



## EPD Fall Gathering 2020 Chat



16:09:05 From **Daniel Vrooman**: So good to see you again, Rev. Naim Ateek.

16:10:28 **Daniel Zwickel**, Shakur (Sufi name), he/him/his: The Ché Guevara song is called "Hasta siempre" ("Until forever").

16:11:59 From **Daniel Vrooman**: Hi Therese. I saw Victoria this afternoon and clarified some confusion she had about Dec. 15th.

16:13:47 From **Dr. Hassan Fouda**: Amen

[Inserted] From **Pierre Labossiere**: For Haiti information:  
[www.haitisolidarity.net](http://www.haitisolidarity.net); Haiti Action Committee Facebook; [haitiinfoproj](https://www.facebook.com/haitiinfoproj)"

16:35:04 From **Daniel Zwickel**: Lyrics to Betsy Rose's song, "**Candles in the Window**":

There were candles, candles  
Candles in the window  
All around the world  
Candles, candles  
There were candles  
All around the world  
When the planes burst into flames  
And the towers crumpled down  
Friend and enemy alike  
Felt the trembling in the ground  
The shock it rippled round the world

The sorrow and the fright  
And people we called enemies  
Lit candles in the night  
A mother in Morocco  
A teacher in Tehran  
A soldier in El Salvador  
A child in Pakistan  
Lit candles in their windows  
For strangers far away  
They felt our common sorrow  
We were family that day  
And there were candles ...

Today it's seven years gone by  
How little now remains  
Of the goodwill that surrounded us  
In the midst of all our pain  
Oh the wars that we have started  
The lives that have been lost  
The trust that has been broken  
How can we count the cost  
But don't you still remember  
That day when we were one  
The day we were the wounded  
Not the heroes in the sun  
The day our nation trembled  
And the world drew close and warm  
With candles in the windows  
Like a beacon in the storm  
There were candles ...

So on this night of memory  
We light our candles all  
For a country who reached out to us  
And who needs our friendship now

Each window shines a message  
No war- not in our name  
The people of Iran, the people here  
All feel the same  
And we light candles...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lt7vPX9Wtw>

16:56:51 From **gloriafearn**: Rev. Ateek, Do you see hope in the BDS Movement? What else can churches do?

17:02:57 From **Ethan Vesely-Flad** to carolynscarr (Privately): Carolyn, thanks to EPI for this important program. I am sorry that I must leave now to help put our kids to bed and other family duties. Many blessings to everyone involved in this good program. It was special to hear Naim once again.

17:04:06 From **Scarr Tony**: (corrected question) Rev. Ateek, if the goal of Palestine to be recognized as its own state were achieved, how much power would they gain in terms of getting the United Nations to ensure compliance with international law?

17:10:31 From **Scarr Tony** to carolynscarr (Privately): This gathering is excellent! Tony

17:17:28 From **(Rev.) Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez** : For Lorenzo Cañizares: The blockade never ended, and Guantánamo Prison is still open. So, in my opinion, there wasn't that much of a change by Obama.

17:18:16 From **carolynscarr**: What would the economy of Cuba rest on \*when\* the blockade of Cuba is ended?

17:19:40 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: We are also training physicians FOR FREE in the Latin American School of Medicine.

17:20:24 From **Joelle Deloison**: Tourism especially. They started medical tourism. They are very strong in the medical field, are testing to vaccines for COVID 19.

17:20:37 From **Joelle Deloison**: 2 vaccines

17:21:00 From **carolynscarr**: Does Cuba grow its own food sufficient to feed all? I think that sufficiency of Nicaragua is what is keeping them alive.

17:22:42 From **Joelle Deloison**: They are currently importing 2 billion worth of food. This is something they are working on to become food secure. The embargo is preventing them from importing important material such as pesticides and machines, but there are structural problems as well.

17:22:54 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: Cuba was growing food in rooftops... But US interference is terrible.

17:23:00 From **Daniel ben Avrám**, he, him, hers: Cuba had doctors in Haiti, and was training Haitian doctors. And they stayed, even when everyone who could were fleeing.

17:23:32 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez** : Yes, Cuba AND Venezuela were on the ground in Haiti!

17:36:33 From **Daniel ben Avrám**, he, him, hers : If you'd like to hear my song again, here's a link, and one with the lyrics:

[http://www.peacehost.net/JazzSacra/Lagrimas\\_mix05-13-2009.mp3](http://www.peacehost.net/JazzSacra/Lagrimas_mix05-13-2009.mp3);

<http://www.peacehost.net/EPI-Calc/lagrimaslyrics.html>

17:38:30 From **Vivian**: too bad that that beautiful voice, singing such a beautiful song (Mercedes Sosa. "Gracias a la vida") refused to honor BDS!

17:44:07 From **carolynscarr**: And Royal Dutch Shell.

17:54:35 From **carolynscarr**: There was a plan to ship food from Nicaragua to Venezuela. I heard Nicaragua produces more food than it needs.

17:56:57 From **Marilyn Jackson**: Why haven't the democratic "progressives" in our House and Senate (Sanders, ALC, etc) told the truth about Guaidó's fascist background and preparation to overthrow the democratically elected government? Janet Gibson

18:04:15 From **Gloria La Riva**:  
[https://www.answercoalition.org/alternative\\_media\\_resource\\_list\\_on\\_venezuela](https://www.answercoalition.org/alternative_media_resource_list_on_venezuela)

18:04:41 From **carolynscarr**: keep us posted in December

18:05:33 From **Laura Wells**: Even most “progressives” of the Democratic Party toe the line against Venezuela (and Cuba) because of Florida’s frequent role as a swing state. FL has a swing constituency of wealthy Venezuelans who have emigrated to Florida and align with anti-Castro Cubans and affect the voting.

18:07:50 From **carolynscarr** : I would like to have a cohesive push against “sanctions” which too many leftists think are an improvement over a shooting war.

18:10:11 From **Laura Wells**: I should say Florida is just one reason they line up against Venezuela, there is also the whole billionaire/corporate agenda.

18:12:12 From **David & Jan Hartsough**: Thanks to EPI and all the people/groups in this program for your continued very good and very important work!

18:12:41 From **Marilyn Jackson**: Post your questions here; Q&A to follow

18:12:59 From **Gloria La Riva** : I agree with you Laura about the real driver in this aggression, the US corporations, banks and their state of repression.

18:14:52 From **Joelle Deloison**: You can see the symbolism of the song (“Guantanamo”) sung both in Cuba and Miami. The dream of many is reconciliation between Cubans on both shores.

18:15:40 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: We Cubans are used to US aggression throughout centuries of abuse!

18:17:36 From **juliet spohn twomey** to carolynscarr (Privately): Hello dear friend. A wonderful program. Congratulations.

18:17:37 From **Daniel ben Avrám**, he, him, hers : Compañeros, my connection is unsteady, and I could not play the song we intended to, and for

which we substituted "Guantanamera." So you may listen to this recording by our Silvia, I've uploaded it, for you to listen to later. "Berta"  
<http://www.peacehost.net/EPI-Calc/berta%202.mp3>

18:18:01 From **St. John's Berkeley** (Mark Coplan): Thanks to Silvia for all of the great music.

18:26:39 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez** : Cuba experienced an early problem with food production, and during that time, food was grown EVERYWHERE. The *compañero campesino* had as much importance as anyone else. There were terraces and small gardens which produced food.

18:26:54 From **carolynscarr**: Hope Cuba will grow organic.

18:27:19 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: There was even an excellent program called "La escuela al campo," where schools were taken to the countryside so the city children would learn how to grow food.

18:28:23 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: Sanders called out all of these things, including Zionism!

18:28:50 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: AOC is worried about getting reelected and said she would "defer" to the Democratic Party.

18:29:27 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: The Democratic Party, which I call the Democratic-in-name-only-party, is not democratic!

18:29:29 From **carolynscarr**: QUESTION —What about the great argument about Nicaragua where the USAID and NED are financing what I call the NEO CONTRAS?

18:31:24 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: Carolyn, USAID is a horrible organization!

18:32:06 From **Gloria La Riva**: Silvia, thank you for your helpful comments to remind us of Cuba's other contributions.

18:33:19 From **Daniel Zwickel**: Compañeros, the song for which I sent a link, "**Berta**," was written by our sister **Silvia Brandon-Pérez**, as well as sung and played by her. Brava!

18:33:45 From **Max Lynn**: Wonderful evening. Thank you speakers. We are sorry we don't get to host you at St. John's, but this has been great. Next year in Jerusalem. Grace and peace to you all.

18:34:08 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: Gloria, Silvia, rebel woman Catholic priest, very much liberation theology. Silvio is my *tocayo*, whose songs I adore.

18:35:31 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: Gloria La Riva: *¡Cubana pero no gusana!*

18:35:51 From **Scarr Tony**: Thank you for a wonderful, informative program!

18:35:55 From **St. John's Berkeley**: We will save the chat and share it on our website.

18:38:50 From **Silvia A. Brandon-Pérez**: We have to get rid of Citizens United.

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18:40:33 From **David & Jan Hartsough**: I encourage everyone to get involved in the Poor peoples Campaign with Rev. William Barber and Rev. Theoharris. They are continuing the important work of Martin Luther King!!!  
[www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org)

18:41:32 From **stephaniethomas**: Thank You for the most wonderful program

18:41:39 From **stephaniethomas**: Stephanie

18:42:53 From **Vivian**: LOVE TO ALL

-Compiled by Carolyn Scarr,  
Edited by Daniel Zwickel