

We send warm greetings to the grassroots of Bolivia who on October 20th elected President Evo Morales Ayma, the historic leader of a wide mass movement. **With deep respect, we congratulate the Bolivian people for their defense of a plurinational state** made up of 36 Indigenous and Black nations. Bolivia today is led by the dignified working people who are reclaiming resources stolen from their lands by big businesses and a small, mostly-European descendant elite. We respect the popular vote as guaranteed by the ruling of the highest constitutional court in their interpretation of 2 distinct articles of the Constitution.

Deep in the belly of the beast, Black, Indigenous and working-class people of colour are learning lessons in human dignity and reparations from the Bolivian people. Bolivia saw a 90% participation rate during their recent elections; more than 7 million people went out to vote. The majority of Bolivian voters chose MAS party members of the Movement toward Socialism for their senators, congressional deputies, vice president and president. For the fourth time, with 47% of the vote and more than a 10% margin, Bolivians elected Evo Morales Ayma as president of their plurinational state.

Now, the US-backed opposition parties, in defiance of fundamental principles of democracy, are rejecting the vote with threats and violence. Historically, the United States has always been involved in similar destabilisation efforts. **We say no to the coup that is unfolding in Bolivia!** We denounce US imperialism that has supported and emboldened the racist right-wing political parties in Bolivia. **We stand in solidarity with the Bolivian people's right to self-determination and demand that the people's vote be respected! Stop the racist calls for Evo Morales Ayma's resignation!**

On the day of the election, in violation of the law, candidate Carlos De Mesa announced that there would be a run-off despite the fact that 1 million votes had still not been counted. Carlos de Mesa knew that the uncounted votes were from the rural areas where he is despised, because when he was vice president he supported selling the nation's wealth of natural gas to foreigners he has always been embraced by the US Embassy, and moreover he is embroiled in Odebrecht and many other corruption scandals. Evo Morales garnered at least 40% of the vote and over a 10% lead, which qualifies him immediately as the next president. Evo, an Indigenous farmer and a labour organiser whose rise to the presidency was characterized by popular strikes, coalitions, and mass mobilizations, has earned the love of the masses in the same way as other Indigenous and popular leaders such as Berta Caceres, Comandante Moises of the zapatistas, or Hugo Chavez.

We seek to learn from the Bolivian mass movement that since 2006 has transformed a neoliberal state into one that embraces plurinationality, miraculously reduces poverty, and returns the land to the people.

Before Evo and MAS, 80% of Bolivia's natural wealth was taken out of the country. During these 13 years they have greatly slowed the theft of resources by multinational corporations. The government

has used those resources to fund social programmes and to advance a vibrant democratic model that includes Indigenous, communal, state and participatory governance. In 2009, they led a popular process that recreated the Bolivian Constitution. In the USA, the Constitution remains written by enslavers and entrenched in their values. In Bolivia, the resources of an economy that has been the healthiest in South America are not used to make the rich, richer. They are used for self-determination of the majority: women, mothers, youth, elderly, rural people, Indigenous and Black peoples. They have halved extreme poverty and radically decreased infant mortality. While much of the region has suffered a strangling of their economies through IMF and World Bank neoliberalism, by 2018 Bolivia's real GDP had increased exponentially. In the international arena, Bolivians are pushing to reform the United Nations to better serve the Global South and the world, and in the fight for the climate they call for industrialised nations to divert military spending towards adaptation, mitigation and reparations for crimes against nature.

We celebrate the immense efforts of Bolivians to end the scourge of hunger and racism. As students and educators, we hold profound admiration for Evo's development of a reparatory education system rooted in decolonization and de-patriarchalisation. The present-day opposition are the perpetrators of outright discriminatory practices that have historically barred Indigenous, working-class, and Afro Bolivians from accessing education. Under Evo, many have become the first in their family to attain a middle school, high school, or college education. We denounce the massive campaign of lies directed at the middle classes, especially university students, and designed by the United States and its rightwing allies across the hemisphere. As we write, Indigenous workers and *comunarios* from hundreds of rural communities are pouring into La Paz to defend their democracy that stands threatened by well-fed Bolivians who advocate for secession and civil war.

The threats from the right wing are exceedingly dangerous. They are not legitimate contenders. They represent a range of white supremacists, misogynists, and those who were ousted amidst scandals of corruption and police repression during the Bolivian mobilisations against neoliberalism in the Water and Gas Wars of the early 2000's. **We denounce the attempted coup now in progress. We call for the US people to stand in solidarity with the Bolivian people and prevent the United States from engaging in yet another coup d'état against a dignified and sovereign people,**

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Organisations

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Malcolm X Grassroots Movement
New Afrikan People's Organization
All African People's Revolutionary Party (GC)
Black Lives Matter Los Angeles
Alliance for Global Justice, based in the United States
US Friends of the Association of Campesino Workers of Nicaragua
Red de Mulheres Negras de Pernambuco, Brasil
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Jamaica Cuba Friendship Association
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