

THE BULLETIN OF THE REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL



10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF JUVENTUDE REVOLUÇÃO APPEAL TO THE YOUTH OF THE WORLD



The "hunger crisis" triggers demonstrations throughout the world (Photo: Somalia)



Retire as tropas Brasileiras do Haiti!
Para soberania das nações!
Juventude REVOLUÇÃO
Seção Brasileira da Internacional Revolucionária da Juventude

Juventude Revolução campaigns for the withdrawal of the Brazilian troops



Venezuelan students rally in support of the revolutionary process

On April 19th, 20th and 21st, in Juiz de Fora (Minas Gerais), 91 youth from 11 Brazilian States met during the 10th National Convention of Juventude Revolução (affiliated to the Revolutionary Youth International); the convention was also attended by delegates from Venezuela and the USA.

The convention adopted a proposal made by the RYI meeting to address young people and their organizations world wide.



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Appeal to the youth of the

In more than 30 countries during recent months, we have seen revolts against the increase of food prices, which have caused hunger riots.

Who is responsible for this situation?

We heard a youth from Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) who told us about the plight of people in his state, where dengue fever is re-emerging; this epidemic could have been prevented if public healthcare had not been wrecked. This the result of a policy dismantling public services, a consequence of redirecting the public budget to the payment of the debt (internal and foreign) that continues to drain the lifeblood from the nation in order to meet the requirements of capitalist speculation.

We received the greeting message from a meeting of 50 Mexican and North-American youth. They explain: *"We have come to the conclusion that the problems we are facing are caused by the policy of war, of domination against the peoples, which, in our case has been waged by the Free Trade Agreements. Today, in Mexico, a movement is emerging in defense of Pemex (The Mexican National Oil Company), a public company that is the bedrock of the nation and that contributes 40% of the total national budget. In 2006, millions mobilized in resistance to rigged elections, now they are standing up for Pemex."*



It can't be denied: those responsible are the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the World Bank and the Free Trade Agreements, and all those international institutions subordinated to imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism. That is what capitalism is: a system based on the private ownership of the means of production that, today, is driving the world to barbarism. As a comrade explained at the Conference: *"Either we put an end to capitalism or capitalism will put an end to us."*

This system is causing hundreds of thousands of U.S. youths to be slaughtered and to slaughter other young people in the war in Iraq. The system denies young people any future, destroys public education and jobs, and drives millions of young people to drug addiction, to precarious jobs or unemployment.

In Haiti, the people undergo a brutal military occupation by the United Nations, headed by Brazilian troops. During our conference, we discussed a Haitian activist's open letter to Lula, Brazil's president. The letter mentions the deaths of several people and asks: *"Will you and your government remain silent in front of all that cruelty?"* These brutal deeds cannot be accepted.

In Colombia, the recent operation of President Uribe, in the service of President Bush, when he violated Ecuador's national sovereignty, showed imperialism's determination to use war against the peoples of the continent. A greeting message from Ecuador to the conference states: *"The encroachment into Ecuadorian territory by Colombian troops, under the excuse of fighting against insurgent groups, clearly shows the determination to involve us in 'Plan Colombia', which is contrived and funded by U.S. imperialism to lay its hands on our existing natural resources".* We will not accept this provocation! We want peace.

Faced with this situation, young people are resisting and fighting for their demands.

The Venezuelan delegate to the Conference remarked how important the actions of the masses have been to advance the revolution in Venezuela, which has expanded public education, nationalized several companies such as the recent nationalization of the steel company Sidor. We are on the side of the revolution, we support all the measures against imperialism.

The delegate from Revolution Youth from the United States explained to those attending: *"The destructive agenda of the U.S. government not only affects the peoples across the world but also our own people. The public education budget is regularly slashed in order to meet the needs of the occupation of Iraq. In New Orleans, genuine ethnic cleansing is underway. That is why people are organizing in support of Cynthia McKinney as an inde-*

pendent candidate running for president against the twin parties of war and racism."

A message from the Youth Alliance for Revolution (France) states: *"During the recent years, young people have several times massively risen up: against the First Job Contract (CPE – a way to terminate Permanent Job Contracts) in 2006. This year, against LRU (a law that privatizes higher education) and for a month now thousands of secondary school students have been flooding the streets, shoulder to shoulder with their teachers, against the 11,200 teacher job cuts."*



We received a letter from Bolivia, from "Revolucion Juvenil", which states: *"The fight of the youth today centers around fighting the regional oligarchies that follow in footsteps of the Santa Cruz oligarchs – the department richest in natural resource, which is organizing an illegal secessionist referendum on May 4th – who raise the banner of autonomy in order to dismember Bolivia and put an end to the present revolutionary situation, which is the result of the workers' and people's struggles in which young people have massively participated."*

Here in Brazil, last September, together with labor organizations, the CUT, the PT, the Landless Peasants Movement and other organizations, we helped bring forth a referendum of the people during which 4 million Brazilians demanded that President Lula cancel the privatizing bid for Vale do Rio Doce.

In order to stand up to those who deny our rights we can only rely on our organization, our determination and will to fight in alliance with the workers and the oppressed.

The Revolutionary Youth International was formed in order to help unite young people and youth organizations on an international level.

world

Comrades,

We do not have all the answers. We do not claim to be smarter than the others. But we are sure that we can help find a solution through struggle, because we are independent from all the enemies of the youth. This independence enables us to seek the way to advance towards revolution.

We are fighting for a future for youth, a future free from wars, from exploitation or oppression. We do not accept that the young people's rights be denied, their lives taken. We know that under the present system there will be only a future of ruins for the youth.

This is happening today for the young people who are murdered in the Brazilian favelas; this was the fate of our comrade Anderson Luiz, a Black labor activist and founder of the RYI, who was assassinated two years ago; we are still striving to have the facts brought to light and those guilty of the assassination punished. This is the fate of young Blacks in New Orleans who lost their lives due to the negligence of the U.S. Democratic and Republican governmental authorities. This is the fate of those young Palestinians whose cities are encircled by the wall and are systematically massacred by Israeli troops.

We received the invitation to the 2nd Congress of the AJR, the French section of the RYI, which will meet in October 2008. We agreed to participate, we are going to strive our utmost to have a delegate representing the present conference.

We call on all young people worldwide: send us information and contributions for the RYI bulletin concerning the challenges that young people face and concerning their resistance. Appoint correspondents to join the Editorial Board of the RYI bulletin.

**DOWN WITH WAR,
RACISM AND EXPLOITATION!
WE FIGHT FOR REVOLUTION!
TOGETHER,
LET'S BUILD THE RYI!**

April 21st, Juiz de Fora (MG)
10th National Convention of
Juventude Revolução
contato@jr-irj.org
www.juventuderevolucao.org

**BRAZIL : more than
6.000 ENDORSEMENTS
on the petition of JR**

FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TROOPS FROM HAITI!

**PELA RETIRADA
DAS TROPAS
BRASILEIRAS DO HAITI!**



HAITI:

• PELO FIM DA OCUPAÇÃO
• QUE SEU POVO HAITIANO DECIDA
LIVREMENTE SEU FUTURO!

Juventude
REVOLUÇÃO IRJ

We, young Brazilians, cannot accept that Brazilian troops head a military occupation of the United Nations, which attacks the sovereignty of Haiti and murders its people. That is why we urge all young people and students to sign and help collect endorsements of the letter of Haitian activist David Josue to the president outlining the reality of the occupation and reiterating the demand for the withdrawal of Brazilian troops from Haiti now!



LETTER BY DAVID JOSUE TO PRESIDENT LULA

PRESIDENT LULA DA SILVA:

Something untoward is going on with your soldiers in Haiti. Brazilian soldiers are conducting terrifying raids on residents of poor and defenseless communities throughout Haiti, leaving in their wake a trail of blood, tears, and death. The buck stops with you, President da Silva. You are their commander in chief. What your soldiers are doing to the innocent people of Haiti is worse than what the armed forces of Haiti were accused of doing.

No one will attempt to mitigate the utmost importance of living in a state of law. No one objects to getting a proper warrant before the proper court seeks an arrest of the accused and brings him or her to justice. But a collective warrant that declares an entire community criminal is, in itself, criminal.

President Lula da Silva, what would you say to Fredi Romelus for his terrible loss? His one-year old son, Nelson Romelus. What was his crime? Why was he executed by your soldiers? His four year-old brother Stanley, who died of a high-powered gunshot wound to the head, what was his crime? Their mother, Sonia Romelus, who died while clutching her baby, Nelson, what was her crime?



Lelene Mertina, 24-years old, was six months pregnant when a bullet ripped through her abdomen, instantly killing her unborn fetus. What was she guilty of to deserve this?

President da Silva, according to a U.N. after-action report, your soldiers spent seven hours shooting at an unarmed population. They expended over 22,000 rounds of ammunition, knowing they were striking unintended targets. This cannot possibly be the best that the Brazilian people have to offer. How can this happen when you are the President of Brazil?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us that there comes a time when silence is betrayal. Will you and your Administration remain silent on these atrocities?

April 5, 2008
2nd Continental Conference, Mexico City
David Josue
Haitian activist, member of the Power to the People campaign:
Cynthia McKinney for US President

I ENDORSE DAVID JOSUE'S LETTER AND DEMAND FROM PRESIDENT LULA THE WITHDRAWAL OF BRAZILIAN TROOPS FROM HAITI!

NAME:
Address:
School / University:
Contact (email or phone number):
Endorsement:
(Send your endorsement to: redaction-irj@hotmail.com)

VENEZUELA : interview with a young activist

"Yes, it is possible to bury capitalism"

INTERVIEW WITH ANA RODRIGUES, ODEIBO (VENEZUELA) CONDUCTED BY MARCIUS SIDDARTHA, CNJR-IRJ (BRAZIL) AFTER THE 10TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF JUVENTUDE REVOLUCAO (BRAZIL).

MS: What did you think of the 10th National Convention of Juventude Revolução (Brazil)?

AR: In light of the expectations I had before attending, I can say that all these expectations were met. The organization Juventude Revolucao (JR) in Brazil is a group that is very well oriented toward revolutionary ideals. The discussions during the convention met the needs of the youth and students of Brazil.

We discussed the exclusion of students from public universities, where only a minority are able to attend (most of whom are middle class or children of the oligarchy). Primary education and the high schools are in terrible conditions, with poorly-paid teachers and without basic infrastructure, such as chalk, seats, and chalkboards. Thus, children of the working class have low educational levels; the state does not comply with the minimum guarantees it should give to students, such as university cafeterias, transportation, and other student needs.

That is why today the Brazilian youth are fighting for the *passé-libre* (free transportation for students) and for universities accessible to all, with equal conditions.

Also at the JR convention were workshops concerning the problems facing the youth, such as drugs and cultural promotion (which is crucial for the development of young people). The discussion of health was also dealt with, particularly the question of abortion; the consensus was to support the campaigns for the legalization of abortion, breaking with ethical hypocrisy, because the reality is that it is impossible to hide the fact that many women die every year from back-alley abortions and not only in Brazil, but also in other countries where abortion is outlawed.

A very important aspect of the convention was the participation of comrade Eric Blanc from the United States, who spoke to us about the situation of the U.S. people in



relation to the developments during and after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the genocidal offensive of the government against Black people.

This situation has led to the running of Candidate Cynthia McKinney, who is part of the movement against the imperialist policies of the war in Iraq promoted by the twin parties (Democrats and Republicans). Eric also spoke to

us of the discussion and documents of the Second Continental Conference against Free Trade Agreements and for National Sovereignty that took place in Mexico City, where very important points were discussed, such as the removal of South American troops from our sister country Haiti.

A national campaign was approved by the Juventude Revolucao convention to demand that Lula immediate bring home the Brazilian troops from Haiti. Also discussed were the Free Trade Agreements in our countries that are aiming to privatize enterprises such as PEMEX in Mexico.

A very special panel occurred with economist Markus Sokol (representative of the O Trabalho current of the Workers Party, the Brazilian section of the Fourth International), who spoke about North American imperialism's economic crisis, which is resulting in dire consequences for U.S. citizens who are losing their homes because of the speculative policies of "subprime" loans.

The Juventude Revolucao convention ended by affirming its positions in favor of the revolutionary processes in the continent, particularly those in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Venezuela, which is the highest point of the revolution.

MS: What is your opinion on the new nationalizations of Chavez?

AR: They are positive and necessary to consolidate the process toward a socialist path in Venezuela; they will also provide for better conditions for Venezuelan workers and a blow against the capitalist world order which imposes neo-liberal social policies in other countries, such as the privatization of public services and companies, not to mention attacks on workers' rights.

The example of SIDOR in Venezuela is very positive; the nationalization of this company will allow for better labor rights and conditions for full-time and part-time workers.

MS: What do you think about the Revolutionary Youth International (RYI)? What organizing do you think can be done in Venezuela when you return?

AR: I like the principles defended by the organization, such as financial independence, which guarantees political independence, allowing for us to express our own demands against any attacks on the rights of the youth. I support the campaigns of the RYI being organized against wars and the social conflicts creating drug consumption. I think that the Venezuelan youth will be eager to be part of the RYI because our struggle is the same; now is the moment to unite together against those who for a long time have oppressed and humiliated our peoples and pillaged our resources. It is time to put an end to this situation. The peoples depend on us. Yes, it is possible to bury capitalism. On my return to Venezuela, I will organize meetings with youth of different revolutionary movements to report on the Brazil convention and discuss the possibilities of joining the RYI.

MS: How can youth in the continent and the world aid the Venezuelan revolution?

AR: It is necessary to organized to promote real social justice. It is necessary to organize against world inequality. The gap between the rich and poor is growing. Thousands die each day because of hunger, particularly in the African countries. In our countries, we are being dragged to this situation. It is important for youth throughout the continent and the world to have allies in our revolutionary cause, as a point of support, with people spreading the truth about the Bolivarian process in Venezuela, in addition to the development of political education with the goal of advancing toward revolution in your countries, with the RYI as a main ally with the youth and peoples to make socialism a reality.

Interview conducted in Rio de Janeiro, April 24, 2008

Defend the unity of the bolivian nation!

FACED WITH SECCESIONIST THREATS BY THE OLIGARCHIES SUBORDINATED TO WASHINGTON, THE ORGANIZATION REVOLUCION JUVENIL PARTICIPATED ON MAY 4TH IN THE MOBILIZATIONS IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITY OF THE NATION AND OF THE NATIONALIZATION MEASURES TAKEN BY THE MORALES GOVERNEMENT. IT CALLED UPON YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS OF THE COUNTRY TO ORGANIZE NEW INITIATIVES.

“Comrades, Social Community Workers, the Coordination of Youth Organizations, the La Paz Civic Committee, the Bolivarian Continental Co-ordination, the Revolutionary Peoples Youth groups, the La Paz Cultural Centre for Youth, the La Paz Pande Modenats Brigades, the Philosophy Department, the Youth Brigades o La Paz, the People’s Civic Committee of Bolivia, the Young Communists, the world strike network, university and college students:

Revolucional Juvenil (Youth Revolution) addresses all those who took part in organizing the May 4 march as well as other organizations, in order to pursue our actions against the right wing and its statutes for autonomy, pushed by U.S. Imperialism. There is a proposal for the organization of small scale action, a PROTEST MEETING in the Major University of San Andrés (UMSA) courtyard during the coming referendum for the Beni statutes the 1st June. The day chosen for organizing this small scale action is Friday 23rd May at 6. p.m. (Be on time.)

We send you revolutionary greetings, as we await your replies.”

WHAT IS THE RYI?

The RYI (Revolutionary Youth International) is an organisation of young revolutionaries whose formation is under way; the process was set on its tracks in São Paulo in 2000 and we exist in more than 15 countries on every continent.

The International is our bulletin published by an editorial board in Paris and regular correspondents in Bangladesh, Brazil, the United States, France... It publishes the contributions of RYI correspondents and the documents of its sections. It is also an “opinion column” which is open to all those who fight to defend the rights of the young.

To contact us, send contributions or become an RYI correspondent, write to:

redaction-irj@hotmail.com

Appeal to Youth

Revolution Juvenil took the initiative of and succeeded in organizing, with youth organizations, a big march of nearly 500 people, a march for the country’s unity, in protest of the illegal referendum on statutes for autonomy that would divide up the country.

The march was particularly important at the UMSA; we young people shouted with great enthusiasm slogans against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys of the oligarchy, who are trying to break up Bolivia and we directed our march to the U.S. Embassy, because U.S. imperialism is behind the break up of the country. Throughout the march we heard: “United Bolivia without oligarchies! Costas, Tuto, out with your autonomy statutes! Bush, asshole, Bolivia will not be Kosovo!”

After spending 15 minutes in protest in front of the Embassy we went up to San Francisco Square, where peasants and workers, called out by their organizations, were gathered. We, young people from the march, held a meeting there. We spoke of how we rejected the oligarchies with their civic committees and county authorities (prefects), who encourage hatred and racism, setting Bolivians against one another, the first step being referendum in Santa Cruz last May 4th. During the meeting, puppets representing Marinovick, Costas and Julio Terrazas were burnt. With the adrenaline sparked off by the whole atmosphere a little girl of about 8 years old, who trampled underfoot the Costas and Marinovick puppets, said that if at that moment the La Paz administrative head appeared, he would be burnt like the puppets at the meeting (because he supports the oligarchy and wants push for an autonomous status for La Paz). She ended up shouting, “Down with the status of autonomy, for God’s sake!”

With the success of this youth march for the country’s unity, against the illegal referendum and the status of autonomy that breaks

up the country and with the millions who demonstrated at national level, we have shown that we Bolivians are not going to let the country be divided up and that we are ready to defend it at whatever price.

Young people, comrades: this illegal separatist referendum on the May 4 has confirmed that even in Santa Cruz, a great number of the population, the most poor, do not want the break up of Bolivia. There were not 85% of the citizens of Santa Cruz, as the oligarchy said, who voted YES to the status of autonomy; 40% refused to vote and that out of the 60% who did vote, 15% said NO. In other words, the celebration of the oligarchy is a sham.

With the purpose of pursuing our combat against the breakup of the country and in order to strengthen the revolutionary process, we support El Alto Council’s decision to convene as soon as possible the great Worker, Peasant, People and Youth Summit. We guarantee that we shall take part and we want to contribute towards the unity of all sectors against the right-wing. We propose the following action, a protest meeting at Mayor University of San

Andrés (UMSA). We young people confirm that youth are conscious of what is at stake and are ready to fight. We are not dead. Young people are very much alive and are joining us in increasing numbers!

Down with the oligarchies!
Long live the revolutionary process, may it get stronger and stronger!
Long live young people, who are awakening today to the struggles of our people!
Long live the resistance of the people of Santa Cruz who didn’t go to vote in this illegal referendum!
Down with the fascist band of the Youth Union of Santa Cruz (UJC)!
Long live the mobilization of the people for the defense of the unity of the nation!



Two demonstrations of 500,000 people against the autonomy referendum of May 4.

THE Bulletin of the Revolutionary Youth International INTERNATIONAL



ALGERIA - MOVEMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS - FRANCE

ALGERIA

Excerpts from *Fraternity*, the Algerian Workers Party newspaper (January 2008):

"High school students out on strike : they won!"

Neither the state of siege, nor the ban on demonstrations were able to stop thousands of high school students from taking to the streets to demonstrate peacefully. Throughout the country, one precise slogan united them as they mobilized completely independently: "The final exam (Bac) syllabus must be cut!" (...)

This situation is worsened now by the Secretary for Education introducing a new "reform", which entails the reorganization of all teaching methods through a complete change in school syllabuses which cannot possibly be covered with the number of teaching hours.

Even those in charge of the teaching sector admit it is difficult for students to assimilate the whole syllabus. It is equally impossible for teachers to complete courses, even if the winter and spring holidays were to be cancelled. (...)

"Out of 39 students, 10 attained the average" in the first term (a high school pupil from Zeralda)

High school students are not just concerned with syllabuses being too ambitious. They are raising the alarm about deplorable first term results. "In my literary class in Mentouri, out of 35 students only 10 had average marks. In Draria, out of a class of 31 students, 8 attained the average and in Zeralda in a scientific class, out of 39, 10 only." According to students, in a report of the Algerian newspaper *Le Soir* dated 23rd of January 2008. (...)

Everyone is acquainted with the deplorable conditions our high school students have to face.

The high school students' spontaneous protest movement is perfectly legitimate as it raises the issue of their future that they do not want to see sacrificed, as Ataf d'El-Taref expressed so well "We are not guinea pigs!" (...)

In spite of all the campaigns aimed at diverting and misrepresenting the protest movement, beginning with accusing high school pupil representatives of being manipulated

by groups outside the Education sector, high school students proved that they are very aware of the situation and watchful!

"We claim our due rights"

Quite rightly the high school students' delegates from Tizi Ouzou, during a rally at the Wilaya administrative seat, gave the following answer to those who brought up the eventuality of the movement being manipulated: "You can be reassured Mr. Deciders. We are not set like clocks. We demand our due rights. The youth of the country is speaking, we love our country. We want to be the women and men of tomorrow, of whom you could be proud." (*El Watan*, January 23 2008).



Powerful demonstrations, from Alger...

FRANCE

In Algeria, high school students won their battle;

And in France what is the situation?

After two months of intense mobilization, where tens of thousands of high school students demanding the reinstatement of the 11,200 cut teaching posts, the high school students' organizations, which are supposed to represent them, in particular the Fidl, announced that significant "advances" were obtained. This was evoked as a reason for calling for "an end to the mobilization" on May 4. (Alix Nicolet, Fidl president). Now what are these "advances"?

1 - The setting up of measures for supporting students in 200 high schools in difficulty: these measures are to be provided in September 2008, through extra hours, education assistants and students at the Master level. But as the Education Minister himself admits, this does not bring back even one of the cut teaching posts. "No new jobs have been created" (*Le Monde*, May 10th 2008) recognized Xavier Darcos.

2 - The "High School Reform"

announced on June 2 by Nicolas Sarkozy, proposing less teaching hours per subject, less options, getting rid of the system of three separate final exams (Literary Baccalauréat, Scientific Baccalauréat and Social Sciences Baccalauréat). All this is the means of doing away once and for all with the Baccalauréat as a final national diploma based on an exam with anonymous correction. Already the middle school exam/diploma (the BEP) is on the point of being eliminated a protocol agreement signed by certain teacher unions.

Was it for this that high school students mobilized for two months?

Isn't it quite legitimate that they demonstrate if what they asked for has not been granted? But when they demand this right, repression is the only reply the government gives, as happened at the Lycée (High School) Paul Bert, where about a hundred teachers, students and students' parents were bludgeoned by police, (CRS) last June 2nd.

We are in this situation, because, as the bosses newspaper, *Le Figaro*, headlined: "The European Union is urging Paris to bring in reforms" (April 29).



... to Paris, where the students want to "save the teachers"!

France, like all the EU member states, is submitted to the budget cutbacks of the "European stability pact" that each country has promised to respect.

That is the reason the Sarkozy-Fillon government has put all its effort into getting rid of 11,200 teaching posts this year and more than 80,000 over 5 years.

But the government is facing the resistance of young people as well as that of workers.

After secondary and primary school teachers, it is now the turn of fishermen over the last two weeks, joined by farmers, wine growers, lorry drivers from all over Europe who are striking against the rise in diesel oil prices. In the demonstrations in France, they are carrying placards with this written on them: "Stop the European dictatorship!"

Let's go ahead with preparing the 2nd AJR (Youth Alliance for Revolution) Congress

It is this concrete movement against EU policies, that encourages the AJR (Youth Alliance for Revolution) to concentrate all its efforts into preparing its 2nd Congress, next October 25th and 26th, placed under the banner of breaking with Europe. It is this concrete movement against EU policies that the AJR intends to translate in terms of the revolutionary organization of youth, to build Revolutionary Youth International (RYI).

Contribution of the AJR