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 *Photos: Claudia Drdul*

Radioazadegan --

Denouncing U.S. imperialism and expressing solidarity with the Venezuelan people, 250 people rallied and marched in downtown San Francisco on Saturday, March 9.

The opening rally at UN Plaza/Civic Center was addressed by speakers from a wide range of organization, including Third World Resistance, All-African People’s Revolutionary Party, Code Pink - Women for Peace, Center for Political Education, Committee in Solidarity w/People of El Salvador, Cuba & Venezuela Solidarity Committee, Democratic Socialists of America - East Bay, LAGAI Queer Liberation, Progressive Democrats of America - SF, Green Party, Task Force on the Americas, Anakbayan - Silicon Valley, Serve the People - San Jose, Juventud del FSLN, and Party for Socialism and Liberation.

The demonstration was organized by the SF Bay Area chapter of the ANSWER Coalition.

Following the rally, a spirited march down Market Street, San Francisco’s main avenue, concluded at the Powell and Market cable car turnaround, where speakers denounced U.S. intervention in Latin America and vast military spending at a time when tens of millions suffer from lack of healthcare, housing and other necessities. Hundreds of homeless people live in the area.

Speakers repeatedly stressed the importance of mass mobilization and particularly the [**National March on the White House on March 16**](https://www.answercoalition.org/national_march_on_washington_hands_off_venezuela?e=b852208a3a4a2f669d8db578cc3210af&utm_source=answercoalition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190312_venezuela_follow_up&n=2), calling for “U.S. Hands Off Venezuela,” initiated by the ANSWER Coalition and endorsed by hundreds of organizations and individuals.

[**Please make an urgently needed donation to support the movement for solidarity with Venezuela and against U.S. intervention in Latin America.**](https://www.answercoalition.org/sf_donate?e=b852208a3a4a2f669d8db578cc3210af&utm_source=answercoalition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190312_venezuela_follow_up&n=3)

**Urgent Action Alert!
Venezuela in the crosshairs - Nationwide blackout**

**No War on Venezuela!**
**U.S. Hands Off Latin America!**

**National March on the White House, Sat. Mar. 16**
**SF: Sat., Mar. 9, 12 noon, UN Plaza
(Market btw 7th & 8th ) Rain or Not!**

Most of Venezuela was suddenly plunged into darkness in a nationwide blackout on Mar. 7. The state electricity authority in Venezuela says one of the country’s main power plants has been subject to an attack. Venezuelans were on their way home after work when nearly all of the nation’s lights went out. Power is now being restored.

The thugs and war criminals running the U.S. policy -- Trump, Bolton, Pompeo, Abrams, Rubio, the CIA, etc. -- are going to pull out all the stops to overthrow the government and impose an ultra-right wing, semi-fascist government in Venezuela. Inflicting maximum suffering on millions of people in targeted countries has become standard operating procedure.

Within minutes of the massive outage, the ghoulish Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who two weeks ago was widely circulating a photo of Moammar Ghaddafi being tortured to death, happily tweeted about the outage and blamed the Bolivarian government. While he pretends to be concerned for the welfare of the Venezuelan people, Rubio told a Senate hearing that “widespread unrest” in the country should be promoted to advance Washington’s goal of regime change.

The U.S. anti-war movement is mobilizing to march on the White House on Saturday March 16. Hands off Venezuela! No coup, no sanctions, no war! People are coming by bus, van, carpool, train and plane from across the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast, Southwest and beyond.

**In San Francisco, on Sat., March 9, we will rally and march regardless of the weather.** This is truly a critical moment. Get on your rain gear, dress warm and join us in the streets! The stakes couldn’t be higher.

[**Please make an urgently needed donation**](https://www.answercoalition.org/donate?utm_campaign=ven_blackout&utm_medium=email&utm_source=answercoalition&e=b852208a3a4a2f669d8db578cc3210af&utm_source=answercoalition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190309_venezuela_rally_rain&n=2)

ANSWER Coalition/SF Bay Area
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