

Online and offline Conference
Weekend
October 23-24, 2021

“Militarism and Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean ”

Frankfurt Trade Union Building
Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 69-77
60329 Frankfurt / Main (near HBF)

Organized by:
International Peace Bureau (IPB) | Network Cuba -
information office - e.V., Germany | Austrian - Cuban
Society (ÖKG) | Union
Switzerland-Cuba (VSC)

Ideas to think about

Latin America is part of the militarization and armament trends in the world, which has continued to grow since the 2014 NATO summit in Wales. This should be the focus of the first part of the Conference:

- NATO's partnership agreement with Colombia and Brazil as “global partners”.
- Expansion of the US military bases in Peru, Columbia, Honduras, Costa Rica, Chile, Paraguay and Guantanamo in Cuba; Military bases of Great Britain, France and the Netherlands.
- Use of the military infrastructure of other Latin American countries (e.g. Ecuador, Galapagos Islands).
- New military bases in Colombia, Guyana and the ABC Islands.
- Increase in military maneuvers by US and NATO troops in Colombia, Brazil and off the coasts of Venezuela.
- Mercenary operations in Venezuela financed by CIA.
- Training of Latin American military personnel in the US, in other NATO countries or by Latin American representatives.
- Growing arms exports from Western countries to Latin America.
- Exercise of government functions and economic power by high military personnel.
- Increasing subordination of civilian tasks to military leadership (fighting the drug mafia, opposition and emancipatory movements and in Corona policy).
- Policy of sanctions and blockades against Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua.
- Military cooperation with paramilitary groups, organized crime and transnational corporations.

In the second part of the Conference, counterstrategies against the growing militarization and militarism in Latin America and possible alternatives will be worked out:

- Connection between progressive political change and an independent and peaceful foreign policy (mass protests in Chile

and work on a new constitution, election of a left-wing president in Bolivia, women's protests in Argentina, Chile and Mexico, release of the former Brazilian President Lula).

- Peace policy on an international scale:
 - o Growing number of ratifications of the Tlatelolco Treaty for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.
 - o Proclamation "Zone of Peace" by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana.
 - o The participation of Latin American countries in UN peace missions.

Saturday 23th October 2021

11:00 Opening and welcome

11:15 - 13:30 h " Militarism and resistance in Latin America and the Caribbean - a historical-strategic description "

Leo Gabriel, Austria, journalist, peace activist, Intern. Council of World Social Forum: Overview of the societal situation in the region: history, strategic situation, developments and perspectives.

DrC. Alberto Prieto Pozos, Cuba, Historian: Historical Overview

Prof. Dr. Raina Zimmering, Germany, political scientist: *War and Peace*: internally - Mexico as an example of the militarization of societies in the region.

Heike Hänsel, Germany, MP die LINKE. (Left fraction): Role of the USA / NATO / EU in Latin America and the Caribbean

13:30 - 15 h lunch break

15:00 - 17:00 h Parallel working groups on individual topics

Content: Current balance of power, strategies, discourses, actors: inside, progressive movements, action orientation

- **History, colonialism, imperialism, anti-imperialism**
Impulse: Dieter Boris (tbc) Karin Gabbert, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (tbc) |
Moderation: Reiner Braun, Germany, IPB
- **Domestic war and peace - militarization of societies**
Impulse: Julieta Daza, Colombia/Venezuela | Moderation: Raina Zimmering
- **Role of the USA / NATO in Latin America**
Impulse: Heike Hänsel; Ingar Solty, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation | Moderation: Kristine Karch, No to NATO & EcoMujer
- **Sanctions and blockades as military interventionism**
Impulse: Julia Eder, Austria, ÖKG; Wiebke Diehl, Germany,

freelancee journalist & academic staff member of the federal parliament | Moderation: Edgar Göll, researcher on the future, Vice Chairman Netzwerk Cuba e.V.

- **Erfahrungen des Friedensprozesses in Kolumbien**

Impulse and Moderation: Margret Buslay, pax christi, EcoMujer | Saul Lozano, Unidos por La Paz Alemania | Jessica Pardo, Colombia, IPB

17:00 - 17:30 h break

17:30 - 18:30 h evening lecture:

Monica Valente (Brazil), General Secretary of Foro Sao Paulo

19:00 - 20:00 h informal network meeting

„Peace in Latin America and the Caribbean“, information booths: various groups

Afterwards: Fiesta Cubana [FG BRD Kuba Gruppe Frankfurt/M.]

Sunday, 24th October 2021

Action orientations and options for action "Peace and Liberations"

09:00 - 10:30 h Opening lectures:

- ***Subcommandante Injurgente Galeano*** (formerly Marcos): Zapatistas and militarism, peace and liberation (tbc)
- ***Julieta Daza***: Orientations for action and options for action for peace and liberation
- ***Reiner Braun***: (IPB): European perspective on peace and justice in Latin America and the Caribbean

10:30 - 11:45 h Four parallel working groups on the same question:

„ How is peace going in Latin America? What options and options are there? What are the next steps? “

11:45 - 12:00 h coffee break

12:00 - 13:30 h Round Table:

- **Özlem Demirel**, Germany, MP Die LINKE. (Left fraktion)
- **Leo Gabriel**
- **Kristine Karch**
- **Julieta Daza**

Moderation: **Natalie Benelli**, SWITZERLAND, VCS

13:30 h Final words and thanks: Reiner Braun

Additional Information

The conference is supported by: Peace and Future Workshop, Frankfurt / M. | Society for Peace and International Solidarity (GeFiS) | Network InterRed

Cooperation | Network "No to war - no to NATO" | Unidas por la Paz / Defendamos la Paz Internacional | "Welttrends"-Institute and -Journal.

Media partnerships: Granma, Junge Welt, Marxistische Blätter, Presenza, TeleSUR | Lateinamerika Anders.

Address: Frankfurt Trade Union House, Wilhelm-Leuschner-Str. 69-77,
60329 Frankfurt / Main (near HBF)

Internet: Zoom conference and live stream on Youtube, the links will
be published on the website shortly before the event.

Registration: Due to the limited presence under Corona conditions in
the Frankfurt Trade Union building, we ask you to register by E-mail
to or via the website. The access data for a virtual participation are
then transmitted via zoom.