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Venezuela's President Accepts Assembly Loss, Calls for Peace

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro stated, "The opposition hasn't won, a counterrevolution has won. The constitution and democracy have triumphed, we recognize and accept these results." ([Read the complete article](#))



Venezuela: It is still possible to save the Revolution, by Carlos Aznarez



Venezuela, situated in the worst possible scenarios, is appealing the consciences of many Latin Americans. How is it possible that a mediocre opposition without a political program, beyond a desire for revenge against Chavism,

has achieved such favorable results that practically put them at the gates of the presidency? ([Read the complete article](#))

Venezuela

Venezuela's President Accepts Assembly Loss, Calls for Peace

December 7, 2015

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro stated, "The opposition hasn't won, a counterrevolution has won."

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro responded Monday to the outcome of Sunday's National Assembly (AN) election praising the turnout of nearly 75 percent.



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"The constitution and democracy have triumphed, we recognize and accept these results," said President Maduro.

The comments came in the wake of Sunday's high stakes AN election, which saw the president's socialist party, the PSUV, lose its majority in the National Assembly.

The head of Venezuela's electoral authority announced the results early Monday. The governing United Socialist Party of Venezuela won 46 seats, the opposition coalition won 99 seats, with 19 still to be announced, as well as the three indigenous positions.

President Maduro thanked the workers of the electoral authority and the country's armed forces that supported the realization of Sunday's elections.

"A perfect electoral system, without a doubt is one the most marvelous creations of these 16 years of revolution, of transformations and the creation of something new," said Maduro.

As many as 19 million registered voters were expected to cast ballots in the election, that was widely predicted to be one of the tightest in years.

In light of the results, Maduro called on the opposition and their supporters to cease the "economic war" against the government and to respect the law.

President Maduro also took the opportunity to call on supporters to learn the lessons from this defeat.

"We have lost a battle today but the fight is for a new socialism has barely begun ... We see this as a slap to wake us up to act," said Maduro.

"It is time for a rebirth."

Leading figures in the opposition declared victory before the release of official results.

Ahead of Sunday's vote, the head of an election accompaniment mission representing the UNASUR regional bloc, Jose Luis Exeni, said Venezuela's voting system is secure.

Exeni told teleSUR the mission has have more than 40 personnel positioned in voting stations across the country.

"We come here with important experience to accompany this (electoral) process," he said during an interview Thursday.

The mission head said international media reports in the lead up to the vote suggesting the electoral system is vulnerable to abuse are misleading, describing the Venezuelan electoral process as “consistent,” and “very auditable.”

“Everyone should commit to respecting the results,” he said.

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Venezuelas-President-Accepts-Assembly-Loss-Calls-for-Peace-20151206-0046.html>

Source: teleSur

Venezuela

Venezuela: It is still possible to save the Revolution, by Carlos Aznarez

By Carlos Aznárez / Source Resumen Latinoamericano / The Dawn / December 7, 2015. Venezuela, situated in the worst possible scenarios, is appealing the consciences of many Latin Americans. How is it possible that a mediocre opposition without a political program, beyond a desire for revenge against Chavism, has achieved such favorable results that practically put them at the gates of the presidency?



Without a doubt, there are many reasons for the current situation, some induced by the enemy and some caused by contradictions and mistakes of the revolutionary process itself, from which no process is exempt.

Nicolás Maduro was right when he pointed out, early in the morning of December 7, that above all, the economic war triumphed, and set the counter-revolution on the brink of getting the power so longed by its mentors in Washington. A war that practically became an internal blockade in these last two years, from within the country itself, to undermine, day after day, the willpower of the Venezuelan people, who heroically resisted the oil strike in 2002, and continued resisting from then on.

The economic war translates in: women and men anxious to feed their children having to endure long hours of waiting outside the supermarkets, lack of milk, flour, toilet paper, soap and other products that are criminally kept under lock and key by the economic powers. Or worse, products needed in the city are smuggled to Colombia. One has to live this situation to understand the frustration it causes, which always ends up directed at those ‘above’, not only the actual operators of these lethal strategies —unscrupulous millionaire entrepreneurs linked to the most despicable right— but also, almost logically, at the government in power.

It is undoubtable that this people, with the level of conscience acquired in

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Venezuela: It is still possible to save the Revolution, by Carlos Aznarez

these past 15 years of revolution, demand the government to give immediate solution to this matter, that it applies all its strength so that those who get richer with the pain of the most humble ones don't keep humiliating them, and that it doesn't hesitate if there is a need of nationalizing, expropriating and filling the jails with the commercial criminals. To take that one step further, to nationalize Foreign Commerce and repair the damage of the structural problems that remain since the Fourth Republic in Venezuela.

The possibility of acknowledging these urgent demands, formulated over and over, generate a pit of despair when there is no response, and from there to resignation—physical and mental— there is only one step. The opposition, who has always been encouraging these situation, was able to take advantage.

But there are more reasons, similar to those that all progressive and revolutionary processes have been suffering in the continent. Media terrorism, indeed. That deadly cascade of lies coming from local and foreign media, creators of imaginary scenarios, managers of destabilization maneuvers and masters of the production of new 'leaders' —like imprisoned coupist Leopoldo López— who appeal to the institutionalization of the oppressors as "victims". Take the case of the wife of imprisoned leader, Lilian Tintori, traveled the world thanks to the flow of cash from the international anti-Chavist coalition (that includes Aznar, Felipe González, Pastrana, Tuto Quiroga and Uribe Vélez), to gain adhesion for her crusade against —democratically elected— 'Maduro, the dictator'.

Perhaps all these elements would have not been enough to reach the current situation, if it weren't for the constant presence of the Empire and a long list of allies behind each and every move against the Venezuelan government. It is precisely thanks to this special actor that, since the moment that Chavez arrived to the presidency, gave green light to the implementation of all kinds of mechanisms to overthrow his government. In the same way in which they tried to do with Fidel and Raúl Castro's Cuba —but with different results.

The Empire is the main enemy of the Revolution that is now at the edge, and we must not forget it. But, at the same time, it could be the element that causes a great and urgent effort for the reconstruction of popular forces to face it in every possible way. It is not about losing an election, it is about the possibility of losing a Revolution, because it may take years or even centuries to recover a similar scenario.

Everything suggests that we must not surrender or fall into a paralyzing depression; we still have our Motherland and we are running against the clock, so we can not afford to doubt or fall into the timid, defeatist social-democratic proposals that abound within the Process, induced by European 'advisers' that are not important in their own countries. It is about defending the social conquests, the Missions, Education, the housing projects, the land distributed. Against all of this the right will surely fight. To yield and give them the conquests would be suicidal. We must harden the revolutionary process, listen to what is said in the neighborhoods, go for all, despite the circumstances; it may not be successful, but it is worth trying. There is a leadership, from Nicolás Maduro, the man in whom Commander Chávez deposited all of his hope and trust. The Chief of an army of humble people and patriots that has achieved a difficult task, despite the pains. What else do we need to have the courage to take the streets? We are still in time, and it is worth to remember in these tough circumstances, that premonitory phrase pronounced by Fidel Castro after the landing of the 'Granma': 'We have 10 men and 10 rifles, and we are going to win the Revolution'. After 57 years of this feat, Cuba is still standing.

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Venezuela

Supporting Regime Change – by Electoral Means



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December 5, 2015

By Mark Weisbrot

Washington has been trying to get rid of the Venezuelan government for more than 13 years, going back to the failed military coup of 2002. The U.S. State Department acknowledged that Washington “provided training, institution building, and other support to individuals and organizations understood to be actively involved” in the coup. They stepped up funding to opposition groups after the coup government collapsed. Since 2004, the U.S. has also supported regime change by electoral means, but the Venezuelan opposition has never been able to win a national election.

Now Washington’s hopes are high for the Venezuela’s National Assembly elections on December 6, with the economy in recession, and grappling with shortages and high inflation. As usual, the U.S. government and its allies — in the media, NGOs, and even U.S. law enforcement agencies — have been campaigning vigorously.

But there is something even more sinister going on here. While the Venezuelan opposition is leading in national polls, it very likely will not do as well in winning Assembly seats as these polls would indicate. That is mainly because Venezuela’s single-chamber legislature gives more than proportional representation to smaller states. It is not so disproportional as in the U.S. or Brazilian system, with their separate Senate chambers, but it is significant. Also, the governing party (PSUV) has millions of members and a record of getting their voters to the polls, while the opposition has nothing comparable.

Since the media is focusing on the national polls, the stage is set for the Venezuelan opposition to claim fraud, as they did in the 2013 presidential elections. In 2013, the opposition took to the streets with violent demonstrations, and Washington supported them by refusing to recognize the results. There was absolutely no doubt about the results — Venezuela has one of the most fraud-proof voting systems ever invented, which former U.S. President and election expert Jimmy Carter called “the best in the world.”

In 2013, it was the intervention of South America that forced Washington and its only two allies, Jose Miguel Insulza (the Secretary General of the OAS) and the right-wing Popular Party of Spain, to back down and join the rest of

the world in recognizing the results. Lula in particular made unusually strong public criticisms of Washington for supporting this destabilization effort.

Even if the opposition wins a simple majority in the Assembly, they may still claim fraud if they don't reach the two-thirds majority that would give them much more power. The current U.S.-led international campaign has dangerously focused not only on de-legitimizing the government of Venezuela, but also its elections. This effort has been joined by OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, who published an 18-page letter trashing Venezuela ahead of the elections. He was strongly denounced for his actions by Uruguayan ex-President Pepe Mujica, whom Almagro had served as foreign minister until March of this year. And now the election of Mauricio Macri — a politician who had previously appealed to U.S. officials to help him fight against his own government — as president of Argentina has given the U.S. another ally in its campaign.

The Brazilian government should stand firm, as it did in 2013, against this sordid attempt to undermine the legitimacy of Venezuela's elections. And Almagro has clearly violated his mandate as Secretary General of the OAS by actively campaigning against a member country. He should resign.

Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C., and the president of Just Foreign Policy. He is also the author of the new book "Failed: What the 'Experts' Got Wrong About the Global Economy (2015, Oxford University Press)."

This article first appeared in Portuguese in the Brazilian newspaper Folha de S.Paulo.

<http://progresoweekly.us/supporting-regime-change-by-electoral-means/>

Source: Progreso Weekly

Venezuela

In Hard Times, Chavismo is Not Dead



December 1, 2015

Queuing is a part of the day-to-day reality of Venezuela. To pick up basic groceries or take out cash from the ATM, Venezuelans often have to form a line and wait their turn.

Due to shortages, the endeavor might turn out to be fruitless, with empty shelves where essential items like eggs, rice, toilet paper and diapers used to be.

While these issues cause frustration, more pressing is the drop in real earnings. It is difficult to calculate the exact rate of inflation, with official sources placing it at

around 60 percent, and others more than double that.

With parliamentary elections coming later this week, it would be easy to assume that this spells the end of the socialist government.

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But, in spite of the testing circumstances, a strong sector of Venezuelans have not turned their back on Chavismo. Many cite the social gains the government has made in the last 16 years, while others remember the difficulties suffered during the governments in the years before Hugo Chavez became president in 1999. Most agree that there is a need to be patient, to weather the economic hardship in order to achieve real socialism.

"What they wanted to do 40 years ago, they want to do now. Return, but for what?"

"Have the people lost their memory or what?" Josefina Bravo told teleSUR English, remembering having to queue up overnight to get milk 30 years ago when her daughter was a newborn baby. Now a grandmother of six, Josefina is not only the linchpin of her family, but a community stalwart, working with seven communities in the the Barrio Nuevo, Barrio Tricolor and Barrio Adentro projects, helping neighborhoods make their environments better, allocating new housing, and advising on sanitation and nutrition.

"What they wanted to do 40 years ago, they want to do now. Return, but for what? Everything has advanced. We have managed to improve ourselves in these 16 years," she said, adding, "What are we going to do with the elderly? With their pensions they buy their medicine, their food, all of that. Some people can't look after their parents. How are we going to do it? Because before, there was none of that.

"Why am I still a Chavista?" she asked rhetorically. "Because I love Chavez. He was a great communicator, he was a teacher for me. Chavez was a true socialist. We haven't arrived at socialism, we are trying to achieve socialism. This is going to be really hard. Because it's a systematic war, by the media and everything. Socialism is a communitarian vision. So that we all have things, so that there are none of these inequalities. So that you're not better than me, and me better than you. As humans we're all equal, we all have the same rights."

"We continue with the fight that Chavez started so that it keeps moving forward, because before we were forgotten about."

I met Jairo Villareal at the Esquina Caliente in Plaza Bolivar, where supporters of the ruling PSUV socialist party take it in turns to make impassioned speeches and exchange ideas about socialism.

A driver by trade, Jairo is a member of his communal council in Parroquia Cathedral, which makes decisions on the day-to-day workings of communities.

"We continue with the fight that Chavez started so that it keeps moving forward, because before we were forgotten about. It has had a lot of benefits," he said. "At the moment I'm participating in Mision Robinson, where adults can learn to read, and more. It's the best way that I can support these people, who really never had this opportunity, there's so many, too many, that really need this help," he said.

"What we are doing now is a test. This is training for all. Because before, we had everything. It was easy."

Maria del Carmen Parrega has been working at Martinez Centeno school for 16 years. Its a state-funded Bolivarian school, which means the children receive free school meals, as well as the laptops.

"Those who support Chavez, we have to be loyal. We have to be really sincere people. And Chavez was born ... from love. And what we are doing now is a test. This is training for all of us. Because before, we had everything," she said.

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"Now no. Now you have to care for yourself. You have to look after your family. Everyone. Let's look, we have one chicken, we are going to share this chicken, we're not going to eat it all at once. Before we would just chuck some of it, now no. Now we are going to really use it. We pray that by 2021 we end with poverty. That's one of the goals that he had. And this can only be achieved if all of us become conscious of what Venezuela is ... what family is, that we need to be united, that on Dec. 6 we all have to go to defend the revolution," she said.

"Popular, organized power, to give a response to the communities was Hugo Chavez's idea."

Jose Acosta allocates funds for each of the projects in his communal council in the Caracas neighborhood La Vega. The resources for these programs come from the government. Like many Venezuelans, Jose plays an active role in the decision-making and the running of his community.

"If there is no organization, we don't have anything. Our fundamental base is organization. Because the census, house by house tells us how many families live there, which people live there, and let us know what each family needs. for us as a communal, popular, organized power to give a response, through the institution of the state," he explained.

"Right now we're in an economic war. Private companies hide food, or don't produce food. To try to change the minds of us Chavistas, revolutionaries. They want to change our ideology. But us, we want to continue with the revolution," Acosta concluded.

Source: teleSUR

Venezuela

CNN Doesn't Want You to Know the Truth about Venezuela's Voting System



December 4, 2015

By Eva Golinger

On Monday of this week, November 30, I received a phone call from a CNN en Español producer asking me to write a column on the upcoming legislative elections in Venezuela, scheduled for this Sunday, December 6. Pleasantly surprised at the opportunity to

publish in a media outlet widely known for its biased anti-government coverage of Venezuela, I accepted the offer.

Over the next day and a half, between work and personal responsibilities, I found barely enough to write the article. In fact, I first wrote one piece that was heavy on the politics, and subsequently decided it wasn't appropriate, or effective, for the CNN audience. The most critical issue to discuss with an audience already biased against the government in Venezuela was not why government policies or good or bad, or who will win at the ballot box, but rat-

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her the integrity of Venezuela's voting system.

The article was only a page and a half, under 800 words. The majority was dedicated to outlining the process of voting in Venezuela, which I have gone through numerous times as a Venezuelan citizen. I opened the article citing Jimmy Carter's famous phrase on the Venezuelan electoral system, which he referred to in 2012 as "the best in the world", after observing over 90 elections worldwide.

Towards the end of the article, I made a brief mention of poverty reduction under the administration of President Hugo Chavez, and also referred to errors pollsters have made in Venezuela over the years during tense elections. After sending in the article, a few hours later CNN asked me for sources on poverty reduction under Chavez, and cites for the polls. I easily obliged with their request and provided credible, accessible citations.

They sent me back an edited version, this time with an added sentence after Carter's statement on the Venezuelan electoral process, stating that the Carter Center had abandoned Venezuela in 2015 and was no longer observing their elections. The statement seemed to disqualify Carter's 2012 applause of Venezuela's elections, basically implying that while Carter may have said that then, now was a different story and the Carter Center wanted nothing to do with it. I told CNN there was no way I would include a statement discrediting Carter's 2012 affirmation of the Venezuelan electoral process as the best in the world. If they wanted context, I could write that the Carter Center no longer operates in Venezuela because the system there is flawless and no longer needs external observation. I didn't hear back from them for over 24 hours.

I sent a message asking when the article would be published and stating I would need to review the final edits and authorize before publishing, and the CNN producer responded affirmatively, saying the piece should be up by Thursday (it was Wednesday night). After hearing nothing from them through most of Thursday, I asked the producer what was going on. Her response was, "the editor says the article must make clear that the Carter Center no longer operates in Venezuela, or that statement cannot be included. It's a requirement to publish". I wrote back that was not acceptable. I would not allow CNN to impose a sentence on my article as a condition of publishing, especially one that had no relevance to the original statement made by Jimmy Carter. Late Thursday, they sent me a message stating that "internal consultations at the highest level were underway regarding publishing my article". Hours later, I received another message stating that "all editors were consulted and the decision was not to publish the column".

What CNN did was outright censorship. They refused to publish my article because it presented documented and well sourced information favorable to the integrity of the electoral process, and the possibility of a government victory. Why doesn't CNN want its readers to know that Jimmy Carter, one of the most respected US leaders of all times, believes Venezuela has the best voting system in the world? Because CNN, along with other US and international media, such as The Washington Post, New York Times, Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times, are preparing to support opposition claims of fraud in Venezuela in the probable event of a government win.

Already, leading voices from the Venezuelan opposition, including Lilian Tintori, Leopoldo Lopez's wife, have stated that "either the opposition wins or it's fraud". The Washington Post echoed these claims in a piece on Monday, claiming "anything other than an opposition win is likely to produce charges of

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CNN Doesn't Want You to Know the Truth about Venezuela's Voting System

fraud” and the Financial Times mentions a “perception that the government has stolen the election” if the opposition loses. Even The Guardian is aiding and abetting the international stage to discredit the elections in the event of a favorable pro-government result, writing today, “Barring some very large election fraud, the opposition will win by a wide margin. The ruling party majority is almost certain to get wiped out.”

Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has claimed the Venezuelan government is attempting to “rig” the elections in its favor. Of course the US State Department has issued several warnings against Venezuela, hypocritically criticizing the lack of formal elections observers (which the US does not allow for its own elections) and calling on the government to cease intimidation and political violence after an opposition politician was killed on stage during a political rally last week. What the US and other international media didn't report is that 3 suspects in the killing were already detained and confessed to killing Luis Manuel Diaz as part of a gang dispute. Credible evidence surfaced linking the victim to organized crime, confirming his murder was not politically motivated. No connection between the government or government supporters and the murder has been evidenced, despite unsubstantiated claims in US media.

As I state in my original article, censored by CNN, (now published on RT) Venezuela may have its problems, but the credibility of its electoral process is not one of them. The same electoral system used in this Sunday's elections, also was used to elect the more than one third of the legislature the opposition current holds, along with the opposition governors and mayors in the country's most populated states and cities. Why is it fraud then when only one side loses? The answer is simple: it's not fraud, it's called being a sore loser. In democracy, the results are respected, no matter who wins, and no matter who loses.

<http://venezuelanalysis.com/analysis/11745>

Source: Venezuela Analysis

Venezuela

Venezuela: Obama's Real Concerns



By Arnold August

Under sharp questioning by reporters at a daily press briefing on March 10, 2015 – one day after Barack Obama's Executive Order against Venezuela – U.S. Department of State spokesperson Jen Psaki declared, “The goal of these sanctions is to persuade the Government of Venezuela to change their behavior.” Is the only concern the Government

of Venezuela's behavior? Since December 1998, when Commander Hugo Chávez won the presidential elections, and now under the leadership of President Nicolás Maduro, the main characteristic of this behavior has been to

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develop new experiments in participatory democracy. This means the political power of the people exercised in daily concrete actions and political thinking. The fresh projects of participatory democracy displace representative democracy, whose main feature is to restrain people at the base so that they rely on elected representatives. Participatory democracy has been progressively resulting in the fusion of elected representatives at all levels, including government leaders, into the daily political, social and economic life of the people. It is now increasingly difficult to distinguish leadership from the grass roots. Thus, the primary concern of the Obama administration is that the Bolivarian Revolution is a real revolution in which the main protagonists are the people themselves. Concentrating on the behavior of the Government of Venezuela is, in fact, just a smokescreen to cover up the fact that the revolution being developed is not from the top down. This revolution has succeeded where others have failed, that is, it promotes a dialectical relationship between the top down and the bottom up. The Bolivarian Revolution represents a revolution in political culture: its main feature is that people are their own liberators, and this can only be realized if exercised on a daily basis; there is no easy way out. The Venezuelan people are increasingly aware of this. This is Obama's real concern with regard to the conduct of the government: the U.S. is not facing merely a government, but a revolution that becomes stronger and more mature as it defends itself. This is not to say that setbacks cannot and will not take place. This is bound to happen as Venezuela is evolving in a very complicated situation whereby the U.S. government and the international media are targeting Venezuela. However, the Bolivarian Revolution has become a material force that can be detected, as I have noticed during my visits to Caracas. I am convinced that it cannot be destroyed.

Its vibrancy, as exhibited now in the heat of the battle, serves as an example to other countries, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this region, the most dynamic in the world today, alternative media such as Telesur and the use of social media allow the people in the area to follow events and reach their own conclusions for their respective countries. Therefore, one cannot underestimate the potential positive impact of the Venezuelan experiment on other countries. This is the first of Obama's real concerns regarding Venezuelan behavior, thus the attempt to drive a wedge between the government and the people.

What is the second concern? In 2011, Obama stated that "even if we tap every single reserve available to us, we can't escape the fact that we only control 2 percent of the world's oil, but we consume over a quarter of the world's oil." Today, Venezuela has the biggest certified oil reserves in the world. The problem is that the U.S. cannot at this time extend its control of its own relatively limited domestic reserves to those of Venezuela. This second real concern is intimately related to the first one, the new political culture of people's power. Right from the initial mandate of Hugo Chávez, for the first time in the history of that country, the benefits of petroleum have been used for vastly improving all facets of Venezuelan life: economic, social, health, education, culture and sports. The concern of Obama is that the people at the base are generally aware of this, because they are involved in working out and applying the deviation of this source of income to their own benefit. The grass roots are very conscious of the source of the improvements to their daily life and see themselves as partners along with the leadership in executing the new programs. Thus both of Obama's concerns are intimately linked.

i Jen Psaki, U.S. Department of State Spokesperson, Daily Press Briefing, Washington, DC, March 10, 2015, <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2015/03/238718.htm>.

ii Barack Obama, The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, March 11, 2011, News Conference by the President, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/11/news-conference-president>.

Source: The Bolivarian, Year 3, No. 5, Quarterly Magazine, 2015, and Canada. Published by the Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en Canadá.

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Venezuela

The Most Censored News on Venezuelan Elections

December 4, 2015

The Venezuelan opposition has directly taken part in and has endorsed without objection the 19 audits carried out so far to the electoral system with a view to the parliamentary elections on Sunday December 6. Their technical experts with unquestionable credentials

and chosen by the opposition parties themselves are also certified for the remaining four audits out of the total 23 that establishes the Electoral Branch in Venezuela for this process. This news has not been released in any international media outlet.



The National Electoral Council (CNE) has provided technical support for primary elections held by the opposition coalition MUD, which brings together right-wing parties. On 17 May, 2015 the MUD held elections in 33 out of the 87 constituencies of the country, to elect 42 of its 167 candidates for the National Assembly. This process was technically organized by the CNE with the same electoral platform that will be used on 6 December. This information has not been published by the foreign press either.

International and local media linked to the right-wing gave wide and prominent coverage and treated as a "political event", the murder of the member of the Democratic Action (AD) party in Altigracia de Orituco, Luis Manuel Díaz, after holding a proselytizing event in this town of Guarico state. However, the news revealing that the late AD member had a police record for various offenses and that the motive was a dispute between criminal gangs operating in Guarico, have been internationally silenced.

The profusion of complaints and attacks against the National Electoral Council contrasts with the concealment of news as the organization by this electoral arbiter of the opposition primaries to choose its presidential candidate for 2012, Henrique Capriles; and the internal elections of the far right party Voluntad Popular or Popular Will, held in July 2011. The clear winner was Leopoldo Lopez –sentenced by Venezuelan justice for his prominent role in violence riots in 2014 that claimed the lives of 43 people– to serve as national coordinator.

In all the electoral processes of the country domestic observers are able to do their job. For 6 December parliamentary elections there are enabled organiza-

tions such as Venezuela's Election Observers Network, Foundation for Decent people, Venezuelan Electoral Observatory, Social Project and Education Assembly –many of them pro-opposition–, who have witnessed and certified audits and other acts set out in the electoral schedule. However, foreign media choose to ignore this reality.

Nor is it news the presence of international observers, who fulfill their duties according to the country's rules and laws, also in full accordance with the agenda published since the beginning of the year by the CNE. Nor are the technical credentials of the observers of the Latin American Council of Electoral Experts (CEELA) and the UNASUR mission, or profiles of the guests of the electoral authority and political organizations.

The censored news on Venezuelan parliamentary elections are part of a smear campaign that promotes the false allegations of fraud and paves the way to disregard results and to violence. This campaign is also fed with lies and the alleged suspension or limitation of the elections in the 23 border municipalities of Tachira, Zulia, Apure and Amazonas states, which are in a state of emergency to confront the paramilitaries and smuggling that has any implications in political rights, and where, therefore, the elections will be held in the same conditions as in the rest of the country.

<http://www.avn.info.ve/contenido/most-censored-news-venezuelan-elections>

Source: Venezuelan News Agency

Venezuela

Statement and Appeal from the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity



The people of Venezuela and its Bolivarian Revolution are in combat against the intense dirty war carried out by the opposition in that country, orchestrated by the regional right, old European right-wingers, and the United States.

The current situation represents a new escalation against the Bolivarian process of Venezuela, promoted by the right allied to the transnational oligarchy. They are preparing a new provocation and interference plans essentially aimed to destroy and eliminate the revolution

and therefore the integration and unity of Latin American.

The old wishes of the United States to dominate us and to make the region its backyard, are reflected in the constant media war, the embarrassing espionage to PDVSA and the increase of advice to the subversion.

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Statement and Appeal from the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity

The Parliamentary elections in Venezuela on December 6 will decide the future of the Revolution and at the same time the rest of the progressive countries of Latin America.

Confronting the attempts by regional right and imperialism to undermine Latin American integrity and conquests achieved by the progressive Governments in the region, we must achieve greater unity of action of all our forces.

The Bolivarian revolution is not alone. It attained the respect and affection of all our peoples under the leadership of the ever-present Commander Hugo Chavez, which President Nicolas Maduro today gives continuity in very difficult conditions.

This is the time to join forces and stop the claws of the Empire that wants to devour Bolivarian Venezuela and devour us all.

To avoid "the low-intensity war" is a task that is incumbent upon us all. Ensuring the continuity of the Bolivarian process is of vital importance to the sovereignty of the region, maintain regional integration and curb the hegemonic and subversive campaign that the United States has established for Latin America.

The escalation of the right in the region is expressed in the claims of the ultra-right Macri, who won by a narrow margin, and will assume the presidency of Argentina on December 10. He publicly promised to demand the withdrawal of Venezuela from the Mercosur.

It is expressed in the campaign against Dilma and Lula in Brazil, against Correa in Ecuador, in the disqualification of everything that smacks of progressiveness in the region, in the United States meddling actions and the media spin on an international scale that appears to maintain normal relations with Cuba as it continues to pursue the criminal Cuban Adjustment Act, persists in the genocidal blockade longest history, and illegally occupies the territory of the Guantanamo Naval Base.

Imperialism tries to break us, and wish that we lower the level of mobilization, divide our forces and organizations and make demands that divert our attention. The old interventionist manual is in progress with new tactics to undermine us.

Once again we alert all of the world's honest men and women about the seriousness of the situation which presents itself today in Latin America.

That is why the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity calls urgently to the progressive parties and left, to organized labor, social movements, political actors, progressive churches, popular and human rights organizations, alternative media and the youth, to be part of a great Regional Movement in support the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela.

As stated at the Summit of the CELAC held in Havana in 2014 "America Latina is a Zone of Peace".

That no one break our unity, because of that unity depends the future of our peoples.

Guantánamo, November 23, 2015

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Cuba

Central America: The Route of Broken Dreams



December 3, 2015

By Gabriela Ávila Gómez

While Cuban emigrants have a practically guaranteed route to the “American dream,” given the privileges afforded by the Cuban Adjustment Act, their continental siblings must scramble through deserts and jungles to avoid border patrols and

vigilantes.

The extensive coverage given by the corporate media to the situation of several thousand Cubans in Costa Rica, with clear political intentions, contrasts sharply with their silence regarding the daily struggles of hundreds of thousands of migrants from Central and South America, who use this same route to reach the United States.

While Cubans have a practically guaranteed route to the “American dream,” their continental siblings must scramble through deserts and jungles to avoid the border patrol and vigilante groups seeking to impede their arrival in U.S. territory.

The recent meeting in El Salvador of Central American foreign ministers and representatives from Cuba, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia, evidenced the desire of regional leaders to find a solution to the complex situation developing in Costa Rica, but also to call attention to the broader problem of migration in the region, one of the continent’s poorest, hit hard by drug trafficking and violence.

A study conducted by the United Nations Refugee Agency (Acnur) warned, this past October, of an eminent migratory crisis in Central America.

During the presentation of a new report on women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, stated, “The violence perpetuated by transnational organized criminal groups in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and part of Mexico has become widespread.”

Although the study focused primarily on women, Guterres reported on the general situation as well, noting that between 2008 and 2014 the number of migrants to the U.S. from the Central American Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala) had grown five times over, while requests for refuge in Mexico and other countries multiplied by 13.

The study found that some 200,000 Central Americans a year are attempting to cross the Mexican border, to travel to the United States.

The Human Rights Commission in Honduras reports that, between 2009 and 2014, some 77,243 underage migrants entered the U.S. without authorization - 27,579 from Guatemala; 25,985 from Honduras; and 23,679 from El Salvador.

During their journey, these youth must face the dangers posed by organized crime, extortionists, physical injury, robberies, murders, accidents and, if they arrive, a strictly enforced U.S. migratory policy, which in the majority of cases means they will be deported.

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SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR CUBANS

Added to this complex situation over the last few years, is the increasing number of Cubans, who leave their country legally, and arrive in another country of the region, to join the irregular movement of migrants through Central America toward the United States, dominated by coyotes and organized criminal bands trafficking in persons.

The reality they face during their journey is unique.

Since 1995, the U.S. government has implemented the “wet foot-dry foot” policy, which allows all Cubans who reach U.S. territory to stay and obtain legal residency, while those intercepted at sea are returned to their country. Taking a land route means that Cubans can need only reach the U.S. border, present themselves to immigration authorities, show evidence that they are Cuban, and automatically be admitted.

The U.S. Parole Program for Medical Professionals, launched during the George W. Bush administration, goes farther, encouraging Cuban doctors and nurses to desert their medical missions in other countries.

Both policies, which the U.S. President has the authority to change, have as their foundation the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act, which has been interpreted to allow the granting of residency to all Cuban citizens who request it.

This Cold War era law is meant to destabilize Cuba and rob the nation of valuable human resources.

The countries involved in the Costa Rican border crisis continue to work on an immediate response to the problem, but insist that a comprehensive solution is required, if a repetition is to be avoided.

Likewise, representatives of Central American countries at the meeting insisted that any analysis from the humanitarian point of view could not exclude their citizens, who are also risking their lives in increasing numbers to reach U.S. territory, in hopes of better economic prospects.

Source: Granma International

Cuba

Building the Movement to Close Guantanamo & End the Blockade in the New Era

November 25, 2015

Talk delivered by Nancy Kohn from the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity in Guantanamo City on Nov. 24th at IV International Seminar for Peace and Abolition of Foreign Military Bases.

Sisters and brothers:

In Boston where I live, I wear a button every day that says End the U.S. Blockade of Cuba. You'd be amazed how many people come up to me and say, “I thought Obama already ended that.”



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If you just rely on the corporate media for your information about U.S. – Cuba relations, it is easy to see how you could arrive at the conclusion that everything between the two countries was now normal.

We are fast approaching a year since the dramatic events of December 17 took place when President Raul Castro declared that Cuba, with their principles intact, was willing to have a dialogue on all issues, and President Barack Obama acknowledged that the U.S. policy towards Cuba for over 50 years was a failed one. This opened up a dialogue that has resulted in the establishment of diplomatic relations and Cuba being taken off the list of terrorist nations, a list, they should never have been on in the first place. And of course, we celebrate with great joy the freedom of the five Cuban heroes who were only guilty of defending their homeland from terrorist attacks.

But in this past year what else has really changed? Not much. The illegal blockade of Cuba still exists as strong as ever. Banks dealing in dollar transactions with Cuba continue to be fined; State Department regime change programs continue to be funded; the budget of Radio and TV Marti has expanded as they create new spurious programming against the leadership of the Revolution; U.S. citizens still cannot travel to Cuba without a license; Cuba still cannot export products to the U.S.; Cuban officials and professionals are still routinely denied visas into the U.S.; progressive organizations like IFCO/ Pastors for Peace are still being harassed by OFAC and the IRS for challenging the restrictions on travel to Cuba; and of course, the most outrageous thing of all is that the torture center here in Guantanamo Province continues and the land it sits on is still occupied by the U.S. military.

The U.S. cannot accept the fact that the days of the Monroe Doctrine, that declared that all of Latin America belonged to them, are over. Guantanamo is the living nightmare of that period. It is the relic of an empire that is facing a revived Latin America that is uniting politically and economically in its own regional interest.

The talk coming out of Washington these days may sound kinder and gentler but their objective of over throwing the tremendous gains of the Cuban Revolution remains the same. Those of us in the international solidarity movement do not have the luxury to breathe a sigh of relief, now is the time to re double our efforts until all the injustices against Cuba are ended once and for all.

I am proud to be here today representing the International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity in the U.S. and especially to be here with my compañeros in the International Committee who reside here in Cuba. We were formerly known as the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, but we have adapted to the new stage of the struggle to end all U.S. hostility against Cuba and to support other struggles around the world. I am happy to say that our committee has not just stayed together but has actually grown in this new period and we are committed to push forward with the same enthusiasm and determination that we had in the long battle to free the five.

We know that the reason that the Cuban 5 were freed was not because of some noble gesture on the part of the U.S. government but because they were supported by an entire nation that never wavered and an international movement that just kept growing. It was a political struggle from the beginning to the end and this is the same formula that will bring down the blockade and close Guantanamo.

Our first major campaign in this new era of U.S.- Cuba relations took place in Washington DC in September. It was the natural continuation of our work around the five. One new dynamic was pulling together other groups in the U.S. who are our natural allies to plan the work from the beginning, including

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Building the Movement to Close Guantanamo & End the Blockade in the New Era

Pastors for Peace, the Venceremos Brigade, the Institute for Policy Studies, and the National Network on Cuba. We called the project Days of Actions against the Blockade, with activists coming from all over the U.S. to participate in grass roots advocacy in 57 Congressional offices and a series of public events that were designed to bring awareness that Cuba was more than just a nice destination point to travel to, but a country that needed our continued solidarity and that there was still a lot of work to be done.

As we gather here today in the shadow of this dreadful prison it is also important to mention that the U.S. not only has the highest per capita number of people locked away in the world, most for non-violent crimes, but it also has hundreds of political prisoners whose crimes are that they are fighters for freedom and justice. Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu Jamal are the ones most known but there are many more including Oscar Lopez Rivera who is the longest held political prisoner in Puerto Rican history. We must include all of them in our work and expose the hypocrisy of the U.S. government and their hollow pronouncements about human rights.

From all of us in the International Committee we look forward to working with all of you in the future. We invite you to join us in a social media campaign to celebrate the victories of the last year and recommit our efforts to ending the blockade. The twitter campaign will stretch from December 4th, when Gerardo Hernandez was moved out of Victorville Prison, through January 6th when Adriana and Gerardo's daughter Gema was born. The main date is of course December 17th when the Cuban 5 were reunited in Havana. For more information about the Tuitazo you can go to our website: www.theinternationalcommittee.org Remember to use the hashtag D17Cu-baVa.

We believe that united we can bring an end to the criminal blockade, lift the travel ban, close the U.S. military base in Guantanamo and return the land to its rightful owners; the Cuban people.

Volvieron! Venceremos!

Palestine

Reclaiming Palestine: How Israeli Media Misread the Intifada

Monday, 30 November 2015

By Ramzy Baroud Israeli commentators, Yaron Friedman, of "Ynet News" and Haviv Rettig Gur, of the "Times of Israel" are clueless about the driving force behind the Palestinian mobilization and collective struggle. In two recent articles, and with unmistakable conceit, they attempted to highlight what they perceive as the failure of the current Palestinian uprising, or 'Intifada'.

Gur argues that 'the terrorism' of the Palestinians is not a surge of opposition to Israel but a "howl against the pervasive sense that resistance has failed". He reduces the Intifada to the mere act of alleged stabbing of Israelis, and points out to the painful truth that the Palestinian Authority 'elites' are paying lip service to the 'martyrs', while "simultaneously acting



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with determination on the ground to disrupt and stop attacks”.

In his long-winded article, “Losing Palestine”, Gur essentially claims that the current struggle against Occupation stems mostly from internet fervor and is more a deceleration of defeat than a strategy for victory, and that no Palestinian leader dares to be the first to accept this.

Friedman, on the other hand, describes the 'knife Intifada' as a 'fire without coal'; that the “insane actions of the stabbers” is designed to ignite religious fervor, ultimately aimed at blaming the Jews.

Those who launched the Intifada “have no real internal or external support (financial or with weapons) and it broke out at a time when the nightmare of all the Arab world's leaders is the social protests turning into anarchy,” he wrote.

There is little sense in arguing against the unsympathetic approach Zionist commentators use to describe Palestinians or their insistence on seeing Palestinian collective action, violent or otherwise, as an act of ‘terror’; on their refusal to see any context behind Palestinian anger or on how they inject a religious narrative at every turn, and lob ‘anti-Semitic’ accusations unfairly, whenever they see fit.

But what is particularly interesting about the Israeli take on the Palestinian Intifada, as presented by Friedman, Gur and others in the media, including from within the Israeli political establishment, is the attempt to display an exaggerated sense of confidence, that unlike other uprisings, this one is a farce.

In fact, the Israelis are certain that the uprising is likely to deflate once the limited tools at its disposal are contained. This supposition has led Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Tzipi Hotovely, to meet with representatives of YouTube and Google “to discuss ways to cooperate in what she calls the fight against ‘inciting violence and terrorism’,” reported MEMO, citing Israeli daily, ‘Maariv’.

This hasty self-assurance among Israeli state officials and media is predicated on several suppositions:

First, while the PA has not yet moved to take part in crushing the Intifada, it has done its utmost to thwart the people's effort at mobilizing Palestinians beyond the limited confines of the ruling Fatah faction and its worthless promises of peace and statehood.

The PA knows well that if the Intifada escalates beyond its current scale, it could undermine - if not entirely challenge - the PA itself, which has served for many years as a line of defense for the Israeli Occupation. Thanks to the ‘security coordination’ between the Israeli army and the PA, Palestinian resistance in the West Bank has, until recently, been largely contained.

Second, Hamas, although it has openly called for an escalation of protests against Israel, is swamped in its own problems. The siege on Gaza, tightened further with the closure of the Rafah border and the desperate need to rebuild what successive Israeli wars have destroyed, makes it difficult for Hamas to take part in any effort that could open up another war front with Israel.

One must recall that the Israeli war on Gaza in the summer of 2014 was, itself, an Israeli attempt at redrawing the battle lines. At that time, a momentum for an Intifada was taking shape in the West Bank following an increase in Israeli army and settler violence against Palestinians. The war on Gaza managed to change the narrative of that budding conflict into an Israeli war aimed at defending its own borders, as Israeli hasbara dictated. Israel is now

relying on the assumption that Hamas would avoid, at least for now, a repeat of that scenario which cost Palestinians over 2,200 lives and thousands of wounded and maimed, let alone the massive destruction of the already impoverished Strip.

Third, Arabs are consumed with their own regional fights, whether for political or sectarian domination. Almost every Arab country is somehow, either fully or partially, involved or is affected by the various wars and conflicts under way in Syria, Libya, Egypt's Sinai, Iraq and Yemen. The supposedly successful Tunisian model is suffering its own fallout, too, from militant violence, whether homegrown or that which spills over from violent borders.

Previous intifadas succeeded, or so goes the Israeli logic, because of Arab backing. But the most that Arabs have done is to pay lip service and nothing more. In fact, if the PA itself is keen on spoiling popular Palestinian initiatives, little can be expected of the Arabs, who are busy fighting one another.

However, the Israeli argument is, as has always been the case, narrow-minded in its view of history, or it conveniently applies history to fit whatever political argument Israeli officials or mouthpieces deem handy. Just a few weeks ago, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, absolved the Nazis from the idea behind the Holocaust and pinned the blame on the Palestinian Mufti instead.

Previous intifadas, but more importantly the 1987 'Intifada of the stones', was not constructed as a strategy for liberation, but was a spontaneous reaction to a series of Israeli provocations, and the adjacent failure of the Palestinian leadership, all positioned within the larger context of the ongoing Israeli occupation.

Palestinians do not revolt when 'the time is right' for them to do so, but whenever their collective suffering has culminated to the point that they cannot be silenced anymore.

Those, whether Israeli or even Palestinian intellectuals, who opine about the need for the intifada to do this or that, change directions or tactics, stop altogether or move forward, are simply unable to understand that the momentum of a collective struggle cannot be dictated from above.

This is not to argue that a grassroots, genuine Palestinian leadership that operates outside the confines of fatalism and defeat as demonstrated by the PA is not a necessary step needed to galvanize the popular efforts. But that is a decision to be taken by the youth themselves, and its timing and nature should be determined based on their own reckoning.

The Israelis are counting on their shoot to kill policy. The Palestinian leadership is waiting for the anger to fizzle out before resuming its endless quest for a frivolous peace process and financial handouts. The Intifada itself, however, operates on the basis of an entirely different arithmetic: a collective spirit that can neither be intimidated by violence nor procured by funds.

In fact this is precisely why the Intifada started in the first place and, as long as the factors that led to its inception remain in place, it, too, is likely to continue and escalate, not for the sake of liberating Palestine through some magic formula, but for the urgent need to regain national initiative, redefine priorities and a new sense of collective, as Palestinian first and foremost.

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/articles/middle-east/22545-israeli-commentators-yaron-friedman-of-ynet-news-and-haviv-rettig-gur-of-the-times-of-israel-are-clueless-about-the-driving-force-behind-the-palestinian-mobilization-and-collective-struggle-in-two-recent-articles-and-with-unmistakable-conceit-th>

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– Dr. Ramzy Baroud has been writing about the Middle East for over 20 years. He is an internationally-syndicated columnist, a media consultant, an author of several books and the founder of PalestineChronicle.com. His books include 'Searching Jenin', 'The Second Palestinian Intifada' and his latest 'My Father Was a Freedom Fighter: Gaza's Untold Story'. His website is: www.ramzybaroud.net.

Source: Middle East Monitor

Palestine

Case # 7271/15: For the Love of Palestine

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December 1, 2015

By Carlos Aznárez

For the Love of Palestine was the title we used on the cover of one of the latest editions of Resumen Latinoamericano newspaper. Yes, for the sake of Palestine and its selfless, suffering, persecuted, but never defeated people. There are voices from around the world, who for over the last six decades,

have stood to defend their cause. And there are those journalists like us who are willing to report about it by trying to break the severe censorship of this reality.

To love Palestine is to wish from the deepest part of our heart, that one day its women, men, children and the elders of that land can live in peace. To love Palestine is to wish that those who live on that soil tainted by the invaders could cultivate their olives or fish in its waters (that today are blocked by warships) without having to pay with their own lives or without the contempt from the settlers who set their fields on fire. To love Palestine is precisely to highlight the example given by millions of their best sons and daughters who have had to go into exile carrying only a key to their homes that were razed by the conqueror after 1948. Despite their plight, no Palestinian who lives outside their country speaks of revenge but rather carries with them a melancholy that would get inside of any normal person who can think only of returning to their land of origin. Their desire is to return to that land but in a condition that they could recognize from the way it is now, without the checkpoints and barbed wire, without the walls that separates entire families. They want to come back when the tanks and bulldozers are gone and when the wrongful deaths in Gaza or the West Bank are over.

It was precisely for my love of Palestine and because of my dedication to fight for human rights as a journalist, that the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations (DAIA), (which claims to represent the Jewish community although thousands of its members do not want to be link to the organization), now want to sit me on the bench of the accusers. However, I am convinced that what they really want is to judge not just myself, but the entire Palestinian solidarity movement that is peaceful but firm and one with clear internationalist roots. I am referring to Solidarity with a people that need us and don't

always have the voices to defend it. A lot of that is because of the pressure coming from these institutions. This happens precisely from censorship and self-censorship imposed on a struggle that is easy to understand but complicated when it comes time to giving concrete solutions.

As a militant voice for justice and freedom for over five decades I have made an effort so that the discourse of the oppressor does not make us bend. And at the same time I have written and spoken about the imperative need to support the Palestinian people and all the oppressed Arab Nations and that their demands for freedom and justice are heard and that the violations of their fundamental rights be addressed. I know that this same support and perspective has been, and will continue to be, done by many people from the Jewish community both here and in the State of Israel. They too do not agree with the pain and suffering of a people that before the catastrophe they shared the sun, the bread, and the water with.

The criminal case that has been opened by the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations (DAIA) against me, and therefore against Resumen Latinoamericano that I have run for more than 22 years, is requiring me to attend an inquisitive audience on December 9 at 9,30 p.m. in the Prosecutor's Office #25 in Buenos Aires.

I want to recognize the numerous signs of solidarity and support that I am getting from my colleagues and friends in Argentina and around the world, who understand perfectly that with this trial they are trying to "discipline" critical thinking by muzzling freedom of expression, opinion and the privacy that any journalist should have. In particular, I want to thank all my colleagues across the continents that have sent me their affection and messages of condemnation against those who try to stifle acts of solidarity. I also would like to send fraternal greetings to Human Rights and Media organizations and all of those who have firmly defended me in this persecutory charade.

Finally, I reiterate my conviction against intolerance and open discrimination against all of those who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. They will always accompany them in their longing for peace with justice and independence. It is necessary that we express ourselves without fear accompanied by people from all over the world strengthened in love for a people who everyday gives lessons of dignity to the world.

Palestine

Monsanto to Be Sued For Ecocide at International Hague Court

December 5, 2015

The special tribunal aims at contributing to recognize the crime of ecocide in international law.

An international collective of jurists and environmental groups launched Thursday the international Monsanto Tribunal,

with headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, in order to sue Monsanto



Corporation and other multinationals over environment and health crimes.

The court will judge this upcoming October on World Food Day “the crimes that the U.S.-based transnational [Monsanto] allegedly committed against environment and health, and will contribute to the recognition of the ecocide crime in international law,” announced representatives for a collective of organizations in a press conference during the COP21 United Nations Conference on Climate Change currently hold in Paris.

“Monsanto has pushed genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in order to collect royalties from poor farmers, trapping them in unpayable debt, and pushing them to suicide. Monsanto promotes an agro-industrial model that contributes at least 50 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Monsanto is also largely responsible for the depletion of soil and water resources, species extinction and declining biodiversity, and the displacement of millions of small farmers worldwide,” Vandana Shiva, physicist, author, activist and founder of Navdanya and member of the Regeneration International (RI).

The creation of a citizen's tribunal is crucial, considering Monsanto's intense lobbying toward governments and regulatory agencies to promote its business, while “financing fraudulent scientific studies, pressuring independent scientists, and manipulating the press and media,” added Andre Leu, president of International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and a member of the RI Steering Committee.

According to the United Nations, at least half of the world's greenhouse gases would be due to human activities, especially intensive animal farming, deforestation, as well as the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

Monsanto's best-selling products were found to be a potential cause of cancer, according to the World Health Products, while they also were found to have a destructive impact on the ecosystem by reducing the populations of bees and monarch butterflies..

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Monsanto-To-Be-Sued-For-Ecocide-at-International-Hague-Court--20151205-0004.html>

Source: teleSUR

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