

## **CHE GUEVARA, WAS A GREAT LEADER OF THE WORKING CLASS**

Comrades,

I want to first congratulate the leadership of the WFTU for having organized this International Symposium, and not only for the date, since the presentation and the contents seem very successful to me.

They only managed to assassinate, exactly 54 years ago now, the person of the great revolutionary. His ideas, his legacy, his example, his ability to stimulate (even after death) the anti-capitalists and anti-imperialists, REMAIN FULLY CURRENT!

For Che there was no alternative, it was a global, strategic battle against the class enemy, the enemy of most people, and this enemy had to be destroyed.

**Che Guevara was, and continues to be, an example for the entire working class in the world.**

In reality, he was one of the best leaders of the working class in the world, without having carried out a basically union task. His revolutionary program and proposals attacked and destroyed (just as they attack him now) Capitalism, which is the great enemy of our class.

Someone, especially the bourgeoisie, will say that he was a professional and because of that, he had nothing to do with the working class.

This is how the defenders of economic exploitation, of the vast majority of Humanity, make their ideological struggle.

In the WFTU we know very well that objectively, professionals can be members of the working class and subjectively, manual workers can cease to be members of the working class, too. It all depends on the class consciousness that each one has. And Che Guevara proved to have it, both in all his time with Fidel Castro and during his stay, organizing the guerrilla, in Bolivia (where, without trial, the CIA assassinated him by order of the President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson ).

The armed, revolutionary and class struggle was what transformed Cuba and other countries.

Che Guevara always encouraged anyone to be a revolutionary, as his famous phrase sums up: "Always be capable of feeling, in the depths of your being, any injustice, committed against anyone, anywhere in the world. It is the prettiest quality of a revolutionary. "

In addition, he followed the teachings of another great revolutionary, José Martí, thoroughly applying the slogan: "What is important is what is done, not what is said."

In contrast to what revolutionaries have done and will always do, today, in the 21st century, it is increasingly clear that the leaders of Capitalism do the opposite of what they say. Hypocrisy, lies and false promises are the sustenance and basis of Capitalism. The recent news, with the names of those who have money in tax havens, has shown us once again.

As leader of the TUI of Pensioners and Retirees of the WFTU, the organization that groups together the oldest people, the members of the working class with more years of union struggle, I can affirm that Che Guevara was an example and a stimulus for all us. For this reason, remembering him as a revolutionary is easy for us and at the same time obligatory, to learn from his legacy and serve as training for the new generations who were not alive and fighting when Che was.

Those of us who are over 70 years old today remember the living, revolutionary, internationalist Che, received by the governments of the entire planet, especially in the countries that built socialism. We remember his most famous speeches, we remember his letter saying goodbye to Fidel Castro when he left Cuba to promote the Revolution in Bolivia.

When we learned, as young people, that Che had been assassinated, all revolutionaries felt even more committed, with our obligation to follow his example and we welcomed the new revolutionaries that the vile murder of Che Guevara set in motion.

Another great legacy of Che, as a revolutionary doctor, was his work so that people's health is always the first objective of any just society. This is what Cuba now fulfills, training thousands of doctors from dozens of countries for free, exporting vaccines and medicines for free, sending hundreds of doctors on missions to recover tens of thousands of people from blindness and other ailments, or correctly attacking COVID -19 (without making a business out of it, as multinational pharmaceutical companies do), and a long etc.

Regarding his personality, I think it can be summarized by saying that he was characterized by a great demand that he fostered from his person, by his iron will, his insatiable desire for knowledge, his long vision and his deep communist conviction.

He did not forgive flattery, he always wanted and demanded to be treated like his peers. As a Spanish trade unionist, and a member of the WFTU leadership, I want to end this contribution to the Symposium by pointing out that it is difficult to find, in the territories of our plurinational state, someone (not even the reactionary right dares) who criticizes the life of the revolutionary comrade Che Guevara. He had defects, as all humans have, but he knew how to overcome them by always doing the work collectively.

This is another and very important legacy of Che. The collectives, if they function democratically, with transparency and sincerity among their members, are essential instruments to advance the revolutionary processes.

I invite the entire working class to shout:

"LONG LIVE THE MEMORY AND LESSONS OF CHE, ONE OF THE GREATEST REVOLUTIONARIES!"

"THE CHE, WITH HIS CONTRIBUTION, IS STILL ALIVE AND HE CONTINUES THE REVOLUTION"

"LET'S BE LIKE CHE!"

Barcelona, the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

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Responsible for the WFTU in the Spanish State (except the Basque Country)