.

In this historical moment when imperialism escalates its aggressions militarily and ideologically, and at the same time faces crisis of its own creation, it becomes more and more necessary to enforce our struggles and diversify its tools. World Youth is here to express and reveal some of the actions and plans of WFDY and its member organizations so that more young people get introduced to WFDY and to the anti-imperialist movement, and also to thousands of people around the world understand the contexts of different struggles and different situations in other countries.

Palestine remains as one of the most important issues to discuss and to struggle for, thus WFDY dedicates many of its solidarity events and mission as well as statements to this cause. The last war on Gaza was another crime against humanity by all legal and humanitarian measures, yet Israel remains protected and sponsored by the imperialist countries that control our present world. Our member organizations organized numerous events of protest and solidarity around the world in support of the Palestinian people. World Youth covers some of those events. Also Burma witnessed a popular uprising few months ago, and WFDY organized a campaign of solidarity that spread worldwide and was more influential on the regional level in Asia. Columbia also had important political moments and WFDY was always near to its member organization JUCO against the new fascist policies of the government that spreads horror and division among the people. The broad movement in Latin America, in Salvador, Nicaragua, Venezuela and others was an important feature of our struggles in 2008. In the Middle East, in addition to Palestine, Iraq is still under occupation and all the rhetoric about withdrawal of the troops wouldn't have been raised without the resistance and the international solidarity movement against the war and the occupation there. In Europe, more anti-progressive and anti-

communist actions were consolidated by the right wing governments. Its most disgraceful expression was the disbanding and the illegalization of KSM in Czech Republic. Those are few of the many important events in the world during the last year, and this issue will present them in addition to many other actions and events that we conducted. We hope that all anti-imperialist youth will find many answers and many interesting information in this magazine and that we can contribute to add more force to the growing progressive movement.

World Youth is issued to stay, and we hope that through serious and organized collective work, it will be maintained and developed further in the next years, along with more struggles of the anti-imperialist movement.

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# We struggle for Free, Public and Quality Education for All!

During the year of 2008, WFDY promoted an international campaign for the universal access to free, public and quality Education. This campaign, that had several events both at national and international level, started out with a document for all organizations of WFDY to take as a starting point for refelction and action. As we believe this to be a very complete document regarding the shape of Education around the world we decided to post it here.

## Education Role Throughout The World:

The imperialist forces manipulate education in order to make it one of their most powerful instruments for domination and exploitation. Imperialism bans the access of millions of people to education, because it knows that uneducated people are easier targets of exploitation. This is why there are so many analphabet people in the world, even though four days of money spent on weapons would be almost enough to pay all these people studies.

Moreover, in many parts of the world, imperialism imposes processes of partial or full privatization of education, transforming what is a universal right of each human being into a millionaire business that keep enriching a few imperialist groups throughout the world.

However, this is not a linear process. Many times imperialism's goal is not only to exclude, and behind statistics of high percentages of young people attending school, the fact is that many of those people are not getting wide and emancipator knowledge. In fact, many schools and universities are more and more, factories of non-scientific formation, which goal is only to assure that people have enough formation to keep producing at a high level and where historical truth and human values are despised or subverted in order to create a selfish, reactionary and unable to resist world population.

The positive experiences in socialist and other countries show that through democratic and universal access to public, free and quality education people live much better: they know their rights and they are much more able to defend the workers and youth's conquests.

## I. Europe and North America

### Secondary Education:

Attended by the majority of young people in age between 14 and 18, Secondary Education has crucial level for the Education of a person. Aware of this, the imperialist forces try to create obstacles to success in this level, in order to stop youngsters (mainly the sons and daughters of the working class) from proceeding to High Level Education (such as Universities or equivalent).

This is done through several ways from country to country, but in most cases this is done by increasing the costs of education (transports, books, notebooks, pens, food), which, on the one hand, excludes many people and, on the other hand, creates many difficulties to all those that still

can attend school but in bad conditions due to lack of conditions.

Also, the wide spreading of exams at the end of the years is a way to stop many young people from keeping studying. This strategy despises all factors that surround everyday evaluation and focus only on one opportunity of written answers, which creates big inequality between students between wealthy and poor means.

Adding to this, the interests of the big private companies are felt in the ways school programs are conducted. The increasing number of courses that only aim to prepare the students for immediate integration in the labor market demonstrates that imperialism does not want young people to attend school to create a critical and prepared mass of people for the future, but, in fact, imperialism sees education as tool to fulfill its immediate needs in the labor market. Critical capacity, wide knowledge, possibility to proceed studies are, more and more, rights that are restricted to the sons and daughters of the rulers of the imperialist order, the most rich people of each country. This is why the number of private and public schools connected with big economic groups is increasing.

Alongside with all this, the contents of some subjects is also a way for imperialism to defend it self. Rewriting historical facts, criticizing democratic, progressive and communist views, despising important victories of the peoples,

transmitting non-scientific facts and theories as absolute truths are imperialist strategies to create in young people, through their school books, the idea that it is not possible nor worth to struggle and that there is no alternative to the present.

### Higher Education:

High Education is a vital level of Education for the human development of each country. Its access and rate of development play an important role in for the reinforcement of democracy in each country. The free and universal access to High Education is one of the most significant victories of the progressive struggles.

However, High Education is gradually becoming a privilege for the rich, rather than a universal right. Even though it was free and mainly public in most of the European countries, in the last years tuition fees have been introduced in most of them and in the majority of others there are ongoing processes attempting to introduce them. Alongside with tuition fees, many other costs have to be supported by students (accommodation, food, books, transports, etc.), which increases a lot the expenses and causes that many students have to work to pay all expenses, and so they miss classes and have less possibilities to have success (only in few countries there is a specific timetable for after labortime).

The Bologna Process and its implementation



Demonstration of students in India

Portuguese Secondary Education students take the streets



has clearly been a way for the imperialist to deepen its offense to the right to Public and Free Education. Under the pretext of promoting mobility around all Europe, the truth is that the Bologna Process is serving to concentrate the highest levels of high technology knowledge in some few countries, condemning all others to almost none High Education.

The paradigm of "Getting Competences" has replaced the paradigm of "Access to Knowledge", and so private companies and imperialist interests are now the main rulers of the contents, access and goals of the knowledge production. The Bologna Process, where it is fully implemented, has also meant the big increase of tuition fees and an exponential increase of the working time given to study, which has caused many working students to quit, and many others to stop participating in different ways of associative life.

Alongside with all this, in several countries there are programs of bank loans. In order to "help" the students to pay for their studying costs, banks provide loans to pay for everything. Of course, this way for banks to have more profits, since students will have to pay the loans plus a very high bank interest as soon as they start working. This is a way to hide the difficulties felt to students during their years in schools, but it has serious consequences, as it creates many obstacles (adding to unemployment, precariousness, etc) for young graduates to fully emancipate and get on with their lives after finishing their studies.

## II. Asia-Pacific Region:

The problem of illiteracy is the serious one especially in South and West Asia. It seems coupled with poverty and some cultural and religious aspects of gender biasness. Child illiteracy and child labor are as the sides of same coin, which is more abusive towards girls. Number of youth not attending school seems as much as 110 million in the region in which girls constitutes 56 percentages. It seems resulted in poverty and underdevelopment.

The rate of primary education completion in South Asia is lowest in the world due to the higher rate of drop out and repetition. Secondary education is not related to provide skills and

vocation trainings, and seems as a transition to step up higher education that is even more irrelevant to get employment.

The problem in primary education of Asia Pacific is low GDP expenditure in education to make assure their attendance in schools and to maintain its quality. There is a creation of two-education systems— one mushrooming of private boarding schools for haves— and another public education for have-nots. Those children without resources have the very less opportunity to get employment in competitive job market. The less expenditure in public education by the governments and commercialization of education in least developed Asian countries has created the situation of downward spiral to poverty. The expenditure in public education in almost countries of South and West Asia is around 3 percentage of GDP. Even in advance and emerging economy of East and South East Asia the commercialization in education has made unaffordable the quality primary education to majority, and created access barrier to higher education to the people of less resources. The public expenditure in education in East Asia and Pacific is as low as 2.8 percentage of GDP in PPP as compared even with South and West Asia of 2.8 percentages in same respect. It is evidence how rampant commercialization of education in East Asia and Pacific is going on. The trade in higher education has now become the industries of billion dollars. Foreign Accredited Universities in the name of maintaining quality education of global standard is far affordable to the majority— has left governments reluctant to develop affordable and quality public institution of higher education. Rather, the governments are taking policy to support private universities.

The almost countries of Central Asia seem achieving the goal of illiteracy reducing successfully mitigating gender balance due to the previous social system. However following the collapse of it, the public expenditure in education seems as low as much in Asia.

The quality institutions of higher education in Asia are almost concentrated in Japan, Hong Kong and Coastal China, New Zealand, Singapore and in major cities of India whereas rest of the countries are far behind to develop good institutions.

Brain drain is being a serious problem in least developed Asian countries. These countries have few of their internationally reputed institutions from where the selected talents often go to 'A' graded world rank universities of developed world and get employed there forever. Contrary to this, in many foreign run projects they enroll their own manpower in high posts being reluctant even if there is qualified and educated manpower within the country.

## III. Africa:

The problem of illiteracy is serious one in the Sub Saharan Region of Africa. Out of the 21 countries with adult illiteracy rates higher than 50 per cent, 13 are located in sub-Saharan Africa. Out of ten adults four cannot read or write there — constitutes an illiterate chunk of 136 million people. Two-thirds of them are women. Illiteracy is related with poverty adjacent with government failures— has left consequences of spreading up AIDS pandemic in the region. The illiteracy situation seems more related with low level of economic development. In some cases, even allocating more expenditure of GDP it does not seem sufficient to reduce illiteracy.

The higher education in Sub-Sahara is almost free, but without quality. The universities often enroll 3 times more than their capacity. Almost all students who complete secondary education can join higher education due to joblessness, and there is fair expectation to be employed even after completing it.

The excuses to commercialize public education are due to the evidences of failure of public education making it totally unattractive. They are totally skeptical to increase government expenditure on higher education thus creating foundation of neo-liberalization in education for IMF and World Bank.

Higher education should be selective but affordable with quality. It should offer many financial packages for the talents rather than enroll those who can afford to make successes the trade in education. Rather than support financially to upgrade the education system, World Bank and IMF are now trying to privatize public universities and colleges in the name of decentralization. The successful model highlighted— the dual track policies in higher education— especially in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda has shown many defaults. On the other, it is going towards rampant privatization in Western Africa.

The expenditure in education in Sub Saharan region seems one of the lowest in the world. The government expenditure in primary education is 2.1 percent where as in secondary and tertiary education 2.4 percentage of total GDP. In this rate of internal expenditure in education the challenges to meet illiteracy, to rely gender and race balances in education is very far achievable. The course contents are not meeting the needs of students to new coming realities. The gross enrollment ratio of teaching staffs is very low (.62) if compared to other regions of the world. The privatization of primary and secondary education



left public education unattractive and uncompetitive. It has created two kind of education for two people in class, race and gender thus more widening social and economic disparity in Africa.

#### **IV. Education in the Middle East:**

The Middle East is currently one of the hottest regions in the world due to occupation of Palestine and Iraq, and the severe tensions and divisions among the countries of the region and inside many countries as well. The situation of education in this region is affected by the political instability that it suffers and many of the deficiencies and setbacks in education are consequences of those instabilities.

Nevertheless, it is important to emphasize that the educational policies of the countries of the region are one more factor affecting the right of the youth in achieving free public education for all.

#### **Illiteracy:**

According to the most recent statistics by UNESCO, the level of illiteracy among the youth in the region is around 15%, one of the highest in the world.

In Palestine the illiteracy among the youth is 22%, and can be related to the harsh conditions that the Palestinian youth and student suffer due to Israeli occupation. Thousands are forcefully prevented from reaching their schools and others are forced by the difficult living situation to go to labor from very early stages. In Iraq the level is 15%, and is also related to occupation, violence and living situation, thus preventing hundreds of thousands of Iraqi youth from their right in education.

However, in countries like Morocco, Yemen, Egypt and Algeria where youth illiteracy reaches 30%, 15%, 15% and 10% respectively, the numbers are very high and not related to conditions of war or occupation. They give an idea on the level of wrong educational policies or indifference of the governing forces for the right of the youth in education and the duty of the government in providing them all means for public free quality education.

#### **Gender in Education:**

The percentage of female graduates reflects the level of equality between males and females in education.

In Iraq, 33% of the graduates are females which is a low number, and might be related to the violence practiced by the extremist groups against women who actively participate in public life, whether in work or in education, thus putting obstacles on the involvement of females in the education process.

The numbers in other countries are close to the averages like 54% in Lebanon, 55% in Palestine, 42% in Morocco and 56% in Jordan.

This indicates some recent development in the situation of female youth in the educational process.

However, the details of distribution of students on different sectors of education, reveals that most graduates in engineering and sciences are males, where females tend to have education in humanities and social sciences.

#### **Number of years of education:**

An important indication on the level of education is the school life time or the average number of years spent in school. The higher the number, the higher is the level of education.

In the region, the average number of years of education is 10.8. Knowing that a student needs 12 years in pre college education, this number is low and reveals the fact the lots of students leave school before high school because of the need for work and the high costs of education.

The numbers are the highest in Lebanon and Bahrain reaching 14.3 years of education, and are the lowest in Yemen (8.8 years), Iraq (9.6 years) and Morocco (10 years).

It is a big struggle for the youth to demand their right in free, public and quality education through all the levels, and having an average that is less than high school of education is a big offensive to one of the basic rights of youth.

#### **Percentage of Tertiary Students:**

The percentage of tertiary students indicates the percentage of students who are in grade 11 or more (including university and beyond) with respect to the total number of students. The higher percentage indicates better levels of education.

The percentage in the region is 21% that is far less than the averages in several other regions. However, there are big differences among the countries of the region. Yemen with 9% of tertiary students, Morocco 11%, Iraq 15%, and Algeria 20% have the lowest level of tertiary education while those numbers reach 36% in Jordan, 51% in Lebanon and 55% in Libya.

#### **Public Expenditure on Education:**

The public expenditure on education is 4.9% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in the region. This number is close to other percentages around the world.

The highest expenditure on education is in Saudi Arabia 6.9% and Morocco 6.8% and is lowest in United Arab Emirates with 1.3%, with other countries varying between those numbers.

Higher expenditure on education is expected to reveal better levels of education among the youth in all the previous statistics. However, Morocco spends generously on education with very low outcomes and one of the lowest levels of education. This needs separate examination to assess the real causes for this controversy.

Youth are deprived of many of their basic rights in education. Public education has low quality in most of those countries, while high quality education is provided in private expensive schools. Free, public and quality education is a right for the youth and a responsibility for the society and the government.

Governments have to take their responsibilities in providing education, and there is a lot of work to do to improve the level and quality of education in the region as can be concluded from our previous statistical analysis.

War and occupation are a major cause for low levels of education in Iraq and Palestine and improving the quality of education there is also related to improving the security and the freedom of the youth and the people of those countries so

that they can have access to education.

#### **V. Education in Latin America and Caribbean**

Latin America and the Caribbean region, have used neoliberals politics in last years which constituted to brake the guarantees of education due to the tax adjustment, and the privatization, the region have assign 9% of the resources, for education, which corresponding the world-wide cost in this resource, the literacy processes, using "Yes I Can" method, applied by several countries, and independent organizations, like Venezuela which was declared free of illiteracies in 2005, can open the way of the new regional integration's processes, which destines economic resource by a general and basic education, like inalienable human right.

Despite recent advances, educational systems in the Latin America and Caribbean region continue to face serious shortcomings. The overall quality of education is poor. The inferior quality of education impedes the ability of the region to move forward politically and economically. Young workers in the region enter the labor force with fewer years of education than do workers in other countries. Children in LAC countries attend school an average of 5.4 years. In some countries, only ten percent of students graduate from the sixth grade without repeating a grade. Many drop out of school all together.

Indigenous, rural and poor urban students particularly suffer from unequal access to quality education. There are 2.5 million children out of school—1.2 million of them girls. The responsibility for the high numbers of illiterate children lies partially with the teachers. A good number have not finished secondary school. Many are ill-prepared and have insufficient materials and support in the classroom. High rates of students who have to repeat a class drain already inadequate education investments.

The rate of net inscription for the primary school in Latin America is 95 percent. More than the global average of the countries developing, which is 85 percent. The disparity of sort in alphabetization and educative profits relatively small is compared with other regions of the world. The alphabetization breach has stopped in most of the countries and is now less than two percentage points. In Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico, the rates of alphabetization are higher for the young women than for young men. Argentina has the rate of total tertiary inscription more discharge of the region, since more than three quarters of his young women and a little more than half of the young men are registered in high studies. Progress education varies depending on the country and socio-economic group. In some countries including Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Peru the average period of education increased by 1.5 years or more.

## First Person Testimonials

# Struggling for Public Education around the World!

As part of our analysis to the Education around the world, World Youth (WY) decided to give the floor to students from different regions of the world, so that they could share with everyone their different, yet similar, experience of struggle for Public, Free and Quality Education.

WY has interviewed students from Bahrain, Colombia, Greece, and the outcome has been really awesome!

**From Bahrain we WY spoke with comrade Noor Abbas, who is 21 years old and currently studies Banking and Finance at the University of Bahrain. Below is what he told us:**

Before talking about the problems that face the Bahraini students, I will talk about the reality of the higher education in Bahrain during the last eight years. Since 2001, the higher education in Bahrain started following a different protocol as it is no more limited to governmental universities like the University of Bahrain and the medical Arabian Gulf University. The Ministry of Education started giving permissions to establish private universities in Bahrain and since then the number of those universities has been increasing till it reached 14.

With that increase in the number of the private universities, there has been a change in the policy of the national university; the fees have been decreased to 24 Bahraini dinars for each subject (8 Bahraini dinars for each credit) in addition to decreasing the admission limit as they started accepting students with percentages that start from 70% in high school.

Although decreasing the fees benefited the students, the absence of the prior planning to have that huge number of students caused many problems such as :

- Complicating the admissions



Students of Bahrain campaigning in their university

standards as the University of Bahrain started having an exam to test the skills of the students, whereas this exam does not reflect the actual skills of the students and is only a tool to prevent students from being admitted to the specializations they desire.

- Establishing a college for applied sciences that graduate technicians not academics in order to decrease the



"Vote for Noor Abbas!"

number of unemployed academics in a society which imports brains instead of the local ones.

- Increasing the number of fired students in the national university which is a policy to support the private universities in Bahrain.

The private universities in Bahrain suffer from many logistic and educational problems as many of them lack the suitable buildings and educational cadre. They even lack the real censorship from the higher Education Council especially regarding the outcomes of the education which do not cope with our ambitions as a society that needs real cadres.

In all of the universities, the students participate in the students' elections as they convey their requests to the

students' council which convey them to the university management. In addition to that, there are stand in, bulletins and proclamations that the students' lists issue.

At the Shabeeba Society of Bahrain, we struggle to deliver our voice through a united students' body that demand to free the education of any fees, establish another national university, consider the Students' Council as a true part of making all decisions that relate to students.

This students' Body which emerged from the Shabeeba Society of Bahrain has adopted the logo of student union to keep the students away from the sectarianism which reaches its maximum level in the students' elections. The Body contributes in raising the national awareness among the students as the sectarianism that takes place in the University of Bahrain during the elections' campaigns has huge negative effects on the formation of the Students' Council. Unfortunately, the University management practices clear favourism to some students' bodies which increases the sectarian problem in the Council and prevents it from attaining the ambitions of the students.

**From Colombia we heard the words of comrade Guillermo Serrano, who is now 27 years old and studying Environmental Engineering at the University of Guajira, after being displaced from Bogotá two years ago.**

**WY - What are the main problems faced by students in your country?**

There are several levels in the dimension of the problems facing students in Colombia, mainly linked to a struggle for the democratization of a country submerged in the areas of exclusion, injustice and

authoritarianism, shown in a regime of accumulation that fracture development of man, which we consider as the main tool for channeling ethical conflicts, not to abolish them as executioners of freedom claim.

The problem of higher education in our country, reflecting the global phenomenon of outsourcing and the marketing or education for work under the aegis of the concept of smaller skills, mobility and flexibility in the curriculum of universities. What we are witnessing today the students, is a distortion of the deliberative and cultural reserve that for a country like ours, or for any country, represents the University.

Now, the progress of the counter at different levels are inherent in a government like that of Álvaro Uribe, to the systematic campaigns of stigmatization, victimization and pointing against the Colombian students. The claims made by the government, which draws student organizations as sounding boards for the insurgency in Colombia and its main recruiters at universities, implies a greater violation of our freedoms and the legitimate right of people to oppose the privatization of education public to oppose totalitarianism warriors to oppose a "community" is an accomplice and manager of the heinous actions of paramilitaries in our country.

Today we face in Colombia the biggest threat to the stability of emerging democracies in Latin America, which have succeeded on their depth and complex democratic processes in the hands of a defense of national sovereignty from the perspective of regional integration.

According to investigations conducted by the Colombian Association of University Students, ACEU, homicide represents a 6% on the total cases studied, and a total of fourteen students murdered in the first

*Painted wall by struggling students*



four years of the Uribe government is equal of two student leaders murdered for each academic semester. Most of these cases are still in impunity, being an absolute negligence by the judiciary. Despite that initial investigations show that at least 60% of these cases can be attributed to state security agencies.

In Colombia, since 2005, 8 university students has been murdered: on September 22, 2005 Johny Silva dies in a public demonstration at the University of Valle (Cali), on March 8, 2006 Oscar Salas died in similar circumstances in Bogotá D.C., on October 5, 2006 was murdered in the city of Cali Julián Hurtado, a representative student to the Academic Board of Universidad del Valle, a member of the committee that sought to clarify the facts of the death of Johny Silva, committee that a week before his assassination had issued a verdict blaming the police and his squadron ESMAD (riot control group). On October 19, 2006 was murdered the activist Milton Trojan of Universidad del Cauca (Popayán), and the most egregious case was on October 24 when a bomb explodes at the University of Atlántico (Barranquilla) leaving 4 students dead and several injured.

We face the extent of gray and the sigh of the tyrants, without fear and the fear of the time under a new kind of dictatorship.

#### ***WY - How do students organize themselves to confront these attacks?***

Individually and collectively, the various expressions of the student movement have a major battle against the privatization of universities, I mean by this, the problems associated with financial and other aspects of Uribe's "reform" concerning academic and administrative issues (internal organization of institutions, changes in laws) and particularly the issues related to university autonomy and democracy.

The way we Colombians students organization, to coordinate with the demands contained in the specifications given in local time a significant leap towards building a national platform university built from the scene of the national university, where we met several student organizations and unions. Around this, we generated stage of direct confrontation against the government, from carnivals to student strikes in opposition to the policies imposed, in essence, aimed at the



*Guillermo met a delegation of WFDY, last July*  
extermination of actual construction process of the democratic idea of college, to the extent Antonio García as saying that the university must be the critical conscience of the nation.

#### ***WY - What are the main demands of the students struggles?***

To develop the main demands of the Colombian students I need to pick the items produced in the "national university platform":

- \* For the right to public education and state funding: education is more than one service or a commodity, is a fundamental social right and that should be funded by the State as an entity required to provide guarantees for access and permanence. The public nature of education is based not only on the livelihood of the funding, but the responsibility is as fundamental to building the country and its development.

- \* On the autonomy of universities: the university is part of the accumulated cultural and scientific development of the nation and should follow their interests and needs. The academic standards, curriculum and teaching must be geared individually according the above criteria and not special interests.

- \* University democratic government: Given the characteristics outlined above, the direction of the university should not follow short-term interests of government but a long-term national project. This implies that the government should be autonomous university and must have specific characteristics for a knowledge center to promote democracy and collective participation in decision-making of those who comprise the university community

- . Participation in university government persons outside the university should be dynamic due to the need for correspondence with the social rather than the imposition of market criteria.

\* Welfare university as a condition of quality for the good order of the generation, reproduction and application of knowledge is necessary to generate the guarantees of access and retention in universities for students, teachers and workers, based on criteria and dignified life integrality.

\* The academy as a determinant of the administration: Under its planned goals and responsibilities based on their social and academic, the University must define their needs for structuring and running autonomously and not according to criteria of spending cuts that hurt the quality and academic excellence.

\* The right to social security and labor: As a requirement of government policy for universities, is being implemented every day more precarious labor force attachment of occasional teachers and professors, discarding the advantages of industrial and academic linkages plant and upset by the university teaching career. Today the vast majority of university teachers have temporary binding. The same happens with the administrative officials and the few officials who remain in public universities. Those working inside the universities (professors and workers) should have guaranteed salaries, benefits, social security and collective bargaining.

\* Freedom and respect for human rights: The university is a center of knowledge for democratic and pluralistic, we reject the policies that infringe on freedom of thought, organization and mobilization in the universities. Monitoring the conditions inside the universities to obey the school needs your project requires and not repression. We denounce and reject the current policy of criminalizing expressed as persecution, pointing, threats and murders of teachers, students and workers.

**From Greece WY interviewed comrade Alexandra Liberie, student of Mass Media and Communication, at the University of Athens, currently 21 years old.**

**WY - What are the main problems faced by the students of your country?**

We are actually facing the consequences of the Bologna Process: privatization of the public education and legalization of the private universities in order to press the public one's to function as they do. Up to now the privatization is being promoted by a

variety of ways. The degrees have lost their value .More and more students are forced in order even to find a simple job to follow post graduate studies . In this direction their aim to apply the "Framework law" which is their way to organize the function of the University with antagonistic criteria..As well as there is an effort to suppress the Article 16 which is the article of the Greek constitution that forbids(at least in words) the function of private universities. Moreover, our free student dorms are enough only for the 2% of the students which leads all the others to the rent. Many of us have to work in order to be able to finish our studies, which makes it hard for us to study in a way of becoming the scientists that our people need. And when the years of the student life are over what waits for us is a work with even less than 700 Euros for 13 hours a day (as Greek rightwing, socialdemocrats and opportunists have just voted in the European Council). And most likely, not in the field that we have studied. All these are consequences of the reforms in education and work that both European Union and Greek governments (rightwing and socialdemocrats) have promoted all these years. We know that all these are led by the capitalist's need for a cheap, flexible working class who will not demand their rights in a steady work, 7 hours a day, paid in a decent way.

**WY - How do the students organize themselves to face these attacks?**

The students movement is disorganized and facing a long crisis. The governmental youth organizations and the opportunists are to blame for this fact. They need this situation to continue in order to prevent us from struggling against the EU politics and for our right in education, work, life all in all. However, during the last years, despite their efforts, we have achieved to organize some very mass demonstrations against the privatizing of the Universities, demanding a public education free for all. We organized our



Students' demonstration in Greece



Comrade Alexandra, from Greece

struggle through the militant committees of university in each university and their all Greece coordination. Massive student's general assemblies are taking held as well ,where we discussed our problems, revealed the aims of the EU and the Greek government's, formed our demands, massively demonstrated together with the workers union's and the pupils.

**WY - What are the main demands of the students' struggle?**

We have to develop a more mass, politicized ,strong and organized student's movement which will embrace a clear demand for completely and exclusively free education for all. All the sponsors and the enterprises to go away from the universities. It is unacceptable for us students to work in the same time with their studies .Studies should be produce a young scientist in the service of peoples needs ,to reduce illnesses ,and prevent working accidents to prove the consequences of wars and imperialist interventions to help people to get rid from superstitions. A student's movement can stand on the side of the working class movement in order to smash the EU politics and aims and demand our rights. We demand 15% from the State Budget for the Education. We won't accept the appliance of any laws that aim to privatize our universities. We demand a steady work for all, 35 hours a week, 7 hours a day, as well as a basic salary of 1400 Euros.That's why we organize events inside schools where the class orientated trade unions are preparing their future members about the situation in each sector and their rights that they have to struggle for even now that are still in the university .

# **Against the ban of KSM**

## Total solidarity towards the Czech communists

### **The situation in Czech Republic**

The struggle for legal existence of the Communist Youth Union of Czech Republic KSM started few days after the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress of the KSM in December 2005. The Ministry of Interior started to accuse the KSM and to threat it with banning. Originally the Ministry of Interior accused the KSM that its program and activity interfered with the exclusive space of activities of political parties that is, according to the interpretation of the Ministry of Interior, the space excluded from the intervention of civic associations. But according to law this exclusive area of activities of political parties is defined just as participation in the elections. The KSM does not participate in the elections. This argument is therefore completely baseless. The second target of these attacks was the Program of the KSM, its communist identity, socialist goals, and theoretical basis in Marx, Engels and Lenin that is Marxism as a whole. The Ministry of Interior even claimed that the fact that the KSM published the texts of classics of Marxism on its web page violated the law of the Czech Republic. What is significant, the Ministry of Interior gradually changed its arguments for dissolution of the KSM. The final argument and also the official reason for the ban of KSM was the fact that the KSM reflected in its Program necessity of replacement of the private ownership of means of production with collective ownership of means of production. This fact shows the instrumental political reason and argument weakness of the process that has led to the Ministry of Interior's decision on the official dissolution of the KSM in October 2006. Also it shows what is really in the roots of the attack against the KSM. It is not defense of democracy and civil rights those are in reality

violated by the Ministry of Interior. The real reason of the attack against the KSM is defense of capitalism by the capitalist state realized through violation of democratic rights. The KSM responded to the attack against its legal status with resolute resistance both within the Czech Republic and on international level. The organization started an information campaign, gathered thousands of signatures under its petition in the Czech Republic, mobilized support within the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, and received support from a number of civic organizations and



Demonstration of KSM in Prague

personalities. The KSM also organized a demonstration in front of the Constitutional court. Then we delivered to the Municipal Court of Prague the administrative protest against the decision of the Ministry of Interior. After more than one year and half, concrete on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008 this court rejected this administrative protest and through this decision was the ban of KSM definitely lawful.

The state power, represented by the police, also made the next steps in the way of fascization of

our society. In these days, we continue in the struggle for our legality, we are still waiting for the decision of the one of the latest levels of the courts in Czech Republic – The Administrative court in Brno, where we have delivered our legal proceeding against this decision of the Municipal Court in Prague. Our response to anticommunist banning of the KSM is developing our daily activities. One of the most important issues in the political life in our country at present time is the struggle against the U.S. military base in the Czech Republic. KSM organized hundreds of public demonstrations, and still continues in the petition activity (we have still gathered around 200 000 signatures), by organizing lots of public meetings, also in conjunction with other public organizations and MP's. We defend interests of the majority of the working people and the youth, against the asocial policy of the current government for example we struggle against attempts to introduce fees for university studies, against paid healthcare system, liquidation of the hospitals and working places... The latest activity is connected to the Czech presidency of the European Union – KSM participate in a wide public movement – it is called „The people's movement against EU“, where we struggle against the monopolistic and imperialist policy of the EU. Within the frame of this movement already work number of patriotic and democratic organizations, counting thousands of members.

\*Text submitted by KSM Czech Republic

WFDY has been side by side with the Union of the Communist Youth of Czech Republic (KSM) always, but especially since the decision of the Czech Government, supported by other EU members that have done nothing against it, to ban this organization. As our member organization, but most of all, being an organization that struggles for peace, democracy and social transformation, KSM is an organization that deserves all our efforts to support the brave struggle against their banning. Moreover, WFDY believes this to be not only an issue of the communists or only of the Czech youth – the international bounds that link all those who struggle against

imperialism let us know that if this attack is successful furthermore will come to other people and in other countries.

This is why during 2008 we made many efforts to coordinate actions at an international level to show the solidarity of the anti-imperialist youth of the world. Three international days of action, thousands of signatures on a worldwide petition, a solidarity visit to Prague and many actions from WFDY member organization and not only were done and we will surely continue throughout 2009 and as long as it is necessary to support KSM to have all their rights back!



The leaflet of WFDY for one of the international days of solidarity



# Palestine shall win!

## Freedom, independence and right to return!

### The situation in Palestine

There are no doubts that the situation and the conditions of the Palestinian youth cannot be separated from the general problem of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories of Palestine and in refugee camps abroad. The Palestinian people still live under Israeli occupation that continues with its blockade against Gaza strip and also on most parts of the West Bank.

The Israeli aggression is not limited to blockade and blocking of cities and towns, but also through continuous aggressions against innocent people through criminal acts and mass murders like the last aggression in Gaza that led to the death of more than 1400 people and left more than 6000 injured. In this war, many forbidden weapons were used based on United States and other imperialist countries' support and collaboration.

This picture makes the life of the Palestinian youth whether in Gaza or in West Bank very difficult and complicated. Israel deliberately targets the youth and this explains the fact that a big proportion of the martyrs in Gaza and the political detainees during the last Intifada were from the youth. Israel wants to break the will and the persistence of the Palestinian people through attacking the youth who are main engine and mover of the resistance and the struggles of the Palestinian people.

As can be expected, this reality of

occupation of the Palestinian lands produced many problems that cause suffering for the Palestinians.

Unemployment rate stands at 65% whether in Gaza or West Bank, due to the blockade on Gaza and the isolation of West Bank towns through the wall of separation that steals the properties of the people and prevents them from reaching their lands.

This is why Palestinian Democratic Youth Union (PDYU), through its presence inside Palestine and in the refugee camps abroad struggles to develop the role of the Palestinian youth in resistance against Israel, and to support the persistence of those youth on their lands by trying to find solutions for their economic problems.

In refugee countries, PDYU struggles to enhance the capabilities of the Palestinian youth and involve them in the struggle for the right of return through UN resolution 194 and to face

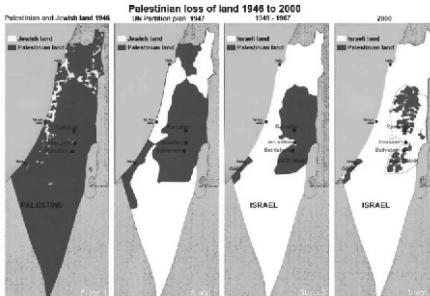
all plans of settling them in their countries of refuge as an alternative. PDYU also demands the solutions for the economic and social problems for those youth in refuge.

PDYU considers the struggle to be united inside Palestine and in the refugee countries to gather the forces and form a pressuring reality that will end in the declaration and establishment of an independent state of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of return for the refugees.

To conclude, it is important to emphasize that even after 60 long years of occupation and criminal aggression, the Palestinian will to achieve the rights of independence and return is not broken and will never be, and all Palestinian youth insist to fight till the achievement of their rights.

We also look for international solidarity, support and cooperation from the political, social and youth organizations around the world that believe in the cause of independence and freedom of the Palestinian people. It is also important to work together to reveal the deep violations of Israel of all human rights adopted by UN and other international institutions, and force it to retreat its policies of aggression and occupation.

\*Text submitted by PDYU Palestine



WFDY was established on the principles of world peace, friendship, solidarity and social justice. It developed a long history of anti-imperialist struggle all around the world. With those principles and beliefs, WFDY finds itself occupied with the just cause of the independence of Palestine, the right of return of refugees and the just peace in the region. This is why WFDY has been a strong supporter for this cause throughout its history and has done uncountable activities, events, missions and statements related to Palestine. In all international institutions (UN, UNESCO, and Human Rights Council...) and in all of our 16 World Festivals of Youth and Students

### The international solidarity

(WFYS), Palestine had a major role in our struggle. WFDY contributed in spreading the ideas of the Palestinian struggle to hundreds of millions of youth around the world and promoted its support through international solidarity. WFDY continues this belief and will stay a major supporter for the liberation movement of Palestine till the establishment of the Independent state and the return of all the refugees to their properties.

Now, with our member organizations in Palestine and other friendly organizations, WFDY is trying to promote at least one solidarity event inside Palestine every year in addition to many other events worldwide.

**Freedom  
Independence  
Right to Return  
for Palestinian Youth & People**



# Long live the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution!

Solidarity, sovereignty and social justice ARE possible!

The Cuban Revolution is the result of more than 100 years of popular struggle. It started since the "mambises" took up arms on October 10th 1968.

The year 1959 was signed by the triumph of the rebel army, led by Fidel, who defeated the cruel dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. This triumph brake up on contemporary history: a revolution of workers, peasants, intellectuals and students all guided by their own history, by the ideas of José Martí on the unity as the only way to achieve victory and by the lessons learned in all previous processes. As a result of all this issues became the first victorious socialist revolution in the Western Hemisphere, in the entrails of North American imperialism.



Since the early days of Cuban revolution youth began to occupy a leading role, to play a fundamental role in the process. One of the biggest tasks was the literacy campaign in which more than 150,000 young students decided to postpone a year of their own studies in order to fight illiteracy at all the corners of their country. On those time the imperialism began its terrorist activities killing two of those brave young teachers, so thousands of new students proposed themselves in order to relay their efforts. Thousands of young people fought to bring the first major defeat on U.S. imperialism in the sands of Playa Girón. Today thousands of young Cubans are involved on internationalist missions saving lives, literacy campaigns, working such as sports coaches: all this following the tradition of proletarian internationalism. The World Federation of Democratic Youth has always supported the Cuban Revolution. In the summer of 1978 the very advanced youth of this world meet together in La Habana for the XI World Festival of Youth and Students under



the theme "Peace, Friendship and Anti-imperialist Solidarity". After the unfortunate events that led to the collapse of the socialist camp, Fidel - with all his prestige and the prestige of Cuban Revolution- led a very important role in the rescue of the movement of the Word Festival of Youth and Students offering Cuba as the host country and ensuring the restoration of this important events. The Young Communist League of Cuba (UJC) has contributed from their responsibilities on strengthen the work of the Federation, especially in this last stage of work after the successful General Assembly realized in Vietnam where the Young Communist League of Cuba (UJC) was confirmed as the General Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

The Cuban Revolution assumed the historical sense of its very own time but with repercussions throughout the world because of its example, it was able to change everything that needed to change, for the good of his own people and for all the just causes of the world get full equality and freedom, taught us that we must treat all human beings, with their many internationalist missions educate his people as a trench of ideas to avoid being manipulated. With his impeccable behavior has managed to challenge with courage, dignity and heroism, the largest empire in history



has had, which imposed a criminal blockade, it has killed over 3000 people by terrorist action. Although, they have failed in their attempts to destroy the Cuban revolution because Cuba has created values in which its people believe and defends the price it is required and which has its highest expression in the heroic conduct of the five Cuban heroes who remain unjustly imprisoned in the U.S. The Cuban people, and their conduct -modest, compassionate and heroic- has always faced the empire with the truth, without violating any ethical principle, showing us that with these convictions there is no force capable of destroy it.



In these first 50 years of Revolution, Commander in Chief of his people, Fidel Castro Ruz, has the unquestionable merit of achieving unity, which has contributed to the total independence, the constant fight for the dreams of Cuba, for Cuba and all the needy of this world, to build a better world, as the basis of their socialism, their patriotism and internationalism.

# 60 years of NATO, 60 years of imperialist crimes! Let's defeat imperialism!

The year of 2009 brings the 60th anniversary of one of the most relevant tools of imperialism: NATO.

Despite the fact that the end of NATO would not mean, per se, the end of imperialism, our struggle for that is as up to date now, as it was at the time NATO was created and faced the resistance of the youth of the world, and particularly from Europe and North America. It is difficult to analyze the role of NATO without speaking of concrete countries (such as USA or European Union members) or concrete elements of their particular imperialist instruments, of all times, such as the CIA, the USA 4th Fleet, or the Portuguese colonial war. After the Peoples' Victory against Nazi fascism, the whole world changed and things didn't look too good for the imperialist forces. One the one hand, despite the massive damage and the large number of victims, killed and wounded, Soviet Union had defeated the Nazis and their allies and was now ready to increase its power and deepen the achievements brought by the glorious October Revolution (1917), what indeed happened, as one can understand by looking into the living conditions of the Soviet people in the decades after the II World War.

At the same time, in Eastern Europe, a socialist block was rising as in many countries the people was taking the power in their own hands, expelling the dominant class and starting processes of building socialism.

In the rest of the world, the situation didn't look any better for imperialism. All over, the liberation and democratic movements were

growing and putting too much pressure on their colonizers. Particularly in Africa and Asia, the struggle for independence, democracy and to end colonialism, were destroying the imperialist domination, specially the colonial bounds that still oppressed millions of people. Being so, despite the consequences brought by the rise of fascist forces and the fact that the war against them had only soon been won, USA and the ruling classes of the imperialist countries started coming together, promoting anti-communism and recycling many of the fascist leaders and promoting back into the politics of the countries.

That brings us to April 4, 1949, when the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is officially created.

For all those who could still believe in the polite words of the Treaty, the composition of NATO made immediately clear what would be its political orientation. The colonialist France, Netherlands and UK, the fascist Portugal clarified very openly the character and goals of NATO.

Over the first fifty years of existence, NATO always played a very relevant role supporting the imperialist field, both at national and international level. The support to the colonialist wars of Portugal and France, both by political means and military equipment to the oppressing forces, as well as the sabotage of the Italian revolutionary forces and the support to the dictatorships imposed to the peoples of Latin America, are strong signs of the political line of NATO, which was also a very strong tool of propaganda against

the danger of the so called "Soviet Invasion". With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, there should be no reason for NATO to keep existing, however, in a total contradiction with its alleged goals (the defense from the Soviet "danger"), NATO not only seized to exist, as it took the opportunity to reinforce its structure, specially after its 50th anniversary. In that very same year, facing the resistance of Yugoslavia (already after its partial disaggregation) to commit to the goals of imperialism, NATO bombed the Yugoslavian cities, schools, hospitals, bridges and other infrastructures, killing hundreds of people and merging the country in a complete crisis.

It is rather relevant that, after the imperialist promoted conflicts that dismantled the once peaceful and stable Yugoslavia, NATO forces were sent to the area to ensure that the imperialist allied forces would rule, after dividing, as can easily be understood by analyzing the new born countries of the Balkans.

The bombing of Yugoslavia was, in a way, a dark celebration of the 50 years of NATO and a putting in practice of the fresh new principles agreed by the imperialist forces gathered in NATO, to make it clear about the end of the "defensive character".

After the bombing of Yugoslavia, the troops sent to the Balkans region and the bombing and occupation of Afghanistan after the September 11, were firm steps on the way of NATO to confirm itself as, probably, the most dangerous structure in the world.

In the present moment, the goal is clear: to surround Russia, Iran and China, trying to force them to become obedient to the USA Administration's policies. As this doesn't happen (despite the fact the motivations of Russia, Iran and China are quite different between each other), USA and NATO is increasing its military presence in the area of the Eastern Europe by building the "anti-missile shield" in the borders of Russia, inside the borders of the fresh new members of NATO.

All these elements are worrying and challenging for Humanity as whole and for the young people, in particular. It is undeniable the connection between NATO, the reactivation of the 4th Fleet (to control the growing popular movement in Latin America) and the USA's African Command (generally known as AFRICOM), which is based in Germany, and all of them are nothing but new or older shapes of imperialism organizing itself to detain or prevent the emancipation of the peoples and youth of the world.



# We will defeat imperialism! Let's all go to Cuba this Summer!

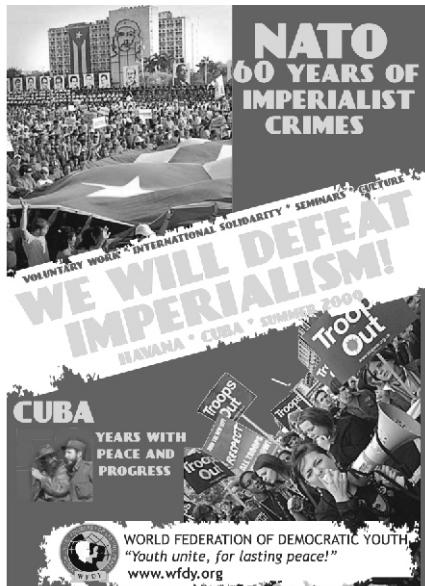
This summer, young people from all over the world will be coming from their schools, places of work and neighbourhoods to Cuba to scream out loud: "We will defeat in imperialism!"

This strong sentence is the slogan for what will be the biggest youth international event of 2009, a moment of celebration and struggle, of joy and determination, of memory and perspective, to reinforce the bounds that unite all the young people of the world in their struggle against imperialism in all its expressions – against war and occupation, for peace and democracy, against the privatization of education and health, for democratic access to culture and sports, for right to employment and labour rights, among other issues. It is not by hazard that such determination arrives to the struggle of the young people of the world, specially this year. In fact, 2009 is the year where two significant anniversaries come together: on the one hand it is the 60th year of life of the imperialist killing tool NATO; on the other hand it is the 50th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, an example of struggle, resistance, solidarity, peace and progress.

In fact, it is precisely these two elements that WFDY wants to highlight by organizing solidarity brigades and a set of seminars, which will allow all participants to see how, on the one hand imperialism is cruel (in the case of NATO), and on the other hand, that it is in fact possible to struggle, resist and win, succeeding to build a country, region and world of peace, friendship, sovereignty and



Young voluntary workers in Cuba



WFDY poster "We will defeat Imperialism!"

progress for all.

During the brigades of voluntary work – that have been done for many years in Cuba, and in which thousands of young people have participated – all participants will experience the Cuban reality during ten days, as a way to deeply understand the powerful achievements of the Cuban people, who, despite all the provocations and restrictions that imperialism creates, have bravely managed to conduct and reinforce over the last 50 years. Such experience will be lived by the participants while they offer a precious contribution to the Cuban people and youth – their strength to help to rebuild all the buildings and structures that the hurricanes that passed through Cuba in 2008 have destroyed. Besides this, all participants will participate in a set of international seminars specially dedicated to discuss the 60 years of imperialist crimes of NATO, its global impact and the menace it represents to the future of humanity, as well as its particular character in the framework of the different imperialist tools, such as AFRICOM (the special force of USA for quick military interventions in Africa) and

the 4th Fleet (the sailing military base of USA that sails around the Latin America, so it can allow USA to easily and quickly invade any country). This moment will also be important to remember and bring out the truth about the NATO bombardment of Belgrade, ex-Yugoslavia, which was precisely ten years ago, and to discuss how NATO troops and its allies in the Balkans aerea led to the self proclaimed "independence" of the Serbian province Kosovo, in a process that made thousands of victims and that is still not recognised by the United Nations, despite the pressure of USA and European Union.

Moreover, the discussion will focus also on the achievements of the 50 years of the Cuban Revolution and its incredible achievements in main areas like health, education, employment or democratic



The youth struggling against NATO

participation. Moreover, there will be some specific themes for other seminars regarding the main struggles of the young people of the world (education, employment, peace, democratic rights and freedom, etc.)

Finally, there will be time and room for all participants to get to know each other sharing their experiences about their struggles against imperialism, acknowledging their differences, but specially their similarities and the need for international solidarity as precious tool for the victory of each people against imperialism – all with a background of culture performances.

We count on you – to DEFEAT IMPERIALISM!

# Solidarity towards Zimbabwe!

## Against the imperialist interferences, for sovereignty!

The year 2008 was a very difficult one for the youth and people of Zimbabwe as it was once again the increased imperialist offensive by US, UK and their allied as they tried to do a regime change in Zimbabwe after the March 29 Harmonised elections.

The bilateral conflict between Zimbabwe and her former coloniser Britain stems from the need for control of Zimbabwe's natural resources particularly the land. In 1890 Britain colonized Zimbabwe, renaming it Southern Rhodesia and took away the indigenous people's rich land and resettling all blacks in reserves which were rocky and not good for agriculture. This resulted in the First Chimurenga (Revolutionary struggle) of 1896-97. Because the Zimbabweans did not have guns, they were defeated by the British. Due to the injustices by the British on the Zimbabweans, a second struggle against the British settler's minority regime of Rhodesia was wedged in the form of an armed struggle, the Second Chimurenga from 1966-1980. The likes of President R.G Mugabe, the late Vice President Cde Joshua Nkomo, the late General Josiah Magama Tongogara and others led the war which resulted in the independence of Zimbabwe on April 18 in 1980 with President Mugabe overwhelmingly winning an election as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe to become President of Zimbabwe in 1987. One of the things the British were supposed to do after the independence of Zimbabwe as stipulated in the Lancaster House Conference, was to pay compensation for a land redistribution program, giving back



*Picture of historical struggler from Zimbabwe*

the fertile land to its rightful owners, a thing which they failed to live up to until two decades after the independence of Zimbabwe in 2000, the government led by President Mugabe embarked on a land reform program. This off course did not go down well with the British and her allies and resulted in Zimbabwe being put under illegal targeted and economic sanctions. This was called the Third Chimurenga. The ideology of ZANU PF and the Robert Mugabe led government is clear- land and resources of Zimbabwe belong to the Zimbabweans, period! This saw the imperialists once again trying to control the resources of Zimbabwe through a puppet opposition party, formed and financed by the British and her ally the US through the West Minster fund with the hope that once President Mugabe is ousted out of power, the imperialists will once again control the land of Zimbabwe.

Constitutional amendment number 18 of 2007 resulted in the Harmonised election of March 29th. Since there was no absolute winner for the Presidential election, as required by the Constitution, there had to be a presidential run off between president Mugabe of ZANU PF and Morgan Tsvangirai of MDC on June 27th which was

resoundingly won by President Mugabe - another big blow to imperialism- thanks to the youth and people of Zimbabwe for defeating imperialism and protecting the independence and sovereignty of Zimbabwe!

As a result of the June 27 presidential election victory of President Mugabe, the Global Political Agreement which was a child of the political dialogue between ZANU PF and the two MDC formations recognized his election and had the following as a basis: Cde Robert Gabriel Mugabe to be an Executive President, Commander in Chief of the Defense Forces and Chair of Cabinet; Two Vice Presidents both from ZANU PF; Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to be the Prime Minister and Chair of the Council of Ministers; Professor Aurther Oliver Guseni Mutambara will be the Deputy Prime Minister; Another Deputy Prime Minister from MDC -T; There are 31 Ministries allocated as follows: ZANU PF 15 ; MDC led by Tsvangirai 13 and MDC led by Mutambara 3.

Constitutional amendment number 19 has facilitated the formation of this inclusive government which was sworn in this February 2009 and has so far made a lot of progress regarding nation building and recovery of the economy. Shame to the countries' detractors who wanted this inclusive government to fail!

On April 18th, the youth and people of Zimbabwe celebrate 29 years of their hard won independence. It comes during a historic time in their history with the inclusive government in place. The focus for the Zimbabwean youth and people is now the economic empowerment to bring their political independence to totality, for 'political independence without the control of the economy is indeed hollow', Zimbabwean President R.G Mugabe always says. Long live the Zimbabwean independence, long live 100% empowerment:total independence!

*\*Text submitted by ZANUPF YL*



*Comrade Mugabe in a rally of ZANUPF YL*

# No to repression in Burma!

## The roots and developments of the Burmese youth struggle

The students and youths of Burma have led glorious fight against both the colonial rule and oppressive military dictator through out its whole history. Thus, the role of student and youth in Burma has a dynamic and decisive in shaping the destiny of nation. The glory of student struggle can be found in the words of legendary student leader Ba Hein in 2nd Conference of All Burma Students Union in 1938: "it is not enough and dutiful for student of colonial country by just study and complete their education but as son of soil, must be actively involve in nation's affairs and free people from any oppression and poverty." First student was upraised in 1920 from Rangoon University against colonization of education pushed by then Colonial Government. Students made a clarion call and boycotted the council that tried to forcefully enact the University act. In the years of 1930s, Rangoon University had become focal point of independence struggle and gave the birth of Burmese leaderships like Ko Nu (first Prime Minister of Burma), Ko Aung San (National hero and father of Aung San Suu Kyi) and Ko Ba Hein. They urged to whole Burmese and especially the youths and students saying; "if we need to heap ours bone into mountain for the freedom, it was our bone will be found at the bottom of that mountain".

Though Burma got independence in 1948 and entertained short-live parliamentary democracy under the Premiership of Ku Nu, unfortunately ended by military coup in 1962. Military regime led by general Ne Win suspended the democratic rights of the people. All the political parties and democratic institutions were banned and country became

breedingground for military establishment. Three months after Ne Win's coup, student from Rangoon University staged peaceful protest in University compound. But, brutal military regime gunned down hundreds of students and crushed demonstration brutally. Nevertheless students did not bow-down to the oppressive on-sought of the military. Successive generations of Burmese students challenged military regimes in several occasions, i.e.; 1963 movement for internal peace, 1967 SEAT Game affairs, solidarity with worker affairs in 1974, UN Secretary General U Thant funeral affairs in 1974/75, Hmaing centenary affairs in 1976, 1987 and 1988 great movement for democracy, 1996 affairs and finally with the Sangha movement of September 2007.

Of all, the great democratic movement led by student in 1988 known as '8888 Movement' is the most glorious one. In November 1987, then ruling so-called Burma Socialist Program Party quixotic socialism to cover the face of fascist military establishment, decreed to demonetize 70 percent of bank notes circulating in the country. This state looting of public hard earned money has become last straw to break the camel. People enthusiasm came out to the street when student called for nationwide strike for abolishment of the single party rule and return of democracy. Thousand of thousands people throughout the country marched into streets for several days. In return, the brutal regime opened fire on peaceful demonstrators and brutally cracked down the movement. Well over three thousands people were brutally killed.

After this crackdown, one section of students remained inside the country to continue under ground struggle whereas another section left to bordering area to raise the arm struggle. Other remained to form a political party namely Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) under military regime's multi-party election law. The exile faction has been continuing their struggle to get support from the international community while their counterpart inside the country carry out the struggle by challenging brutal suppression of military regime. In this course, several hundreds of students had been put into jail and many were tortured to death.

Most of the leaders of the 88-generation student were released in November 2005. Soon after they released from jails, they have resumed several peaceful struggle like white campaign, signature campaign and prayer campaign in all faith for peace in the country. It got momentum day by day with people's enthusiasm hoping freedom. Coward generals rearrested them in August 2007 but it went on. Student formed 'student union 2007' and got into alliance with Sangha (Buddhist



Youth demonstrations in Burma

Monkhood) to call general strike. Hundreds of thousands of monks and student took the streets in Rangoon and countryside chanting Buddha Mantra for peace and prosperity in the country and asking national reconciliation to democracy. This time too, the regime lashed out its killing machine even against the Buddhist monks chanting the mantra of compassionate love for all. Several hundreds of Buddhist monasteries had been raided and sealed. About 30 people including monks and nuns were killed and over three hundred were disappeared according to UN estimate. Over six thousand of people, monks and nuns had been arrested.

In last November 2008, over 80 democracy activists including poets, boggliers, Buddhist monks and students were have been jailed. Half of them were sentenced to 65 years for their involvement in the peaceful demonstrations in September 2007. They face 21 charges and their trial has been continuing. In fact some of them have already spent over 15 years in prison for their involvement in 1988 democratic movement. Some of them have been move to prison in remote part of Burma making impossible for their families to visit them, and to detain them in a harsher condition of torture and denial of medical treatment. Still, over 2000 of political prisoners including freedom fighter Aung San Suu Kyi, were put into various jails throughout the country in which the majority are students. The military regime called the State Peace and Development Council announced to hold fresh election in 2010 without implementation of 1990 general elections result won by National League for Democracy party of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Despite the regime's all out crack down on each and every section of Burmese society, student of Burma carry on their relentless struggle against the military dictatorships in the country. They are planning to strike against junta's plan and to launch boycott campaign in this election jointly with Sangha(monk) society. The year 2009 and 2010 is very crucial for Burma and its people. At this junction the students are prepared themselves to sacrifice as response to the calling of the nation.

WFDY poster solidarity towards Burma



# The change arrives to Salvador!

## For the first time, anti-imperialist forces arrive to power

In El Salvador, as in almost all the countries of the continent, the youth have been leading actors of the development and struggles that people have prompted for achieving their more elementary aspirations of democracy, justice, welfare and full happiness. And in this new historic setting that is opened in our country, from the political victory achieved by the FMLN and the democratic, progressive forces and of advanced, last March 15, the Salvadoran youth should take up again, its role as a leading actor.

Attracted by the new face that Mauricio Funes represented in its programmatic approaches, and in a large quantity of proposals directed toward the youth, the majority of the youth decided to vote for the FMLN. Thus, the youth became an actor in the construction of the triumph; today they take an active role in various fronts of the struggle.

As usual the factor of unity will be determinant. The post-war and alienation, this last a product of the cultural importation, both managed to implant in the minds of the Salvadoran youth a large quantity of anti-values, like selfishness, lack of solidarity, consumerism, individualism, that are also the values of neoliberalism. This also struck the organized youth movement. The university students and secondary school students do not count with a united platform of struggle, on the

contrary, they include different paths that up to now have made it impossible for their collective construction. The same thing occurs with the other sectors of the youth, as is the case of the youth organized in churches, working youth, artists, and athletes, among others.

Another decisive factor that becomes an important challenge is that the youth know how to interpret the historic moment that we live in as a result of the political and electoral victory of last March 15. Is not just any victory, nor is it just about winning an election. We have seized the government from the most reactionary sectors of the Latin-American right wing, in a country that has always been a springboard for American politics toward the region. It was here that a large quantity of terrorists and worms were given refuge, which wandered with impunity through our streets. All that has ended: for the kingdom of corruption and lies. But besides that, it is the first alternative government in El Salvador. Many youths and youth organizations have questioned the programmatic changes that the FMLN had to make in order to win this election. To these youths we tell them that we continue being revolutionaries, we continue struggling for the transformation of this political system. As Schafik Handal said in his speech celebrating the signing of the Peace Accords, in January of 1992, "We incorporated ourselves to the system to change the system, not so that the



*All the people is with FMLN*

system could change us". We are going to raise the flag of change, we are going to work hand by hand with the people, and in that context the youth should assume their important role, by also proposing changes and offering the new government its support in all the measures that prompt for the benefit of the country.

The youth who are well aware of their historic role, should support the government of change. The youth should be attentive before the events that come ahead, and be able to fight against any destabilizing intent that may try to impede the arrival of changes so expected by all Salvadorans. In the new government they will find without doubt, to the true ally to struggle for the most felt demands and longed for during decades.



*Young people in a rally of FMLN Salvador*



*In the picture: Shafik Handal*



# WFDY action on the ground

## A walkabout through WFDY solidarity actions during 2008

2008 was very busy year for WFDY, during which the effort to reinforce the traditional and fundamental guideline of expressing the solidarity in the ground, near the youth and peoples, where imperialist offense is most violently felt. This is not only a way to encourage the youth of these countries to keep their important struggle by showing them that they are not alone, but also for all those who take part in the solidarity missions, an opportunity to contact personally with these inspiring experiences and a way to collect concrete elements and information that is most certainly a valuable asset to the reinforcement of the struggle of youth in all countries of the world. In this sense, throughout 2008, WFDY promoted visits, missions and/or caravans to the Balkans area, Colombia, the Southern countries of Africa and, last but not least, Palestine.

### The Balkans (April 2008)

The caravan to Balkans took place in a most significant moment, as it was not only during the 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NATO, as George W Bush was visiting Zagreb (Croatia) and in Bucharest (Romania) a summit of NATO was taking place to decide on its expansion and on the proceeding with the its military strategy that, among other aspects, would lead to the provocative attack of Georgia to Russia on August 2008.

The caravan lead its participants to contact with SKOJ in Serbia, UTS in Romania and SOS Youth Association in Croatia, allowing the participants to have a wide view on how imperialism destroyed Yugoslavia and how

it is imposing its anti popular and antidemocratic measures in all the Balkans area. Moreover, the antidemocratic procedures of the Croatian authorities towards the participants themselves, allowed all to feel exactly what is happening in the area.

### Colombia (July 2008)

The important mission to Colombia allowed several member organizations of WFDY to take part in one of the hottest spots of the world nowadays. Especially in the streets of Bogota, but also in the regions nearby, it was possible for the participants to witness and realize how dramatic is the situation of the country with the largest number of trade unionists disappeared in the world.

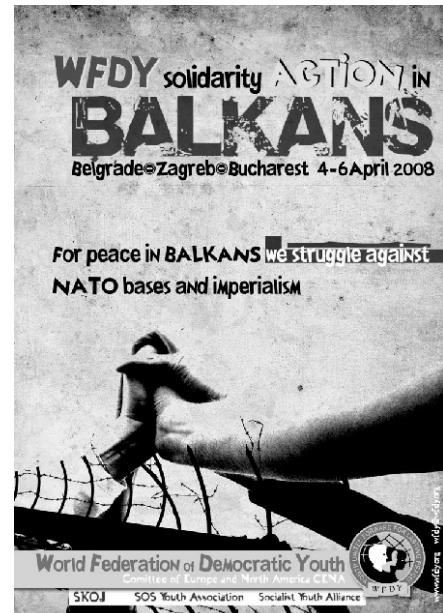
The intense attack to all those who, for some reason, express their disagreement and struggle against the neo fascist and pro USA policy of Alvaro Uribe's administration are immediately condemned to be tagged as "terrorists" and to be chased by the state itself or the paramilitary forces sponsored by the state.

Alongside with this, the massive destruction of all the rights of the Colombian people, with the privatization of education and health and the high exploitation of the workers, was acknowledged by the participants in this solidarity mission to Colombia, reinforcing our reflection about how wide and connected with all areas of life must the concept of democracy be.

### The Southern countries of Africa (October 2008)

As a demonstration of solidarity and as way to get even more close the African organizations, WFDY decided to visit several countries of the Southern area of Africa, namely Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Namibia and Angola. Despite the relevance of the visit to all countries, the particular situation of Zimbabwe and South Africa made it even more important to take place this exact moment.

The increasing imperialist interferences in Zimbabwe, led by USA and UK, is taking the country to an unsustainable situation, despite the important achievements made by the National Land Reform process. In South Africa, the imperialist intention of splitting the ANC was coming to means of fact as some former elements of ANC and the bourgeoisie held media were creating a negative atmosphere for the countries development towards a future of real democracy and sovereignty.



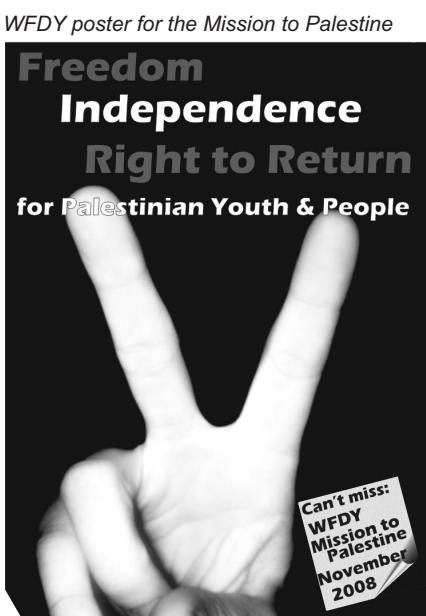
WFDY poster for the action in Balkans

Moreover, this was an important opportunity to contact with the important progresses made by Namibia, Mozambique and particularly Angola, after the long expected and now achieved peace.

### Palestine (November 2008)

The last solidarity mission of 2008 led us to the occupied land of Palestine, just on month before Israel started to bomb and invade Gaza. With the precious support of the Young Communist League of Israel, the participants had the opportunity to see with their own eyes the daily humiliations that the Palestinian youth and people suffers everyday, with the constant and arbitrary check points, the Israeli shameless wall around and inside Palestine, the destruction of the Palestinian most basic means of life and development, such as the water and the olive trees (basis of the Palestinian economy).

At the same time, this allowed us to get clear and specific information on the historical process of the occupation of Palestine by the Israeli forces and settlers, which with the support of new technologies is a valuable asset to show to the world the reality of the situation lived by the long suffering people of Palestine. The participants also had the opportunity to meet students and other youngsters of GUPS, PDYU or PPPY, who gave impressive personal testimonials of how deep the attack to the rights of the Palestinian people is.





# Time for collective discussion, time for collective action!

## WFDY Regional and International Meetings

As part of the analysis of the year 2008, we decided to go through some of the most relevant elements of the meetings that WFDY held during last year. Altogether, these meetings were important places of discussion between WFDY members, allowing the share of experiences, analysis and views on the situation of the world and each region. Moreover, and as most important fact, these meetings allowed WFDY member organizations to keep WFDY the important international anti-imperialist youth organization that it is, by reinforcing its concrete action regarding the most relevant struggles of the youth.

### GC Meeting, February Lisbon, Portugal

The General Council Meeting of WFDY held in Lisbon, Portugal from Feb 3-5, 2008 is most important in WFDY life as it changed the task of WFDY HQ replacing new comrades from JCP Portugal and UJC, Cuba. It decided 17th WFYS hosting organization unanimously and passed the especial resolution in support of ongoing student movement in Iran and crisis in Korean Peninsula. It further finalized the WFDY activities of 2008 such as Thematic Campaign on Education, Solidarity Mission to Palestine, Update Contact Campaign etc and also amended WFDY Financial rules. Around 50 member organization of WFDY participated.

### CC Meeting, July, Caracas, Venezuela

The Coordination Council Meeting and International Consultative Meeting 17 WFYS was organized in Caracas on July 17 and 18, 2008 in Caracas, Venezuela, hosted by the Communist Youth of Venezuela. The meeting previously

CENA met in Athens, Greece



supposed to be happening with hand-flag ceremony of 17th WFSY was converted to above due to the unexpected situation built by the withdrawal of proposal to host the festival by BRSM. The meeting briefly discussed on the situation that developed abruptly to withdraw of BRSM showing the financial and infrastructure cause. It further discussed on the other alternatives. As time already running out for 2009 it unanimously decided to start consultation for 2010. The meeting also discussed on ongoing WFDY activities, campaigns and solidarity missions especially on education, Burma and Palestine. The meeting was attended by 30-member organization of different region.

### Latin America and Caribbean Meeting April, Caracas, Venezuela

WFDY Regional Meeting of Latin America and Caribbean was conducted on 15-16 April 2008 in Caracas Venezuela. Sixteen member organizations and friendly organization of



Asia & Pacific meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal

WFDY had participated the program. The meeting analyzed the political situation of Latin America and extended solidarity with anti-imperialist movement going on in the region. It discussed the decisions of WFDY GC meeting in Portugal, 17th Festival preparation and major WFDY activities.

### Europe and North America Meeting September, Athens, Greece

WFDY Regional Meeting of CENA was conducted on 20-21 September 2008, in Athens Greece. It was conducted following the KNE Greece Odigitis



The CC took place in Caracas, Venezuela

Festival. The eleven organizations that took part discussed deeply the regional situation for the youth, particularly regarding the role of USA and European Union, but also the consequences coming from the attack of Georgia and NATO against Russia. Democratic rights, the 60th Anniversary of NATO, the 10th Anniversary of NATO and 50 years of the Cuban Revolution dominated the discussion on the preparations of the year 2009.

### Asia and Pacific Meeting September, Kathmandu, Nepal

World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) has launched its Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Kathmandu from 22 to 24 September 2008. The meeting was participated by 10 organizations of Asia-Pacific Region. The Meeting discussed WFDY activities and its movements including possibility to host 17th World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Asia. The meeting has passed the 11 resolutions in solidarity with ABSL Burma, against ban of KSM Check Republic, Palestine, etc and different movement related with anti-imperialism, youth rights, peace and democracy. It congratulated Nepali youth and people to make peaceful revolution of making Nepal a democratic republic. The seminar on education and a solidarity meeting was also conducted followed by the WFDY regional meeting.

**The remaining regions are preparing their regional meetings for 2009.**

# Significant moments of 2008

The year of 2008 was very rich in contributions for the World History, particularly for the youth and its anti-imperialist struggle. In the following pages World Youth highlights one of each month, to keep everyone's memory fresh and support our everyday struggle.

## **January: Bush visits Middle East**

The U.S. president George Bush made a state visit to 7 countries in the Middle East region under the slogan of facing the threats of Iran against the region, and promoted the U.S. policies in the region, in coordination with the so-called moderate regimes. WFDY strongly denounced this visit that will only promote the current theft of the resources, called for the withdrawal of the U.S and all other foreign forces from the region, and for the dismantling of all imperialist military bases in the Middle East and elsewhere. WFDY supports the struggles of the youth of the region against occupation and exploitation and called for the full independence and sovereignty of the countries of the region.



## **March: KSM Czech Republic is banned**

After several years the Czech Government finally managed to find way to accomplish its goal: The Czech Communist Youth Union (KSM) was declared illegal by a Czech court!. This is a clear sign that imperialism does not stand all those who oppose it and, as in many other places in the World and in Europe, it persecutes those who have the courage to struggle for a better world – peaceful, democratic and fair, free of militarization, military bases and exploitation. It is remarkable that this particular offensive has as its target a youth organization. WFDY firmly believes that the organized struggle can change the future. Let's not wait anymore and show to the world that imperialism cannot ban the future. Let's shout as if our voices were one.



## **February: AKEL wins historical election in Cyprus**

The World Federation of Democratic Youth greeted EDON for the victory of Demetris Christofias – General Secretary of AKEL – on the Cypriot elections' second round. WFDY has been a keen defender of a peaceful and sovereign solution for the Cypriot problem and always condemned the Turkish invasion and occupation ever since, considering that only the reunification of both parts of the island is a fair solution. Therefore, WFDY states its gladness over this very positive result, wishing EDON and the Cypriot youth the best of lucks to their everyday struggle for peace and social transformation.

land reform program - an agrarian revolution that has resulted in a more equitable ownership of the means of production enabling the indigenous people to assume full control of their own economy, against imperialist sanctions and interventions, particularly from the British government.

## **May: Longlive the Nepalese Republic!**

WFDY congratulated to the youths and people of Nepal for establishing Democratic Republic of Nepal after long struggle against monarchial system to establish peace and democracy in the country. World Federation of Democratic Youth has played very crucial role in conducting solidarity to support the struggle of Nepali people by joining hand in hand with DNYF Nepal, ANNFSU and other youth and student organizations from very beginning. So victory of Nepali youths and people is symbolic to all struggling people and youth of world for peaceful, democratic and justifiable society. we hope Nepal would able to pave the way of Democratic Republic by establishing more inclusive, justifiable and democratic constitution and polity sidelining any subversions and interventions from any sides. WFDY will look forward more vibrant role of youths and students in Nepal to galvanize the process.



## **June: The EU Reform Treaty dies in Ireland - victory of all peoples**

In all the countries (except Ireland) the Governments decided to take the decision to adopt this document in the National Parliaments, as they were

# 20 World Youth 2009

## Sport is a right of all, not a privilege of a few!



afraid that, once again, the peoples and youth of the European Union countries rejected this document. WFDY expressed its full support to all the progressive organizations that all through European Union member countries struggle against the "Lisbon Treaty" and called upon all young people of Ireland to rally under the banners of anti-imperialism, national sovereignty, international solidarity and social development and give a clear "NO" to the EU Treaty on the referendum that took place in Ireland. Whatever is the path chosen or the developments occurred, WFDY will never give up on the struggle against imperialism and will never accept the anti-democratic contents and procedures followed by European Union regarding the whole "Lisbon Treaty" process!



### July: Imperialism tries to boycott the Olympic Games

The World Federation of Democratic Youth called upon the Youth of the World to unite all efforts towards the successful and peaceful peoples' accomplishment of the Beijing Olympic Games, against all imperialist intentions and actions. WFDY wished that The Olympic Games should be seen as an opportunity for the athletes and the audience, most of them young people, shared experiences and, together, with friendship and solidarity, reinforced the bonds that unite all the peoples' of the World, characteristics not only of the peoples Olympic Games, but of the sports practice in general. Therefore, WFDY expressed its wishes of a successful and peaceful Olympic Games in Beijing 2008 and demanded that all the imperialist interferences were immediately stopped, letting the games take place in a positive and respectful atmosphere.

### August: Russia vs Georgia/NATO - the interimperialist clash

The World Federation of Democratic Youth, expressed its solidarity to all the victims, particularly the youngsters – dead, wounded and refugees – of the war between Georgia and Russia. WFDY severely condemned both the attack. The South Ossetian and Abkhazian issues, raised so strongly, are indeed a similar situation to the Serbian province Kosovo. the dismantling of Georgia would not serve the interests of USA, EU and NATO, and so the "territorial integrity" of a country is now a major issue, when before meant nothing. WFDY expressed its deep concern by the growing tension on the international field as a product of the expansion of NATO, the increasing militarization and the conflict in the Caucasus, alongside with the expansion of USA anti-missile shield (just recently accepted by Poland and Czech Republic) and the nuclear pact celebrated between India and the USA.

### September: Bolivian oligarchy attacks the people

The World Federation of Democratic Youth expressed all your condemnation of the Latin American oligarchies for boycotted the democratic processes that are developing in the region, demonstrated their despise for the poor and denying to recognize that the people have united themselves to struggle for a World that we are sure it is possible. WFDY expressed its total support to the Bolivian people and government, condemned the destabilizing actions that have had the supported of the support of the USA imperialist administration. WFDY called upon all its member and friend organizations as well as the youth of the World to express its solidarity towards the just cause of the Bolivian youth and people, with its president Evo Morales and demanding that the right to the peoples to be free and independent is respected.



### October: Ecuador in progressive process of change

WFDY expressed its recognition towards the effort that has been being done by the Government and youth of Ecuador, which are committed to create a "citizenship revolution: a radical process of change, deep and fast". As President Correa, WFDY called upon all its member and friend organizations and to the youth of the World joined this recognition and expressed its total solidarity towards the process of change lived in Ecuador. The World Federation of Democratic Youth has received with much happiness the news about the historical triumph of "Yes" with 70% of support to the new Constitution of Republic of Ecuador, which as President Correa said, expresses the wish of Ecuadorians to achieve a new nation: sovereign, fair, without misery, with production, with employment and without discrimination



### November: The capitalist systems is imploding!

The World Federation of Democratic Youth denounced this hideous situation and called upon all its member and friend organizations to unite their voices to let all the youngsters of the world understand and struggle against this new face of the offense against the rights of the youth and people of the world. With our solidarity bonds and our common struggle we will be able to defeat the imperialism intents of preserving the inequalities in which it is grounded and, therefore, we will defeat imperialism itself, building a world of peace, justice and social development. However, the "solutions" found by imperialists to solve this crisis are an offense to the people of the world, making once again the poorest pay for



the crisis created by the imperialist administration and its economical allies. How many thousands of public hospitals, universities, schools, nurseries, sports centers, and culture infrastructures could have been built and kept in excellent shape with this money? How many millions of doctors and teachers could have been graduated? How many years of food and drink could have provided to mankind if that money was invested in sustainable development processes of production, especially in Africa and in Southeast Asia?



**December:  
Stop the massacre in Gaza  
NOW! Free Palestine!**

The World Federation of Democratic Youth, denounced and firmly condemns the brutal, illegal and criminal attack of the Israeli army to Gaza, Palestine, in the same sense expressed that the Israeli policy move to the military level is an expression of its political failure in Gaza and the region. The slogan of fighting Hamas and terrorism was used as a pretext to end the palestinian resistance formed by several factions specially secular, leftist and popular resistance in addition to Hamas. A conspiracy to end the palestinian cause by ending the palestinian identity and destroying all its means of subsistence is a common goal for Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and other Arab regimes. USA fully supports and covers the war while the EU is giving Israel more and more time before issuing a real standpoint, closing its eyes before a situation that had long been known as very bad and that is clearly catastrophic. WFDY expressed its total solidarity with all the actions of resistance and solidarity organized all over the world over the last week. WFDY called upon all its friend and member organizations, as well as all young progressive and democratic people of the world to make the return to classes in schools and universities and to work places for those who work, a return to the struggle. WFDY decided that between 5 and 10 of January 2009, should be a week of worldwide protests

in front of the Israeli, US and Egyptian demanding immediate cease of fire, and opening of the borders for all the needs of the Gazan people, and their right to move in and out of their big jail.

**...AND IN 2009?**

**IN 2009 THE  
STRUGGLE  
CONTINUES, EVEN  
STRONGER!**

# Peoples united against imperialism

## Contribution of the World Peace Council

Without doubt the year 2008 was marked by ongoing aggressions and new crimes of imperialism against Humanity. The recent Israeli murderous attack against innocent civilians in the Gaza strip of Palestine is one more proof for the inhuman and brutal regime of Israel, but also result of a war drive policy of Israel which is killing in a slowly genocide the Palestinian people. These crimes are fully backed and endorsed by the US administration and no illusion can be there that the new administration will change anything in this regard.

The WPC reaffirms its support to the PLO, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people to whom we express our firm solidarity and call for unity and resistance against the aggressions. The only just and viable solution can come with the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital. Only with the withdrawal of all occupation forces from Arab lands there can be peace and justice.

Last year we witnessed also increasing competition and rivalries between imperialist forces in the world. The war in South Ossetia was started on the orders of the USA and NATO by the Georgian government, which is under their control, making use of the differences between Georgia and

Russia. It is the result of the exacerbation in differences and rivalries amongst the imperialist powers in the large, broader region stretching from North Africa to the Arctic and from the Balkans to the Caucasus and Caspian Sea. These rivalries concern the control over the wealth-producing reserves, the fuel pipelines, the shares of the market and spheres of influence.

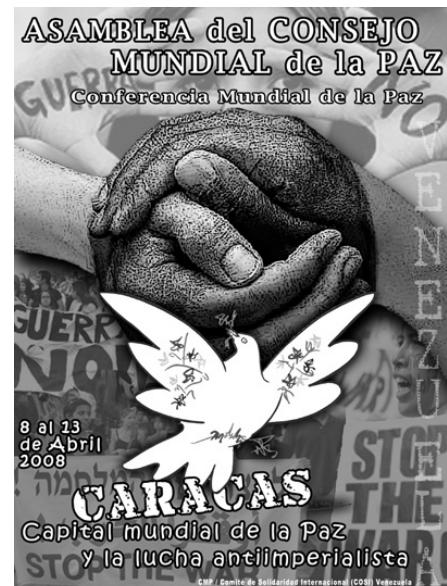
These developments, however, are also linked to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and the military preparations being made against Iran. They are dangerous and could give rise to a chain of events all over the region.

The Georgian attack gave Russia the opportunity to proceed to regain lost ground and the same time triggered the proclamation of the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, having as a precedent the illegal proclamation of Kosovo's independence and its recognition by the imperialists.

These developments are likewise interconnected, resulting from the attempts made by the USA and NATO to safeguard their leading position, particularly against Russia. This is why they are preparing to install the so-called Missile Defence Shield in the Czech Republic and in Poland, are seeking to bring Georgia and Ukraine into NATO and are setting up new bases in the Balkans.

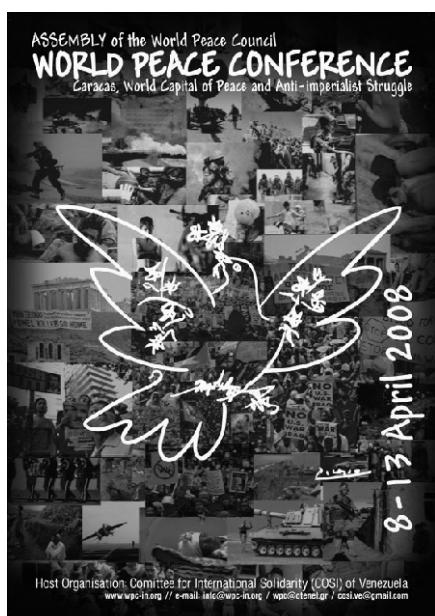
These events accelerate the moves of various axes and players on the global chessboard. The USA is stepping up its propaganda and is using its "lapdogs", for example Great Britain and the Baltic States, to legitimize its aggressiveness. The EU and most of the countries that are also NATO members on the one hand walk hand-in-hand with the USA and on the other are trying to get a bigger part of the booty in the region.

The 2009 will be full of occasions for peoples' movements to stand up and fight against imperialist domination and its tools. There is the 60<sup>th</sup> "anniversary" of NATO in April in Strasbourg and Baden-Baden where the WPC will organize with friendly Organisations special events and participate in the huge anti-NATO demonstration of 4<sup>th</sup> April. There is the 10 years from the bombing of ex-Yugoslavia, which was



the ground for later crimes and aggressions of NATO after 1999. It is only the WPC that commemorates the victims of that aggression against the peoples of Yugoslavia, that speaks about the thousands of tons of Depleted Uranium which were used, when mentioning NATO. **We did not discover NATO 60 years after its foundation.** The WPC stood up from the very first moment and continuously against the war machinery of the USA and its allies in the European Union, whenever peace and security were at stake. Although NATO was created before the Warsaw Pact, after the dissolution of the USSR, not even the argument of defending itself from the "enemy in the east", was valid. Today, after 60 years of crimes and wars the only demand of the peoples can be: **DISMANTLE IT!**

Therefore the WPC will co-organize with the Serbian "Belgrade Forum" an international conference on 23-24 March in Belgrade, in order to highlight the current policies of imperialism on the Balkans, the broader region of Middle East and Central Asia.



# **Refugees' rights and situation**

## **The world can't keep watching and doing nothing!**

Instability, insecurity, harsh economic conditions and wars are some of the most important reasons that force the people to leave their houses and their social relations and go away to live in other places where they usually suffer from alienation and social isolation. Nowadays there are many conflicts and wars caused by occupation and imperialist aggressions that force the people to leave especially in Afghanistan and Iraq and what happened in Yugoslavia few years ago. However, some refugees have been suffering for decades and the conditions that made them refugees still exist and force other people to alienation day after day. The most crucial case is that of the Palestinian people who were forced to leave their country in two big phases in 1948 and then in 1967, and in smaller numbers continuously till now. It is estimated that about 4.7 million

Palestinians are now refugees outside Palestine mainly in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Tunisia and other countries around the world. In Western Sahara about 150,000 people have fled to live in refugee camps in Algeria including 90,000 who are classified to be "in the most vulnerable conditions". Those two areas are still victims of occupation and war thus forcing more and more people to refuge.

Another kind of refugees are those people who are forced to leave within their country from one region to another, and this is more related to temporary wars and conflicts or to ethnic and sectarian violence. For example after the occupation of Iraq, about two million people turned to be refugees abroad, mainly in Syria and Jordan, while another 5 millions became "Internally Displaced People", moving within Iraq away from sectarian violence to relatively calm areas within Iraq. The same happened in Afghanistan and Yugoslavia were sectarian and ethnic cleansing forced millions of people to flee to other areas within the same countries. Now violence in Sudan, Congo, Columbia and Nigeria, civil war and internal violence in Columbia and Burma and blockade in Zimbabwe are causing most of the refugee and internal displacement cases in the world. It is important to notice that imperialist interventions and interests of the big capitalist countries cause all of those crises in one way or another. It is estimated that the total number of



refugees and internally displaced people is around 62 millions worldwide, which outnumbers the population of France or Italy or the UK!

The United Nations has two agencies for the refugees, UNHCR and UNRWA. UNHCR stands for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. It was established after the World War Two to deal with the problems of refugees around the world and help the most vulnerable cases in their survival and basic primary rights.

UNRWA is the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for the Palestinians, and it is specialized with the Palestinian refugees solely since they form the biggest population of refugees. UNRWA

has offices in many countries where there are Palestinian refugees and is also responsible for their survival, health services and education. However, the aggressive countries rarely commit to those agencies or respect their work, and they are prohibited from pursuing their humanitarian work with the people. Israel has bombed several offices for UNRWA in Lebanon and Palestine during its wars to prevent them from aiding Palestinians, while USA and other aggressive countries always violate the right of those agencies to operate freely in zones of war and refuge.

Of course the solution of the problems of the millions of refugees does not lie solely on the humanitarian level, but it should be dealt on the political level, where solving the origins and the causes of wars and forced evacuations will solve the problem of refugees. Comprehensive and fair solutions for the independence of Palestine, Sahara and Iraq and peace in the hotspots of the world is the key for stopping the emergence of new victims of refuge and giving the existing refugees their right in returning to their homes.

