

## Press Release

### MAJOR FORUM AND TEACH-IN TO BE HELD ON 10 YEARS OF THE VENEZUELAN REVOLUTION

During the eleven years since Hugo Chavez was elected as President of Venezuela, his country has become a focus of hope and controversy on a world scale. At the Copenhagen climate conference, Venezuela helped lead the countries calling for international social and ecological justice.

Throughout these years, popular participation and control has been the strength and promise of Venezuela's Bolivarian revolution.

A large number of social justice and Latin American solidarity groups have teamed up to raise the awareness of political developments in Venezuela and the surrounding countries, to assess the search for an alternate development model to neoliberalism and to address the increasing dangers of military intervention in the region from the US imperial power.

On Friday February 26, there will be a public Forum on Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution, and on Saturday February 27 an all-day teach-in. Both events are open to the public.

As part of these public education efforts, two experienced and widely known writers on social change in Venezuela will be speaking at the event and also visiting Canada between February 25 and March 6, 2010. They are available for further media interviews.

**Federico Fuentes** is an associate of the Centro Internacional Miranda, a wing of Venezuela's Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education in Caracas. Together with Marta Harnecker, he leads two CIM study projects: "Political Instruments for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and "Popular Participation in Public Management."

**Kiraz Janicke** is a journalist for Venezuelanalysis.com, the foremost independent English-language source of news on Venezuela. She is editor of the Peru en Movimiento website and is part of the Green Left Weekly Caracas bureau.

**For further information, email [vzteachin@hotmail.com](mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com)**

## **TORONTO PUBLIC FORUM**

### **Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution: The Second Decade Profile of a Peoples' Movement**

**Friday, February 26, 7 p.m.  
Koffler House Rom 108  
569 Spadina Ave. (South of Harbord)  
Toronto**

\*\* Federico Fuentes and Kiraz Janicke, both well-known writers on Venezuela, will give, their participants report on the gains of grassroots movements and the challenge they face. They will also discuss the dangers that Venezuela faces against U.S. intervention.

## **TORONTO TEACH-IN**

### **Venezuela's Revolution: The Second Decade**

Pre- registration: [vzteachin@hotmail.com](mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com)

Saturday, Feb 27, Registration 9:30  
Sidney Smith Building, Room 2117  
100 St. George St. (North of Harbord St.)

The Challenge of Solidarity: Attend these events to participate, to learn and to help all of rise to the challenge of solidarity and building a movement against imperialism.

Registration: 9:30 a.m. – Donation: \$10 or what you can

**Opening Session 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**Greetings by Venezuelan consul.**

**Opening address: Ten years of the Bolivarian revolution, covering Venezuelan history, the current context, and the challenge that Venezuela poses.**

**Speaker: Maria Paez**

**Workshops for the morning, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

1. Communal councils and grassroots organizing and the new state.
2. Imperialism's economic crisis and Latin America.
3. Workers' Control and the Unions.
4. Colombia/Venezuela/seven U.S. bases and more.
5. People-to-people solidarity.

**Workshops for the afternoon from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

1. ALBA and Its Challenge to Neoliberalism.
2. Venezuela and World Solidarity.
3. Women and the Venezuelan revolution.

4. Endogenous development and oil
  5. Alternative media in Venezuela and Canada
- Final plenary: Latin American Solidarity and the Canadian Left

**Organized by:** OPIRG, Centre for Social Justice, Barrio Nuevo, Hands Off Venezuela/Louis Riel Bolivarian Circle, Latin America Solidarity Network Toronto, Socialist Project, Latin@s Canada, Venezuela We Are With You Coalition/Coalicion Venezuela Estamos Contigo. Co-sponsored by Toronto Bolivia Solidarity, Toronto Haiti Action Committee.

**For further information, email [vzteachin@hotmail.com](mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com) or call Suzanne Weiss at 416 732-2756.**

## **TOUR ITINERARY**

- Toronto, February 26-28 (Kiraz Janicke and Federico Fuentes)  
contact Suzanne Weiss, <<mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com>>
- Kingston, March 1, (Kiraz Janicke)  
contact Suzanne Weiss, <<mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com>>
- Ottawa, March 1-2 (Federico Fuentes)  
contact Richard Fidler, <[mailto:rfidler\\_8@sympatico.ca](mailto:rfidler_8@sympatico.ca)>
- Waterloo, March 2 (Kiraz Janicke)  
contact Suzanne Weiss, <<mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com>>
- Toronto, March 3 and March 6-7 (Kiraz Janicke)  
contact Suzanne Weiss <<mailto:vzteachin@hotmail.com>>
- Victoria, March 3-4 (Federico Fuentes)  
contact Roger Annis, <<mailto:rogerannis@telus.net>>
- Montreal, March 4-5 (Kiraz Janicke)  
contact Stéphanie Vaudry <<mailto:svaud097@gmail.com>>
- Vancouver, March 4-7 (Federico Fuentes)  
contact Roger Annis, <<mailto:rogerannis@telus.net>>

## **Biographies of Visitors from *Venezuelanalysis.com***

### **Federico Fuentes**

A collaborator of the Fundacion Centro Internacional Miranda (CIM), linked to the Ministry of Popular Power for Higher Education, in Caracas, Venezuela, where he has been based for most of the last two years. Together with Marta Harnecker, he heads

up two of the lines of investigation in the CIM: “political instrument for the 21<sup>st</sup> century” and “popular participation in public management.”

As part of his research he has co-published two books, with Marta Harnecker, based on interviews with leaders of the Movement Towards Socialism—Political Instrument for the Sovereignty of the Peoples in Bolivia and of the Party of the Movement Towards Socialism in Paraguay: *MAS-IPSP de Bolivia: Instrumento político que surge de los movimientos sociales*, Caracas: CIM, 2008; and *Conociendo al P-MAS*, Asunción: Germinal, 2008.

Federico is currently preparing a book based on interviews with leaders of the Workers Party of Brazil and another on the experience of worker co-management in the electrical sector in Venezuela. He is also on the editorial board of the Venezuelan-based newspaper *Marea Socialista*, as well as of *Luz y Fuerza*, the newspaper of the Federation of Electrical Workers in Venezuela.

Federico’s articles are frequently published in He is the editor of the *Bolivia Rising* blog and, together with Kiraz Janicke, is part of the Caracas bureau of *Green Left Weekly*, which frequently publishes his articles. Since 2003, he has regularly travelled in South America to report on events such as the World Social Forum in 2003 and the election of Evo Morales in 2005.

Federico’s articles have also been published in English in *Monthly Review*, *MRZine*, *Venezuelanalysis*, *Socialist Voice*, *Socialist Project*, *Links*, *ZNet*, *Counterpunch*, among others, and in Spanish on *Aporrea*, *Rebellion*, *America XXI* and other publications and websites.

He is actively involved in the Australia-Venezuela Solidarity Network, of which he was a national co-convenor (2008-9), and has organized several solidarity delegations to Venezuela. He is also a member of the Socialist Alliance (Australia).

### **Kiraz Janicke**

Kiraz Janicke is a journalist for *Venezuelanalysis.com*, an independent English-language site, which aims to provide news and analysis about political, social and economic developments in Venezuela’s Bolivarian revolution. She writes predominantly on labor issues, the role of the media, the role of women in the Bolivarian process, and Venezuela’s foreign relations.

She is the editor of the *Peru en Movimiento* blog and, together with Federico Fuentes, is part of the *Green Left Weekly* Caracas bureau, where her articles are regularly published.

Her articles have also been published by *ZNet*, *MR Zine*, *Political Affairs Magazine*, *Upside Down World*, *London Progressive Journal*, *Center for Research on Globalization*, *Towards Freedom*, *Voltairenet* and *Links* among others.

Kiraz is actively involved in the Australia-Venezuela Solidarity Network, and has helped organized several solidarity delegations to Venezuela. She is also a member of the Socialist Alliance in Australia.