

Statement:

## Protesting the Trump Administration's Dangerous Military Actions Off the Coast of Venezuela

4 September 2025,

Japan Asia-Africa-Latin America Solidarity Committee

Japan AALA issued the following statement on 4 September 2025,

Since July, the United States has deployed a large naval force off the coast of Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea. On 2 September, it attacked a boat departing from Venezuela, killing 11 people. The deployed force comprises eight vessels including an attack nuclear submarine, a missile-firing cruiser, destroyers, and landing craft, along with aircraft and 4,500 personnel including 2,200 marines. This deployment itself constitutes an illegal act posing a grave threat to neighboring countries and creating regional tensions. Moreover, the use of force, conducted without approval from either the US Congress or the UN Security Council, must be strongly condemned as a criminal act that clearly violates the UN Charter and international law.

It is evident that the US military forces, including the Marines, are also contemplating a landing in Venezuela. The Venezuelan government has deployed over 10,000 troops in anticipation of a possible US military invasion. Thus, an arbitrarily imposed state of tension has been created between the two nations.

The US government has explained and justified this series of military operations as targeting a 'drug-terrorist network' group. Regarding the above mentioned attack, it claims the boat attacked was operated by the 'Tren de la Agua' faction of a drug cartel and was transporting narcotics. Given the deployed US military capabilities, it would have been straightforward to seize the boat, arrest those involved, and secure their

testimony. Instead, the targets were summarily labelled ‘terrorists,’ and recourse was taken to the extrajudicial use of military force.

Alongside this military operation, the US government announced a \$50 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and senior government officials, alleging their involvement with a so-called drug cartel called the ‘Cartel de los Soles’. However, this organization is a non-existent fabrication, a fact denied both by former UN experts and by President Petro of neighboring Colombia. The substantial bounty served to entice paramilitary groups within Colombian territory to infiltrate Venezuela, prompting the Venezuelan government to deploy 15,000 police officers and military personnel.

The United States has viewed Venezuela's revolution, which since the late President Chávez has pursued autonomous social development, with hostility, persistently attempting regime change through unjust sanctions and support for opposition forces. The second Trump administration, inaugurated in February, has employed violent suppression using the military to expel undocumented immigrants and quell protests domestically. Simultaneously, it has renamed the Gulf of Mexico the “American Gulf” and called for the “reclaiming” of Panama and Greenland, laying bare its imperialist ambitions in the region. This recalls the 1989 incident when the Bush administration invaded Panama under the pretext of ‘drug’ issues, abducting its supreme leader, General Noriega.

President Maduro strongly condemned the Trump administration's actions as ‘an expression of American supremacism and colonialism,’ while calling on the people to exercise maximum vigilance and unite to defend independence, sovereignty, and the revolution. (Press conference, 1 September)

The social reform and construction projects of Latin American and Caribbean nations, including Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, are the rights of their peoples. The various domestic issues arising in this process must be resolved by the peoples of those nations themselves. We strongly condemn the US acts of aggression and interference, which violate this right to national self-determination by exerting external pressure and

threats to overthrow governments. We express our determination to support and stand in solidarity with the peoples of these nations who are fighting to defend their sovereignty.