

*Statement No: 2026/1*

**Imperialist thuggery will lose; the resisting peoples will win!**

US imperialism has added yet another crime to its countless crimes against the peoples of Central and South America, which it has declared its 'backyard'. Along with air strikes against Venezuela, it announced that it had kidnapped and taken hostage Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife. It was reported that over 40 people were killed in the attacks by US imperialism.

US imperialism has been building up its military presence in the region since Donald Trump began his second term as president in January 2025, waging an undeclared war, even shooting down fishing boats from the air. Over 100 civilians of various nationalities have been killed in these attacks. Although the US propagates this imperialist thuggery under the slogan of 'fighting drugs,' it is clear that its real goal is to seize its underground and above-ground resources, primarily oil. This is the real aim of imperialist aggression, which seeks to establish a dependent and subservient regime in Venezuela.

The United States' aggression towards Venezuela is not new. Hugo Chávez, a former military officer, declared the 'Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela'; nationalised certain underground resources, primarily oil; implemented some populist policies; and developed relations with the anti-US imperialist camp, making the Chávez administration a direct target of US imperialism under George W. Bush. During that period, every means and method, primarily through attempted military coups, were tried to destroy the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. This aggressive line was then continued uninterrupted during the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations in the form of economic sanctions, military threats, and support for the Venezuelan opposition.

Following Hugo Chavez's death, Nicolas Maduro, who was elected to replace him, adopted a style of governance that relied more heavily on the army and police to protect and maintain his power; in the process, the people were crushed under mounting pressure and worsening poverty. On the other hand, it is well known that certain cliques within the military and bureaucracy in Venezuela, a transit country for drugs on the Colombia-Caribbean route, profit from this trade. In short, despite all its rhetoric, the Maduro administration is far from being a populist alternative; it is an authoritarian regime based on military and bureaucratic loyalty. Imperialist aggression has besieged the Venezuelan working class and poor from two directions. External intervention combines with the repressive state apparatus within the country to reinforce their suffering.

However, none of these are, of course, the real reasons for US imperialist aggression. The main reason for the US attack on Venezuela is the growing influence of China and Russia, rival imperialist camps in the region and in Venezuela. Commercial agreements and investments, primarily in oil, have increased the effectiveness of rival imperialist powers in the region, which US imperialism sees as its 'backyard'.

Increasing competition and market rivalry among imperialist monopolies has led the US to directly target Venezuela because of its strategic location, energy resources, and rare minerals. US imperialism will not stop at Venezuela; it will intensify its aggression with the aim of turning Central and South America back into its 'backyard'.

All countries in the region that have developed economic and political relations with China and Russia, particularly Cuba and Nicaragua, are targets of US imperialism's policies of pressure, threats, and intervention.

This is because the basis of US imperialism's aggression lies in the intensification of contradictions and competition between imperialist camps. Seeking to re-establish its shaken hegemony, US imperialism is preparing for a new imperialist war of division under conditions of accelerating arms races and ongoing regional wars and conflicts. Towards a Third Imperialist War of Division, US and British imperialism are taking the lead, while Chinese and Russian imperialism are adopting a more defensive stance.

This objective reality necessitates international solidarity among the international proletariat and the oppressed peoples of the world against the threat of a new imperialist war of division. It is time to forge anti-imperialist alliances at the international and regional levels and to create strong centres of resistance against imperialist thuggery and the threat of general war.

The aggressiveness of US imperialism has demonstrated once again that 'international law' is nothing more than a fiction serving the interests of the powerful. Neither the decisions nor the declarations of the United Nations have any binding force or meaning in the face of the crimes committed by the US, other imperialists, or Zionist Israel. The crimes committed by the imperialists can only be stopped by the organised resistance of the peoples, not by paper laws or appeals to the UN.

For this very reason, it is time for the international proletariat and the oppressed peoples of the world, starting with the Venezuelan people, it is time to rise against imperialism, fascism, Zionism, and all forms of reaction. We declare our full solidarity with the Venezuelan people in their struggle against imperialist aggression.

**Down with US Imperialism!**

**Long live the struggle of the Venezuelan people!**

**Long live international solidarity!**

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**TKP-ML Central Committee**

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