



NSCAG JANUARY UPDATE

Trade Union Delegation, March 2024

Casa Ben Linder are organising a trade union delegation to Nicaragua from 2-10 March 2024. The delegation will include meetings with unions and labour activists, visits to hospitals, housing projects and cooperatives and a meeting with union representatives in the National Assembly. There will also be a visit to the Masaya volcano at night and tour of bubbling lava with unionised park guides. The cost of the delegation is US \$975 (ca. £750) per person for internal costs including all breakfasts and lunches, hotels, translation and entrance fees. Evening meal and airfare are separate.

If anyone is interested in participating, please email Louise on nscag@nicaraguasc.org.uk – closing date is 30 January, so there is still some time left!

Palestine

Nicaragua has joined with Bolivia and Venezuela in South Africa's genocide lawsuit against Israel. In a press release issued on 9 January, the Nicaraguan government welcomed the lawsuit as a concrete step in compliance with the legal obligations that each State Party to the Genocide Convention has the right and duty to take. The full press release can be found [here](#).

Nicaragua has also sent a message of solidarity to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas – see [here](#).

Sanctions

The Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) approved the adoption of a paragraph presented by the government of Nicaragua on the impacts of coercive economic, financial and trade measures (sanctions) on world food security, in accordance with article 30 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In requesting a vote on the impact of coercive measures and rejecting attempts to manipulate and alter the text presented, FAO representative Monica Robelo referred to the billions of people facing food insecurity as a result of these actions. She said the measures impact the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 and 2, as well as food supply and international trade, shaking pillars of the world food system, which is in an already precarious condition. The paragraph will be in the Final Report of the 174th Session of the FAO Board under the theme "Challenges to global security and contributing factors," an unprecedented outcome in the history of FAO's Executive Body and setting a precedent for future deliberations by recognizing the real impact of unilateral coercive measures.

La Via Campesina (LVC) which represents small scale farmers and indigenous peoples is one of the largest grass roots movements in the world. Their international conference in Bogota in December 2023 was attended by more than 400 delegates representing 185 organisations from 83 countries. This included the Rural Workers Association (ATC) in Nicaragua and the Landworkers Alliance in the UK. The Conference proclaimed support for Nicaragua, Venezuela and Cuba, which continue to face criminal sanctions, smear campaigns and attempted "regime change" promoted by the United States and the European Union. All these unilateral actions in violation of the framework of international law "mercilessly affect the most vulnerable populations and undermine our food sovereignty," the group said in a statement. The Conference also recognised Nicaragua's sustainable development in the last 16 years saying that "*The social policies implemented have consolidated full access to basic rights in health, education and food sovereignty,*

placing this country as one of the best in social investment in Central American. Nicaragua deserves to live and develop in peace after so much suffering from conflict and natural disasters.”

Alfred de Zayas, a law professor at the Geneva School of Diplomacy who served as a UN Independent Expert on International Order 2012-2018, has written an excellent article on unilateral coercive measures (sanctions) and their impact. *“The impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is predictable, demonstrable and measurable. UCMs dislocate the economies of the targeted countries, adversely affecting the standard of living of entire populations, restricting their access to food, water and sanitation, medicines, health services, shelter, education, employment, etc. and making the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals illusory.”* To read the article see [here](#).

Latin America Conference 2024

The Latin America Conference 2024 will take place on Saturday 27 January 2024 at Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BB. The Conference is now sold out, but if you have registered to attend, please come along to the NSCAG seminar which will be held during the Conference – ‘*Nicaragua: The Threat of a Good Example*’. Speakers: Roger McKenzie, International Editor, Morning Star; Julie Lamin, Chair, NSCAG Executive Committee and Luis Erick Rodriguez, Nicaraguan Ambassador to the UK. Chair: Tony Burke, Member of NSCAG Executive Committee and Member, London Print Branch UNITE

Social Advances in Nicaragua

In 2023 alone, Nicaragua made huge social advances to improve the wellbeing of the population. These include closing the gender gap, citizen safety particularly for women, continuing to guarantee free health care and education, issuing property titles, expanding renewable energy programmes, low interest credit programmes and infrastructure development. These advances are explained in detail in a recent article by Nan McCurdy and Katherine Hoyt – see link [here](#)

Nicaragua Receives Worldwide Recognition for Health Care System

The Pan American Health Organization, an affiliate of the World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), selected Nicaragua from among 24 countries to receive a plaque of international recognition. An official note says that the recognition by the United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group on Non-Communicable Diseases is for its outstanding contribution towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through its health services as part of the Family and Community Health Model (MOSAFC). Nicaragua was selected from among 24 countries that applied, thanks to its leadership in working with the population, its demonstrated capacity to mobilize resources and general and specialized knowledge. The award also noted the challenges faced, the obstacles overcome, and the innovative approach of Nicaragua’s strategy which serves as an example to other countries.

Monroe Doctrine

US Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez and Congressman Greg Casar have introduced a resolution to the US Congress calling for the annulment of the Monroe Doctrine. The resolution also calls for the development of a ‘New Good Neighbour’ policy in order to foster improved relations and deeper, more effective cooperation between the US and its neighbours in Latin America and the Caribbean. The bill’s introduction coincides with the 200-year anniversary of the Monroe Doctrine, which has been used to justify American intervention in Latin American affairs throughout the policy’s history. To read more see [here](#).

In solidarity, Louise

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