



In Movement

AUGUST 2026 | ANALYSIS & UPDATES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

Seven Fronts: The Sahel's Fight for Sovereignty

Dear comrades, Internationalist greetings! Welcome to this edition of the **In Movement** Newsletter from the [International Peoples' Assembly](#) (IPA).

On 24 August 2026, 45 deputies took their seats in Niamey for the inaugural session of the Confederal Parliament of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), 15 each from Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. It is the last major piece of an institutional architecture that already runs to a flag, a common biometric passport, a confederal television network, and, on paper, a 500 billion CFA franc development bank. Two hundred kilometres north, in Agadez, some 1,800 tonnes of Nigerien uranium sit unsold in storage, nationalised from the French nuclear group Orano in June 2025 and still blocked, fourteen months on, by an international arbitration order.

“Independence came to 53 countries with 53 flags, so it was a sovereignty by flag”, Youlouka Damiba, secretary general of Burkina Faso's International Committee for the Thomas Sankara Memorial, told the Fourth Continental Assembly of ALBA Movimientos in Havana in early August 2026. AES's state apparatus is completing itself faster than its sovereignty claims are delivering, and Damiba set out the gap as seven fronts still to be won: fiscal and monetary sovereignty, control of the narrative, cultural and spiritual transformation, the confrontation with armed political Islam, the military struggle for territory, productive transformation, and an independent foreign policy.



None of these seven fronts is new. Each has a Sahelian precedent going back six decades, and each was previously reversed by external pressure combined with an internal fraction willing to trade sovereignty back for power. Mali's first president, Modibo Keita, broke from the CFA franc zone in 1962, calling the new Malian franc 'a declaration of political and economic war' against France, a coup removed him in 1968. Niger's Hamani Diori was overthrown in 1974 while renegotiating French uranium terms. Thomas Sankara's Burkina Faso pursued the same sovereignty project through the Non-Aligned Movement before a 1987 coup ended it.

Today's balance sheet is mixed but real. Burkina Faso has transferred five gold mines to the state company SOPAMIB and forced a \$438 million settlement from Barrick Gold in Mali, even as the confederation's own investment bank has disbursed nothing eight months after launch. AES Television, launched in Bamako in December 2025, answers eight decades of France's monopoly over the region's economic and political narrative. Mali's planning documents ground economic sovereignty in precolonial governance, the 1236 Manden Charter, Massina Empire legal codes, though nothing yet treats spiritual transformation as its own front, a genuine gap in what has been built. Against armed political Islam, the insurgency is best explained by what the state stopped doing in the period of structural adjustment which is conducted to gutting the veterinary services and grain reserves that sustained rural livelihoods, and JNIM (Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin) filled the vacuum by abolishing grazing fees, material relief, not primarily doctrine. Diplomatically, this month's release of 82 Malian soldiers held by the FLA was brokered through Morocco, Qatar, Algeria, Congo-Brazzaville, Togo, and Libya, a diversified network no Sahelian government has built since independence.

What can be named and what AES state working on is real, beside is incomplete, rupture with what the former system was doing: resource revenue that once flowed through French concessionaires now sits, unevenly, with SOPAMIB, SOPAMIN, and the mining funds themselves. What Keita, Bakary, and Sankara reached for and lost, the AES is reaching for again — with more territory, more allies, and a confederation of three states rather than one government standing alone.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Updates



Against the False Symmetry of the Scissors: An Open Letter While Iran Resists an Illegal War of Aggression

An open letter published in *The Guardian* placed the US–Israeli war of aggression against Iran and the internal conduct of the Iranian government on the same moral plane, treating aggressor and attacked as parallel dangers requiring parallel condemnation. Vijay Prashad, of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research, rejects this construction as a false symmetry: a nation defending its sovereignty against an illegal war of choice cannot be equated with the states waging that war. The letter's timing, Prashad argues, does the political work of diffusing responsibility precisely when clarity is most needed, and at least one named signatory has said their endorsement was never given. The demand that follows is unambiguous: the United States and Israel must end their illegal war, and they must retreat, external pressure on Iran's internal governance is not the business of this moment. [Read more.](#)



Manifesto of the ALBA Movimientos Fidel Castro Internationalist Youth Brigade

Thirty young activists from 10 countries and 32 organisations converged on Caracas for an 11-day programme of political education, retracing the internationalist commitments that defined Fidel Castro's revolutionary practice. The manifesto that emerged from the brigade condemns US imperialism across the continent and affirms solidarity with Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution and with Cuba as it confronts the tightening blockade. Its most pointed language is reserved for the detention of President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilia Flores, which the brigade refuses to describe in the neutral vocabulary of legal proceedings, naming it instead a kidnapping. The document closes as a generational pledge: that the internationalism Fidel embodied does not belong to history alone but to the brigade's own political formation and future organising. [Read more.](#)



Statement of solidarity and condolences on the devastating floods in Nepal and border regions

Catastrophic floods and mudslides tore through the Himalayan border regions of Nepal, Tibet's Gyirong County, and northern India in late August, killing hundreds and destroying roads, bridges, and homes across communities with little capacity to absorb the loss. The IPA Asia Secretariat's statement of solidarity and condolences locates the disaster not as an isolated act of nature but as a consequence of accelerating climate change and glacial melt in a region already among the most exposed to a warming planet, a structural vulnerability that recurring, ad hoc humanitarian response cannot address. The statement calls for swift, coordinated regional cooperation and humanitarian relief that crosses the very borders the disaster does not respect, and stands in solidarity with the popular organisations across all three affected areas already engaged in rescue and recovery. [Read more.](#)



Against Zionism and Normalisation

The IPA condemns the Isaac Accords — a framework launched in April 2026 to deepen ties between Latin American and Caribbean governments and Israel, extending the earlier Abraham Accords — and raise concern over the announcement by the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that it will establish a coordination mechanism for the provision of consular services between Venezuela and Israel. At the same time recalling the long standing of the Bolivarian Revolution, its social base, its government, and its political and popular organizations at the forefront of the struggle against Zionism. The statement places this alongside the region's rightward drift under governments such as Javier Milei's Argentina, Rodrigo Paz's Bolivia, and Abelardo de la Espriella's Colombia, and the militarising 'Shield of the Americas' initiative that followed the 3 January 2026 invasion of Venezuela. It calls on popular forces across Latin America and the Caribbean to resist 'Zionist-imperialist penetration' of the region, defend national sovereignty, and strengthen the unity of revolutionary forces against imperialist aggression. [Read more.](#)



Sixth national conference of the Democratic Workers' Way party

Meeting in Rabat from 7 to 9 August under a Marxist–Leninist political programme, Morocco's Democratic

Workers' Path Party adopted a general statement spanning international, African, Arab, and domestic terrain. Internationally, the party warns against mistaking a more multipolar geopolitics for automatic liberation, insisting that 'the working class cannot automatically treat any capitalist force as a strategic ally', a caution extended to African states as well, where replacing one external partner with another is not, on its own, sovereignty. On Palestine, the conference reaffirms support for resistance and for a democratic state across all Palestinian territory with Jerusalem as its capital, demanding an end to all cooperation with the Zionist entity. On the Maghreb, it calls for open Morocco – Algeria borders and an end to all forms of incitement and chauvinism, and the rebuilding of relations between the two peoples on the basis of brotherhood, solidarity, and shared interests. Domestically, the statement demands an end to the privatisation of education and healthcare, unemployment guarantees, taxation that falls on capital rather than workers, the release of all political prisoners, and a formal investigation into the mass migration tragedy at Ceuta and Melilla, while announcing a boycott of the 23 September elections as 'undemocratic theatre'. Its closing appeal names the party's strategic horizon: a popular democratic national state built on a federal structure that recognises Morocco's ethnic and cultural pluralism, achieved through 'democracy built from below, not granted from above'. [Read more.](#)



PAP Camp 2026: Building an Independent Political Field

From August 26–30, the PAP Camp 2026 brought together militants and activists in Paestum, Italy, for four days of discussion and organizing around the struggles ahead. Organized by Potere al Popolo, the camp addressed socialism, technology and capitalism, the fight against the Right, and the construction of an independent political field ahead of Italy's 2027 elections. Among the activities is a session of solidarity with Cuba, "¡Que viva Cuba! 100 years of Fidel, in defense of the Cuban Revolution," reaffirming internationalist support for the island and its revolutionary process. The camp seeks to turn growing popular discontent into collective organization and political action. Follow [@pap_camp](#) on Instagram for more info.

In Solidarity

100 years of Fidel: End the blockade on Cuba



**KAEL
ABELLO**

VENEZUELA
@kael_abello

UTOPIX

FIDEL X100



Marking the centenary of Fidel Castro's birth, Pan Africanism Today, the International Peoples' Assembly, and Utopix jointly issued a statement recovering a history that dominant narratives routinely omit: more than 300,000 Cuban volunteers who fought for African liberation, from Operation Carlota's defence of Angola to the decisive battle at Cuito Cuanavale against apartheid South Africa, alongside decades of Cuban medical and educational support extended across the African continent. Against this record, the statement sets the present reality of the US blockade, now in its seventh decade, and Cuba's continued, groundless listing as a 'state sponsor of terrorism', describing both as an unlawful campaign engineered to produce hunger, darkness, and desperation in a nation that asked for nothing but the right to determine its own future. Silence in the face of this history, the statement insists, is 'tantamount to historical treason'; the response demanded is popular education to counter

imperialist propaganda and a deepening of Pan-African anti-imperialist unity, with organisations invited to share their own commemorative actions under the closing slogan 'Fidel lives in us!'. [Read more](#).

News



Why Israel Won't Free Marwan Barghout, Palestine's Most Popular Leader

Polls consistently name Barghout the most popular figure in Palestinian politics — which is precisely why Israel continues to refuse his release even as prisoner-exchange terms are negotiated.

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Agrarian Reform Is Historical Reparation and a Condition for Democracy

An MST activist argues that Popular Agrarian Reform is reparation for Black women of the countryside, for whom landlessness, racism, and patriarchy remain structurally intertwined.

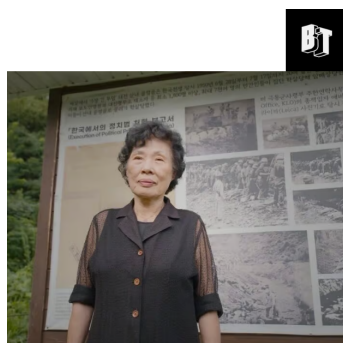
[Read more](#)



'The Best Way to Say We Stand with Fidel Is to Defeat the Right', Stedile at BdF Documentary Launch

At the São Paulo launch of Fidel e Cuba Socialista — Queimar os Céus, MST leader João Pedro Stedile linked Cuban internationalism to the task of defeating the Brazilian right in October's elections.

[Read more](#)



'The Longest Grave in the World', Excavating the Truth of a US Massacre in Korea

An investigation into the Daejeon Massacre uncovers the buried history of one of the largest mass killings by US-backed forces during the Korean War.

[Read more](#)



On Track to Become the Deadliest in History: The Ebola Outbreak in DRC Has Spread to a Sixth Province

Declared on 15 May, the DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak has killed over 2,100 people in under three months, a faster death toll than the 2014-16 West African epidemic reached at the same stage, and has now crossed into a previously unaffected province, raising



100 Years of Fidel Castro: The Revolution of Women Within the Socialist Revolution

A 1974 speech by Fidel Castro to the Federation of Cuban Women is republished for his centenary, tracing the place of women's emancipation within the Cuban Revolution.

[Read more](#)

Analysis and Alerts

The Roots of Capitalism: Slavery and the Sugar Trade

Modern capitalism did not emerge from technological innovation alone: enslaved Africans and sugar were paired commodities in the Caribbean and the Americas, and it was their production and trade that generated the capital accumulation and financial infrastructure underwriting European industrialisation.

[Read more](#)

The Economics of Thomas Sankara

Between 1983 and 1987, Thomas Sankara treated economics as a political and moral project rather than a set of conventional metrics, self-reliance, food security, women's emancipation, and resistance to debt dependency were, for him, interconnected components of Burkina Faso's national independence, not separate policy items.

[Read more](#)

A Vietnam in the Field of Culture: The Cultural Congress of Havana, 1968

In 1968, 470 delegates from seventy countries gathered in Havana to confront cultural imperialism and to conceive of culture not as an auxiliary to political and military struggle but as a front of anti-imperialist struggle in its own right. This dossier revisits that congress as a blueprint for the present.

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