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Summit of the Americas does not represent the people

The IX Summit of the Americas, convened by the OAS and the Biden administration, begins today amid boycott and declining legitimacy

Los Angeles - Today, in the city of Los Angeles, Biden's gathering of select friends of the US government and the Organization of American States (OAS) will be meeting to officially kick off the IX Summit of the Americas. Millions of poor and working people from across the Americas are also being excluded.

On the ground in Los Angeles, we have experienced the callous attitude of the organizers of this Summit towards our city and its residents. The additional \$15.7 million to be spent on police and security for the five days of the Summit is a slap in the face to residents who have been organizing tirelessly against the city's inflated police budget following the anti-racist uprising in 2020 and amid cuts to key social services like the COVID-19 Emergency Crisis Fund and the expiration of California's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

Our city's homeless population of over 66,000 and undocumented migrant population of over one million, have been given no permanent solutions. Instead these populations are the primary targets of this over-funded and violent police force. These pressing issues and others facing the city have been ignored by the Summit, and those affected have been excluded.

Stephanie Brito of the International People's Assembly, stated, "The United States has lost its moral authority. A country that is rife with inequality, homelessness, voter suppression, police brutality and racism, as well as the suppression of basic rights of women, has no grounds to convene a summit about the promotion of democracy and freedom."

Our People's Summit for Democracy. We will be coming together from June 8-10 to counter Biden's Summit of Exclusion and discuss not only our problems as peoples of the Americas, but also our solutions.

Follow the People's Summit on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and <u>our website</u>.

For press inquiries and interview requests, contact: Zoe Alexandra, +17818790200, press@peoplessummit2022.org