

**HANDS OFF
VENEZUELA!**



**WORKERS
PARTY**

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STATEMENT FROM THE WORKERS PARTY OF IRELAND CONDEMNING THE U.S. IMPERIALIST ATTACKS ON VENEZUELA

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The Workers Party of Ireland condemns the latest imperialist attack by the United States against the people of Venezuela. The overnight aggression which follows months of escalation in the Caribbean involving a naval blockade, piracy and the mass executions of civilians on small boats, is a clear manifestation of the barbarity and brutality of U.S. imperialism.

This aggression, advocated by the reactionary opposition bloc led by María Corina Machado and supported by the European Union is, despite assertions to the contrary, not directed against the Maduro government, but against the national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Venezuela and the rights of its peoples to freely decide their own destiny as evidenced by the arrogant pronouncement that Venezuela's oil, land, and other assets belong to the United States.

While the Venezuelan leadership's drift authoritarianism and repression nullified many of the political, social, and labour rights enshrined in the Constitution, these developments cannot be used as a pretext for foreign military interference in Venezuela.

This overnight assault, which targeted airports, docks and other strategic points, is part of a U.S. strategy to subjugate the region to its designs and to seize the natural resources of Venezuela in the service of U.S. capital. The attacks on civilian infrastructure, the kidnap of Mikolas Maduro and his wife and the destruction of the burial place of Hugo Chavez are symbolic of the depravity of imperialism.

The Workers Party of Ireland stands firmly with the people of Venezuela in the face of the ongoing U.S. aggression in violation of the national sovereignty of Venezuela. The Venezuelan people, like the people of Cuba, will defend their sovereignty and independence. The right of the peoples to determine freely and democratically their own present and future is non-negotiable.

The Workers Party of Ireland supports the call by our comrades in the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV) for an immediate mobilisation by the international communist and

workers' movement condemning this blatant aggression and expressing their active solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

Long live proletarian internationalism!

Solidarity with Venezuela — No to imperialist interventions and war!

¡El socialismo sigue siendo la esperanza de los pueblos!

Ted Tynan, President

Gerry Grainger, International Secretary

Central Executive Committee

Workers Party of Ireland