



# WORLD YOUTH MOVEMENT *for* DEMOCRACY

*Confronting the Challenges to Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

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## Statement at the 4th World Youth Movement for Democracy meeting

14<sup>th</sup> of April – Jakarta, Indonesia

We, the young people present at the 6th assembly of the World Movement for Democracy,

*Coming* from more than 25 countries from every continent to Jakarta, Indonesia, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of April;

*Sharing* the values and objectives of the World Movement for Democracy as expressed in its Founding Statement;

*Committed* to furthering the World Youth Movement for Democracy, as established at the Third Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy in South Africa in 2004;

*Expressing* our continuing support to the texts and declarations produced by young people attending previous meetings of the World Youth Movement for Democracy;

*Noting* that young people are often at the forefront of democracy promotion and democratic change in countries around the world;

*Concerned* by the continuous repression of young people and students engaged in democracy work, for example by means of expulsion from universities and schools, intimidation, violence or even imprisonment;

*Disappointed* by the absence of the Cuban essay contest winner, Celiano Cristian Toranzo Fundichely, who was intentionally delayed from preparing for departure by the Cuban authorities for political reasons.

*Speaking out* against authoritarian rule all around the world;

*Expressing* our solidarity with young people imprisoned due to their beliefs and activism, for example:

- young activists Emin Milli and Adnan Hajizade from Azerbaijan;
- Cuban youth leaders Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, José Daniel Ferrer Garcia and Randi Cabrera Mayor;
- Egyptian young blogger and writer Mosad Abu Fagr;
- Sadeq Jawad Ahmed Al-Fardan and his colleagues in Bahrain;
- and many others in countries like Iran, China, Zimbabwe, Burma, etc. .

*Calling* for the immediate release of these persons and others, and subsequent respect of their human rights in their own countries;

*Committing* ourselves to engaging other young people, civil society and governments in pushing authoritarian governments to release young political prisoners.