

DSA SF International Solidarity Education and Mass Action

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This resolution outlines a chapter commitment to International Solidarity political education and mass action. This resolution commits the chapter to ongoing internal and external political education, mass organizing campaigns in unity with anti-war, solidarity groups and diaspora communities, and incorporating an internationalist perspective into the work of the chapter.

Political Rationale

Imperialism is an essential aspect of capitalism. As socialists living in the belly of the beast, we have a responsibility to work to dismantle the US empire.

Present day US imperialism is not just a collection of policies applied to one or another foreign entity. It is the mature embodiment of US capitalism. Imperialism is rooted in the particular racial capitalism that first appeared in the late 17th-century English colonies in the Western Hemisphere.

US imperialism is manifested how the US military operates around the world as well as how the police state operates in our communities.

In an era of intersecting crises, the ruling class increasingly utilizes state violence to crush resistance and maintain its dominance in this country and worldwide.

- Poverty, food insecurity, and paramilitary terror spread around the world as coups and invasions are used to maintain and expand the neocolonial system.
- Working people in the US are increasingly unable to meet the basic needs of survival as resources are channeled into an extravagant military budget.
- The threat of nuclear war has never been greater. US strategy targets China and Russia as the main threats to its global hegemony. It is stoking a new Cold War and justifying a military buildup to confront and defeat its great power rivals. The Sinophobia being whipped up against China in particular has given rise to a wave of racist attacks against Asian communities in the US.
- The US maintains over 800 foreign military bases that encircle the world; US involvement in at least seven armed conflicts now underway.
- The US military is the largest consumer of fossil fuels, THE largest emitter of greenhouse gas in the world, and the world's largest polluters.
- Militarism is tightly connected with policing and the maintenance of white supremacy. This was illustrated recently as the National Guard, regular military, and militarized police

deployed against participants in the anti-racist uprising following the murder of George Floyd. All this interlocks with the racist history of US foreign policy, marked by white-settler nationalism, expansionism, and American exceptionalism. US militarism is directly related to domestic policing via the 1033 program, which supplies domestic police with “surplus battle equipment.”

Solidarity with Immigrant and Diaspora Communities

War, neoliberal austerity and climate change are some of the largest imperial factors causing harm around the world. These talons of the empire forcibly displaced communities causing mass migration, refugee populations and torn diasporas. An anti-imperial positionality from a local city socialist organization includes recognizing that imperial destruction abroad requires solidarity with diaspora and immigrant communities in San Francisco.

As a socialist organization that is focused on building a popular movement against capitalist empire, we must engage in solidarity with communities that are organizing fights in the Bay Area against common enemies. Engaging in solidarity also means fighting for liberation for all our oppressed neighbors that are impacted by US imperialism. Solidarity implies providing support during mass actions and pushing our local elected officials to build mass movement.

It should be noted that protest actions and all forms of resistance in the imperial core **DO** have an impact, not only in constraining the war machine, but also in lifting up oppressed people in countries targeted by the US in their struggle against the empire. The recent wave of Palestine solidarity demonstrations and the occupation of the Venezuelan embassy in DC in 2019 by the Embassy Protection Collective are some recent examples of this.

Resolution:

DSA SF resolves to strengthen its analysis and capacity for mobilization in solidarity with international movements under the boot of US imperialism. An organizing committee will spearhead this effort while working with other committees and working groups for mobilizations and other campaigns. By doing so we organize DSA SF to be part of a pole of opposition within the home base of the empire that constrains US state violence at home and abroad and lays the basis to eliminate it once and for all.

I. Leadership Structure

The IRIS (Immigrant Rights and International Solidarity) Committee will go on hiatus until the end of this campaign, including its leadership.

An International Solidarity Organizing Committee (ISOC) spearheaded by three leads, elected by chapter members at-large by Scottish Single Transferable Vote, will be responsible for the development of this work.

- International education lead: Works on political development and international education internally and in collaboration with other committees when able
- Chapter mobilization lead: Works to develop chapter capacity for effective mobilization over the coming year and with other chapter committees on collaborative projects
- External outreach lead: Works with other chapters and the International Committee on national campaigns to build solidarity for the international community, along with bringing in as much of an internationalist perspective through coalitions like the Palestine Action Network and the Bay Area Anti-war Network

The ISOC leads will be responsible for recruiting, motivating and coordinating other chapter members as organizers and activists for this campaign. These three members will, in partnership with any delegated chapter members, lead this campaign up until the chapter's 2022 Convention. At the end of this campaign, the International Solidarity Organizing Committee (ISOC) will make a recommendation to the chapter for next steps in continuing DSA SF's international solidarity work.

II. Internationalist Political Education

The International Solidarity Organizing Committee will:

- Conduct political education about the historical development and current dynamics of US imperialism; its centrality to global capitalism; anti-colonial, anti-imperial struggles; migration, and the new cold war with China. This will include topical webinars for a broad internal and external audience with "watch parties" for comrades of contextual excerpts from selected webinars followed by group discussions.
- Develop materials for use by comrades in workplaces and communities.

The International Solidarity Organizing Committee will work to engage as many chapter members as possible on each of the following topics:

- The economic and political basis of imperialism and how it structures the global order under US hegemony
- Critical and nuanced examinations of modern socialist movements and the new Cold War with China
- History of anti-war and anti-imperialist movements in the US and around the world
- How US imperialism literally impacts the US working class overall

This education can take many forms:

- Online reading materials and other resources that are shared after a webinar, or in general for members that are curious about internationalist topics
- Panel discussions and lecture webinars with audience Q&A or group discussions

- Podcast episodes and recorded lectures with forum posts for members to engage
- Watch parties of internationalist documentaries or movies as an entertaining avenue to learn in

The International Solidarity Organizing Committee will also develop materials for use by comrades in workplaces and communities.

III. Mass Organizing Work

DSA SF will:

- Center solidarity with Palestine in line with the [National DSA Statement on Palestine](#). Chapter liaisons that are part of the National DSA's BDS and Palestine Solidarity Working Group will help coordinate lead. The Palestinian struggle for liberation and against Israeli apartheid is once again front and center. There has been an outpouring of solidarity around the world and in this country at an unprecedented scale. Our solidarity work must include joining in demonstrations called by our Arab and Palestinian allies as well as direct actions like the Block the Boat campaign against the Israeli Zim ship at the Port of Oakland. This work must go on, not only in moments of crisis, but also in a sustained manner like the movement against Apartheid South Africa in the 80's.
- Fight domestic militarization like Urban Shield and domestic spying programs which target many oppressed communities and the left. This also means rejecting the use of chemical weapons and less-lethal projectiles by police, and deployment of the National Guard and regular military against protestors. Part of this work also calls for disarming, defunding, and abolishing the police. **It is time to end their subjugation of Black and Brown communities.******
- Work with other chapters and the newly reconstituted DSA International Committee on campaigns such as the Global Day of Action against the Saudi/US war in Yemen, solidarity with the struggle of the Haitian people against the US-backed dictatorship, solidarity with the struggle of the Filipino people against the US-backed Duterte dictatorship, the BDS campaign against Israeli apartheid against sanctions on Iran, Venezuela, and Cuba, and other work of the IC and as broadly defined in the Internationalism section of the DSA Platform to be adopted at the National Convention.
- Oppose all US aggression and regime change efforts targeting the governments of other countries including Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, North Korea and China.
- Build capacity for mass mobilization in emergency situations by working in coalition with existing anti-war, migrant justice, and climate/environmental justice organizations in the Bay Area.
- Authorize and help financially support chapter members to travel internationally as part of National DSA Initiatives to send election observers and engage with mass parties in other countries, outlined in [Pending National Resolution #14](#) and currently being piloted with [DSA Delegations to Peru and Venezuela](#).

- Organize with at-large members to attend mass mobilizations. The chapter will also appoint a few members to build partnerships with diaspora communities, coalitions, and other movements working on international solidarity issues.

IV. Timeline of Commitments ***

The ISOC will mobilize chapter members to join DSA contingents at least 1-2 solidarity actions per quarter such as the recent demonstrations for Palestine and against the war on Yemen.

The ISOC will conduct at least 1-2 political education events per quarter, Some of these may consist of building for political education events of the International Committee.

August-September 2021*****

- Create political education plan for 2021
- Convene chapter members in the International Committee and create a Slack channel or other vehicle for ongoing communication of IC activity among that group activity and periodic IC updates for the chapter.

October-December 2021

- Work with East Bay DSA to create a process/vehicle for cross chapter Bay Area DSA anti-war, anti-imperialist formation. In the following quarter expand this initiative to include other Bay Area chapters.

January-March 2022

- Develop antiwar materials for use by comrades in workplace & community organizing
- Implement a rapid response process for international crises that require rapid mobilization of chapter members

April-June 2022

- Develop a plan for building a base for anti-war and anti-imperialist movements in the working class and oppressed communities

Plans for Next Year

- More work in line with organizing tasks described above and sustained campaigns targeting the war machine increasingly based in working class and oppressed communities
- Anti-war job actions disrupting the war machine

*****Our ability to execute this plan will depend on growing capacity and recruiting a core team of organizers to spearhead this work.**