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EDITORIAL

On this occasion we want to invite our kind readers to visit the Expodefensa 2019 International Defense and Security Fair, to be held in Bogotá, from December 2 to 4. In Colombia, it is the most important event in the sector, and brings together leading national and foreign companies that present the best of their portfolio there. Do not miss it.

In this edition of TRIARIUS we present 11 articles, contributed by 6 analysts from 5 different countries. It has no waste.

First of all, from Colombia, Haylyn Hernández talks to us about the problem of rearming the FARC, its causes and consequences, and also addresses some related geopolitical elements.

Next, our senior analyst Guadi Calvo presents us with the complex situation in Chad, under the presidency of Idriss Déby.

Haylyn Hernández is back, with an analysis of the regional situation in Latin America and the political and social instability that has affected different countries. We immediately go on to analyze the situation in Syria, from the pen of Colonel (r) Blasco, senior analyst at TRIARIUS, who enlightens us on the geopolitics involved in Turkey's latest military offensive in northeastern Syria, and the consequences for the Kurds. that live there, and in general for that troubled region.

Next, our senior analyst, Colonel (r) Daniel Martínez, enlightens us about the insurgent movements present in Chile. It remains to be seen to what extent the actions of these groups have influenced the recent protests in that country.

Guadi Calvo presents us with an analysis of the situation in Syria, which complements what was previously said by Colonel (r) Blasco on the matter. The analyzes of both experts approach the situation from different angles, for the benefit of our readers.

From Venezuela, Lieutenant Colonel (R/A) Pablo Escalante presents us with an article in which he analyzes the hybrid war currently facing his country. It is interesting, insofar as the informative material against Venezuela abounds, but not the visions that seek to explain the position of the Venezuelan government and its Armed Forces. We welcome Pablo, and hope that he will continue to contribute to TRIARIUS.

Our prolific analyst Guadi Calvo presents an article where he analyzes the latest events in Afghanistan, with special emphasis on the issue of the presidential elections, which seems to become a new source of conflict.

In his article El mundo y España en ebullición, Colonel (r) Francisco Javier Blasco, gives us an overview of the current conflicts in different regions of the world, their aetiology -real or imagined-, as well as the role of the media and of social networks, to finally focus on Spain and the problem in Catalonia.

This is followed by a review of the Colombian shipyard COTECMAR, national pride, which is promoting the shipbuilding industry and strengthening the country's defensive capabilities. The ships built by this shipyard are effectively and forcefully combating drug trafficking and terrorism.

This installment ends with an analysis by Guadi Calvo of the alleged death of the Daesh leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

This issue of TRIARIUS is broad, diverse, and excitingly current. Thank you for reading us.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

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TRIARIUS

It is very common to find people in different scenarios who hold bombastic academic and professional titles, but whose opinions leave much to be desired, since they lack analysis, impartiality, historical knowledge, and originality. Like any passerby, they merely repeat what is generally accepted or politically correct. We see it on LinkedIn, where it is possible to verify the studies and professional experience of people in their respective profiles. It is more disappointing when the "opinionators" are teachers or coordinators of something academic. What will they be transmitting to their students? Will the students realize the mediocrity of the one who "teaches" them, or will we be facing a vicious circle that reproduces mediocrity over and over again? In our field, TRIARIUS is a jewel that allows us to be informed and updated. Thanks to all who contribute their articles for the academic and professional enrichment of our readers.

On the cover, **Troops of the Chadian Army.**
See more information at the end of the magazine.

TRIARIUS privileges freedom of expression, however, the responsibility for what is said in the articles is exclusive to their authors.

Very special thanks to the international analysts who have sent us their articles for this issue free of charge.

The threat of rearming the former FARC-EP guerrilla in Colombia

By Haylyn Andrea Hernández Fernández (Colombia)



Capture of the video where a sector of the FARC announces that it is taking up arms again.

The implementation of the Peace Agreement, the result of the negotiation process with the former FARC-EP guerrilla, has been subject to political and ideological differences that have placed it on more than one occasion at the center of the debate on the national agenda, this situation It has generated discomfort and nonconformity on the part of the opposition sector since they assure that the government of President Iván Duque does not have the political will to comply with what was agreed in Havana. In addition to the above, the recent events related to the controversial accusations against Zeuxis Pausias Hernández Solarte, better known as 'Jesús Santrich', for alleged links to drug trafficking businesses; his subsequent release and his return to Congress as a representative of the Common Alternative Revolutionary Force (FARC) political party,

On August 29, a controversial video was released on an old page of the FARC-EP guerrilla where Luciano Marín Arango, alias 'Iván Márquez', who was second in command of the former guerrilla, announced through a speech the reasons why he decided, together with other guerrillas, to withdraw

from the peace process. It should be noted that since August 2018 his whereabouts were unknown, for which the Council of State had confirmed his loss of investiture since he never took office as a congressman, despite the fact that the Agreement directly granted him a seat along with nine other representatives. of the FARC party. The forcefulness of the video in which 'Márquez' as a spokesman declared that they would return to arms, is undoubtedly a setback to the Agreement, a situation that took them by surprise for some,

'Márquez' had publicly assured that the delivery of weapons was a mistake, "On behalf of the military commanders of the former Central General Staff of the FARC, commanders of fronts and columns, shocked by the State's betrayal of the Havana Peace Agreement , we reiterate self-critically, that it was a serious mistake to have handed over the weapons to a cheating State", he stated in May of this year (El Espectador, 2019a). In addition, after the disappearance of 'Santrich' since June 29 when he abandoned his security scheme, the disenchantment of these former guerrilla chiefs who had been part of the negotiations in what, according to them, was a

"betrayal of the homeland", alleging non-compliance by the State and stating, among other things,

After this political catastrophe, President Iván Duque had previously warned that the former guerrillas 'Iván Márquez'; Hernán Darío Velásquez, alias 'El Paisa' and Henry Castellanos, alias 'Romaña', were sheltered in Venezuela under the protection of Nicolás Maduro's regime and it was most likely that 'Santrich' was too (Noticias RCN, 2019). Thus, it is not surprising that precisely these dissidents, along with other former guerrillas, were the ones who were in the video announcing the start of "(...) the second Marquetalia under the protection of universal law that assists all the peoples of the world to take up arms against oppression. (...)

For his part, Nicolás Maduro, in a defiant tone in the best style of his political speech, prior to the publication of the video, declared that 'Márquez' and 'Santrich' were welcome in Venezuela, even calling them "leaders of peace" (El Espectador, 2019b), a situation that generated discomfort not only in Colombia, but also before the United States government, which declared through Elliott Abrams, special envoy to Venezuela, that Maduro is guilty of promoting actions such as the return of former FARC guerrillas. -EP to arms (Portfolio, 2019).

Under the understanding that this was not entirely unexpected news, it should be noted that the Peace & Reconciliation Foundation, one day before the video was published, had warned about the creation of a new guerrilla in a report on security in Colombia in which it was concluded that there are 23 armed dissidence groups that operate in 85 municipalities, and now that a political dissidence has been created, it is possible that both dissidences will unite, which would mean the creation of a new guerrilla. It was thus revealed that the rearmament announced and subsequently materialized, occurred as a consequence of "divisions and decisions of the FARC, but also the environment that was created in the face of the peace process by the Duque government," according to director León Valencia. .

The investigation also showed that there is no certainty about whether the dissident political faction is coordinated with the armed wing and if it is, the current presence of dissidents in Colombia at the municipal level reaches 85, compared to about 300 municipalities in where they were present at the time of the signing of the Peace Agreement. Likewise, currently there are about 1,800 ex-guerrillas in dissidence and before the demobilization they were around 13,000 (Saavedra, 2019), that is, they represent 25% of what the guerrillas were at the end of the peace process, so President Duque has the

challenge of making accurate decisions that stop the victimization as a result of these new dissidences plus other armed structures such as the Clan del Golfo, ELN, Caparrapos, Mexican Cartels, among other Organized Criminal Groups.

The reactions to the announcement of the new dissidence were immediate, international organizations such as the OAS and the UN emphatically rejected the announcement of the dissidents, the former chief negotiator in Havana, Humberto de la Calle, and the former High Commissioner for Peace, Sergio Jaramillo, issued a joint statement in which they rejected the pronouncement, the leader of the Farc political party, Rodrigo Londoño, through his Twitter account expressed his disagreement and emphasized that more than 90% of former guerrillas remain committed to the process of peace and in that sense, it is "the right time to repeat it: nobody, nobody is going to tear the peace agreement to shreds and if they do, we will pick up every bit and rebuild it."

For his part, President Duque affirmed that "we are not facing the birth of a new guerrilla but facing criminal threats from a gang of narco-terrorists that has the shelter and support of the dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro", for which through various strategies, including an economic reward for information leading to his capture (Presidency of the Republic of Colombia, 2019), he evidently declared an offensive response to dismantle this new armed faction that represents a threat to national security. Regarding the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), they reported that according to article 5 of the Legislative Act of 2017,

Now, under a discursive analysis, in the words of Márquez, there is talk of a "second Marquetalia" as the continuation of the deed that began in 1964 and the evocation of a traditional and reiterative behavior of the State, in which treason has been inherent to the "oligarchy", in the best style of the "ringleader of treason"; Santander (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - Army of the People, 2019, p. 4). Far from legitimizing their decision to return to the armed struggle, these historical remembrances, which seek to gain vindication, make it clear that they are hiding behind a justifying discourse under which they intend to identify the majority of dissidents and persuade those who continue in the process, if they did not use this discursive style, their "new guerrilla" would simply lose their rebel status and become just another criminal organization. However, it is no secret that the influence of illegal economies is precisely the catalyst for returning to the armed struggle, especially drug trafficking, taking into account the statements of

Marlon Marín and his relationship with Santrich. It is clearly a reality that they will never recognize since rebel movements need good public relations and must motivate their members, which differentiates them from a criminal organization (Collier, 2001, p. 3). taking into account the statements of Marlon Marín and his relationship with Santrich. It is clearly a reality that they will never recognize since rebel movements need good public relations and must motivate their members, which differentiates them from a criminal organization (Collier, 2001, p. 3). taking into account the statements of Marlon Marín and his relationship with Santrich. It is clearly a reality that they will never recognize since rebel movements need good public relations and must motivate their members, which differentiates them from a criminal organization (Collier, 2001, p. 3).

Perhaps following a media strategy, the new dissidents continued to broadcast videos, in the second featuring Santrich, he makes a political statement in which he does not hesitate to state that if necessary they will seek unity with the ELN guerrillas and warns of a new operational modality, the reconstruction of the organization and its militias, of the clandestine communist party and of the "Bolivarian Movement for the new Colombia". Again, they follow a Bolivarian discourse that, confirming what was said in the first video, is intended to justify "(...) the outburst of dissent of an entire people in rebellion." (2019, p. 9), legitimizing the use of force. In the third video Márquez says more of the same,

Since the first appearance, the intelligence authorities of the Police and the Army have worked to identify those who appear in the videos, also confirming that it was recorded in Venezuela, a territory where they met on at least three occasions to finalize the new criminal alliance. . This hypothesis was confirmed by the peace commissioner, Miguel Antonio Ceballos (ABC Internacional, 2019). The

relationship of the GAORs with the Venezuelan regime is not new, the residual groups have maintained links with local and regional authorities, permeating the institutional framework, such as the Cartel de los Soles, which are the ones who will ultimately continue to benefit from the economic revenues resulting from illegal economies that finance dissidents, that is the strategic exchange,

It seems that the way to counteract the criminal alliance with the Venezuelan regime would be to improve relations with the neighboring country, but it is more than evident that rapprochement has not been possible since the dictatorship of former President Hugo Chávez and there have been several unsuccessful attempts that have ended with the breakdown of relations, threats and most recently, statements and military orders against Colombia by Maduro. In this instance, the political instability in Venezuela is decisive since such approaches must materialize either with Juan Guaidó, who is the president, but does not govern the country, or with Nicolás Maduro, the self-proclaimed successor of Chavismo who has power of command and territory, but it is illegitimate before the international community. That is, there would be a way,

The new rebellion in Colombia poses several challenges that force both the government and the opposition to abandon the rhetoric of politically using accusations between sectors, thus being aware of a new phenomenon of violence that is due to the coordination of the 'Márquez' dissidence with the ELN, there must be a forceful response at the strategic and operational level by the Public Force to control the threat. In addition, the guarantees in the ETCR must continue in order to avoid a skidding effect on the ex-combatants who continue in the process and not give the new groups a political connotation, since in this way they would claim the armed struggle that supposes a "new social order" .

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Image Source:

<https://www.tv.es.gob.ve/web/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/farc.jpg>

Haylyn Andrea Hernandez Fernandez

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Chad, in the mirror of al-Bashir.

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Idriss Deby

President Idriss Déby, at the head of the Patriotic Salvation Movement and with the agreement of France, came to power after a coup in 1990 against General Hisséne Habré. Since then it has "won" all the elections by a wide margin, in addition to having managed to form one of the most powerful armies on the continent, and have the backing of Western powers, including Israel, with whom it has just established relations along with a series of agreements - fundamentally in the area of security - is beginning to suffer the consequences of having kept its 13 million inhabitants for almost thirty years in one of the most terrible systems of repression and misery in Africa, for which its destiny seemed to be beginning to reflect in the mirror of his neighbor the Sudanese dictator Omar al-Bashir,

Now, after a year of truce, the war waged by President Déby's regime against illegal miners in the Tibesti region has just resumed.

It was learned that, in the clashes of the first week of October, more than 22 miners have died at the hands of the army in the surroundings of Miski, in the province of Tibesti-Borkou (centre-north, bordering

Libya), a desert region, but with important gold deposits. In addition, the "Miski Self-Defense Committee" denounced that from N'Djamena, a significant amount of chemical weapons have been transported to the northern city of Faya, to be used against the civilian population of Tibesti, a key point on the route traffic of all kinds of goods between Chad, Libya and Niger, and of migrants trying to reach Libya, in search of Mediterranean ports, to cross over to Europe. In addition to the incursions from Libya and Sudan, from different rebel groups fighting against the central government,

After the discovery of the gold deposits in 2012, the entire region suffered serious destabilization with the arrival of thousands of self-employed miners, deserters from the army, militiamen from the rebel groups, Sudanese adventurers and traffickers of all stripes, which has not only forced the Déby government to militarize the area, but between the barrage of opportunists and the Teda, the predominant ethnic group in the former province of Tibesti, strong tension arose.

This revolutive cocktail, to which are added the constant fatal accidents such as the collapse of a mine that occurred last September 23 in Kouri Bouguidi, in which 30 miners died, while another 60 are still missing, has led the government to order the security forces, the seizure of all weapons, vehicles and satellite phones, within the framework of the state of emergency established for Tibesti last August.

The tensions are especially evident in the mining areas of Kouri Bougoudi and Miski, in northwestern Tibesti, since the military began the disarmament operation, similar to those already carried out in the provinces of Ouaddaï and Sila, which undoubtedly it will not be easy since Miski has been under the control of the self-defense committee since August 2018, in defense of the gold deposits, which the regime tries to exploit, declaring the miners illegal, for which the army highlighted 5 thousand troops who were ordered to execute those who are considered "problematic".

Last November, after three months of violent clashes between the army and villagers, access to the rebel areas was blocked and now the Miski Self-Defense Committee refuses to allow disarmament.

Therefore, at noon on Thursday, October 3, in the town of d'Arkinia, about 20 kilometers from Miski, army men confiscated some vehicles, vehicles, telephones and detained fifteen people. After which violent confrontations were generated, in which two military vehicles suffered significant damage after having stepped on mines planted by the workers. When the soldiers tried to retreat, men belonging to the self-defense groups surrounded them, preventing them from fleeing.

In an attempt to rescue the detained soldiers, a sequence of heavy artillery attacks began that lasted practically all of Friday the 4th, forcing the miners to withdraw to defensive positions, which according to some local sources they continue to hold. The clashes occurred in the gold zone of the town of Miski, in an Army evacuation operation that ran into resistance from the local population.

Despite the fact that the military spokesmen insisted that these confrontations had not taken place, "since the role of the army is to control the organizations that illegally exploit gold deposits since the beginning of the year", it was learned that in addition to the 22 miners killed in the clashes killed seven soldiers.

The civil self-defense militias were formed after the discovery of the gold deposits, although it is believed that it is a cover of the Military Command Council for the Salvation of the Republic (CCMSR). Since the end of August 2018, French aviation has bombed different towns in an attempt to put an end to the insurgents,

who with their actions have caused significant losses to the army. Because of this, N'Djamena began the clean-up operation, excusing itself in the fight against illegal mining.

In August 2018, at least three villages were bombed so, given the information censorship, it is practically impossible to know the damage. Although it was learned that in the framework of these attacks, a group of villagers from Yebibu who were traveling to a wedding were attacked and although it was officially recognized that some people were injured, the six deaths were not reported according to the survivors.

A bonfire that is rekindled

The risks of a new escalation in Tibesti are high if the clashes continue between the government and the self-defense groups, associated with the different rebel groups that operate on the border between Libya and Chad.

Another of the conflicts that shakes the country is the inter-ethnic one, in the first week of last September, between 37 and 44 people died in the three days of clashes between farmers and shepherds in the east of the country in the province of Ouaddaï, where between In August and September, more than 2,000 weapons of war and 7,000 ammunition were seized, and since January there have been another 120 deaths, for the same reasons.

The province of Ouaddaï, on the border with Sudan, is a transhumance area for Arab herders, in conflict with native farmers. An unknown number of members of the security forces, sent by the government, according to the president himself, "were shot" by the peasants.

The clashes in Hamra, which began after the body of a young shepherd was found, immediately spread to other areas of the region. The conflict, which has lasted several decades, always begins in the same way: the invasion of a herd of camels in a field. For the same reasons in Sila province, also in eastern Chad.

While in the west of the country in the region of the Great Lake of Chad, today in sharp decline, which produces a serious food crisis for the millions of people who live on its shores, the new offensive by Boko Haram, and the wilāyat (province) Daesh for West Africa, or ISWAP since the beginning of the year, according to United Nations (UN) reports, has forced the displacement of 40,000 people, lacking shelters, drinking water and basic health care, resulting in a measles epidemic that began in mid-2018 and has continued since then, have already affected 25,000 people, while since last July some cases of cholera have begun to be reported, which so far have not

exceeded one hundred affected, but like everything in the Chad, it will start to burn, until everything is burned.

Image Source:

<https://www.eltemps.cat/imatges/articles/xvmaeb9824e-fd96-11e5-bf72-58d0fa6caeec.jpg>

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Social upheaval in Latin America: regional instability or isolated events?

By Haylyn Andrea Hernández Fernández (Colombia)



Protests in Ecuador.

According to Charles Tilly, the phenomenon of collective violence includes a wide range of social interactions, which although it does not have a specific trigger, it does occur as a consequence of "(...) similar causes combined in different ways in different times and places", that is, there is the possibility that certain events, apparently disparate, have something in common (2007, p. 4). It should also be noted that the government and collective violence maintain a tense relationship, since there are mechanisms that cause a high degree of inequality and consequently generate this phenomenon. On the one hand, there is (i) the exploitation that refers to the control of resources by a small group that obtains economic returns at the expense of the effort of external people, and on the other, (ii) opportunity hoarding that operates when members of a limited network have access to valuable resources. Both seem to be led by governments, since government officials and members of the ruling classes are the typical beneficiaries, a situation that has been widely evidenced in politics worldwide.

This brief theoretical sweep has immediate applicability under the scenario that exists in several Latin American countries; Venezuela is perhaps the

greatest exponent given the social, political and economic crisis as a result of the Nicolás Maduro regime, but, in addition, different diasporas of protest and social mobilization have recently been registered that have set off alarms in the region.

Indigenous protests in Ecuador

Ecuador was the scene of protests at the beginning of October by union and opposition organizations, joined by social, indigenous and transportation groups against the measures announced by the government of Lenín Moreno, specifically rejecting economic cuts that included increases in gasoline. In this regard, it should be taken into account that in March Ecuador had accepted a gradual line of credit worth \$10.2 billion dollars from several international financial institutions, including \$4.2 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which fixed the country a calendar of reforms in exchange for contemplating the reduction of public spending, an increase in income and a labor reform that would encourage productivity. Moreno announced these measures, known as "el

paquetazo”, which included the end of gasoline subsidies, a tax increase for the most profitable companies, the withdrawal of one day’s salary and 15 days of vacations for employees of public companies, among others (Actualidad.rt, 2019). After a silent wave of massive layoffs in the public sector to destabilize the past administration of Rafael Correa and once the reforms were announced, dissent was swift and protest movements began that presented a strong violent confrontation, so that Various complaints were filed by protesters and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for cases of repression. among others (Actualidad.rt, 2019). After a silent wave of massive layoffs in the public sector to destabilize the past administration of Rafael Correa and once the reforms were announced, dissent was swift and protest movements began that presented a strong violent confrontation, so that Various complaints were filed by protesters and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for cases of repression. among others (Actualidad.rt, 2019). After a silent wave of massive layoffs in the public sector to destabilize the past administration of Rafael Correa and once the reforms were announced, dissent was swift and protest movements began that presented a strong violent confrontation, so that Various complaints were filed by protesters and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights for cases of repression.

The protests intensified, especially in Quito, for which a state of emergency was declared on October 3 in strategic areas of the country to protect communication routes and institutions. In the history of the country there have been several social demonstrations, but fires, looting, barricades and hooded men committing acts of vandalism had not been seen, as until now. They even broke into the National Assembly, so there was police intervention, they also took over the building of the Comptroller General, responsible for the financial and economic control of the country.

Although the leaders of the protests had initially announced a conciliatory message to encourage the mobilizations, others were more radical in calling for the president's immediate resignation, however, a negotiating spirit persisted despite the president's decision to move the seat of government to Guayaquil, a measure that was not well received by the protesters. Finally, and due to the alarming conditions of the revolt, the president returned to Quito together with the Minister of Government, María Paula Romo, and the Minister of Defense, Oswaldo Jarrín, to supervise the development of the conference (Manetto, Francesco, 2019).

After two weeks of a violent crisis, on October 13, after several hours of negotiation with the mediation of the UN and the Catholic Church, the government announced the repeal of decree 883 that put an end to subsidies, diesel and extra gasoline. that had been agreed with the IMF (El Español, 2019). It should be noted that during the demonstrations, both President Moreno and several representatives of his cabinet did not hesitate to affirm that behind the incitement of violence during the day of protests was Rafael Correa and Nicolás Maduro, since, according to the president "(...) The looting, the vandalism and the violence show that here there is an organized political intention to destabilize the government and break the established order, break the democratic order”,

The indigenous movements, as key political actors in the history of Ecuador, thus achieved a historic victory after the repeal of the decree, so that the October mobilization was characterized by the recovery of the indigenous movement after ten years of repression under the government of Rafael Correa. In addition, it marks the beginning of the struggle for future economic policies within the framework of a new country project.

Social outbreak in Chile

For its part, in Chile, recognized as one of the most stable countries in the region, the protest movement is also a protagonist. After the announcement of the rise in the price of the subway ticket in the capital, Santiago, a group of students decided to protest, and what began as a peaceful mobilization of 'cacerolazos', ended up being a political contest. Initially, the response of President Sebastián Piñera was to announce on October 19 that he would withdraw the increase in subway fares, however, the protests continued, so it is evident that there is something that goes further.

Because society demanded an immediate response, Piñera decided to call all political parties (with the exception of the extreme left) to seek solutions, but their response then was not enough. Despite the notion that Chile is one of the fastest growing economies in Latin America (which has allowed a significant reduction in poverty), growth has slowed from 6.1% in 2011 to 1.2% of GDP at 2017, and although it rose to 4.0% in 2018 (World Bank, 2019a), there is talk of stagnation in the last decade. This may have several causes, among which is that there is a rupture, since between 15% and 20% of the population rejects the social market economy that is the economic model of the Piñera government, as has

been stated repeatedly opportunities (Yáñez, 2013, p. 166).

A gloomy picture is then blurred despite the fact that between 2000 and 2017 there was a reduction in poverty from 31% to 6.4%, since this indicator contrasts with the increase in inequality. Chile is among the most unequal countries on the continent, in 2017 the Gini index reached 0.46 (World Bank, 2019b), being even above Argentina and Peru, that is, the income ratio increased inequality. This added to the social problems, were the trigger for the riots to have even greater sustenance of nonconformity.

Although on October 22 the president acknowledged the errors that led to the crisis and announced a set of reforms in the pension system, health, medicines, minimum income, electricity rates, among other measures to try to respond to the social outbreak, the protest continued, as Chileans expressed their disagreement against 30 years of repression.

At the same time, the perception in the streets about the presence of the Armed Forces, the curfew and the state of emergency did not give confidence to those who decided to continue demonstrating to ask for deeper measures, so the number of injured, captured and deceased were increasing, to the point of worrying the international community about the repression, since there was inconsistency in the face of the president's conciliatory message, a situation that further intensified the day of protest. As a result of the alleged human rights violations, on October 24, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, sent an investigative mission on account of the complaints after prior monitoring of the protests, since even the date amounted to 18 the number of fatalities.

The fact that a prosperous and stable state in Latin America such as Chile, the 'Oasis' in the midst of a chaotic regional panorama, as Piñera himself stated, has surprised the world, since the message is that if this happens there it can happen anywhere. Clearly there is an underlying issue that has already been addressed and that is concern about inequality and the cost of living, accompanied by a sense of injustice. On the other hand, the absence of a political figure or populist movement has reduced the possibility of having a place to channel complaints, which is why the protesters opted at a certain point for self-destructive vandalism. "That is, while Latin American charismatic populists make Western leaders nervous, Chile shows that they can play a vital role" (Authers, 2019).

Another factor to take into account is the dependence on the export of copper, whose price

depends on the Chinese economy, and as is well known, the growth of the Asian giant is slowing down to a rate of 6%, which has influenced the Chilean peso pressure. The question then turns to why they have not managed to diversify the economy and depend on metals, for which the rapprochement between the United States and China is crucial (Authers, 2019). Precisely, Santiago will host the world leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) from November 11 to 17 and a long-awaited commercial meeting will take place between the president of the United States Donald Trump and the president of China Xi Jinping, so it is expected that the disturbances will not affect the development of said summit (CNN, 2019).



Apparently, and after eight days of protest, the popular force managed to initiate a change in structure after the political and social outbreak, after the historic march in Santiago that brought together 1.2 million people. Piñera publicly announced his decision to ask all ministers to make their positions available to establish a new cabinet, and to Congress, the prioritization of a "new social agenda" with projects that aim to meet the urgent needs of the middle class and the poor. the most vulnerable sectors (Montes, October 27). He emphasized that the march was "massive, joyful and peaceful", which represents a turning point in the face of the violence recorded in the first days, so he urged the next step, which is to join forces to solve social demands, to which it's,

After changing the cabinet and accepting the resignation of eight ministers and ratifying another 16 in their positions, Piñera stated that to achieve the changes, "enormous financing from the State" is required (Government of Chile, 2019), so it is expected that the renewal of the economic and social structure that society demands begins to materialize, not only to alleviate discontent and injustice, but to strengthen a true democracy, in which the extent to

which the Piñera government will continue to make concessions to achieve it will be measured .

Regional instability?

Due to the particularities in the region it is very difficult to speak of a 'generalized cause', but what can be found is a trend that has been replicated in several Latin American countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, and that is that there is an evident disconnect between political power and the population; The Chilean case is another clear example. The leaders are delaying the requests of the population, they are not going beyond immediate reforms and they are not resolving underlying structural problems.

As mentioned above, Chile is a country of contrasts, since there are figures that put the country on the cusp of development but also hide other things, it is common to hear that "they are the best among the poorest", the educational system is the best in Latin America but the worst in the OECD and also that innovation and productivity have worsened (Bloomberg, 2019). What this shows is that there was a misunderstanding of the financial markets and an overvaluation of democratic stability in a region affected by recession, populism and political instability, so that the primary function was neglected: attending to the needs and disagreements of the population. Currently Chileans go for something else, A precedent was already set when in the first government of Piñera (2010-2014) they demanded free universal higher education and the right to discounts on public transport, now that the petitions demand greater commitment and willingness, the issue of social security must prevail over over time in the reforms to the government's economic policy, since an efficient economic system creates the conditions for well-being, and in this way, responds to social demands. It is thus a major challenge that has put Piñera between a conciliatory and forgiving attitude, as was seen recently, but also a coercive position at the beginning of the protests when he declared that "we are at war", hence the response military in the streets, a situation not seen in the country since the Pinochet dictatorship.

In this regard, it should be noted that almost all collective violence develops from actions that, at first, are not violent. Whether or not there is violence depends less on the nature of the action than on other factors; especially how the authorities respond. In the Chilean case, the Armed Forces do not have the training to provide a police response and this has been evident in the preliminary balances of the effects and

the perception of the population regarding the military presence in the streets, but here a dilemma arises. resolve and is the inappropriate use of force, since there must be a distinction between (legitimate) force and (non-legitimate) violence (Tilly, 2007, p. 26). In theory, the State is the one who should have the legitimate monopoly of force, so under a scenario in which collective violence is characterized by confrontations between citizens and authorities, these interactions must be carefully examined to define when the political contest takes a violent turn. The question then would be, is force being applied, that is, inflicting legitimate short-term harm to counter violent or criminal diasporas? Or, on the contrary, are we talking about violent actions that refer to damages that do not enjoy legal protection? The debate is on the table. inflicting legitimate short-term harm to counter violent or criminal diasporas? Or, on the contrary, are we talking about violent actions that refer to damages that do not enjoy legal protection? The debate is on the table. inflicting legitimate short-term harm to counter violent or criminal diasporas? Or, on the contrary, are we talking about violent actions that refer to damages that do not enjoy legal protection? The debate is on the table.

Other stress cases

Added to the events in Ecuador and Chile, we are witnessing the political crisis in Bolivia due to the preliminary results of the presidential elections that proclaim Evo Morales as the winner with 98% counted, since the official counting system was stopped by the electoral court when the figures clearly indicated a second round (45% and 38% for Morales and the opposition Carlos Mesa respectively). Due to this fact there are complaints of fraud, for which activists and supporters of Mesa began mobilizations demanding transparency in the vote count. The OAS Electoral Observation Mission expressed its concern and considered that the best option is to call a second round, a fact that Morales qualifies as an attempted coup (Boris, 2019).

Peru is also the scene of a political and institutional crisis as a result of a confrontation between President Martín Vizcarra and the opposition, the president's decision was to dissolve the congress, this situation puts the country in check since it has become ungovernable. Brazil, for its part, faces the challenge of the pension reform, which was finally approved, and is considered a key piece to recover the economy of the Latin American giant, this represents a victory for the far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro. For its part, the results of the electoral days are also relevant both in

Uruguay, where there is uncertainty if the left continues or the traditional parties return since there will be a second round on November 24, and in Argentina, where the future is expected. government of the Peronist leader,

The hypothesis of instability in Latin America gains more strength due to these events in the region, in which the population's distrust of political institutions has been the common denominator. So, without ignoring the particularities of each country and current events, one can speak of a skidding or spillover effect in terms of the marked rupture between politics and relevant sectors of the population. It cannot be affirmed that there is widespread instability, but tendencies and an evident fragmentation that require

measures that range from the application of the IMF's economic policies, as seen in the case of Ecuador, to the well-being of the social majorities, are identified. in democracy, as is the case in Chile, where there are representatives of all social classes, ages and sectors.

The massive protests demand actions against the increase in poverty and inequality, so efforts will have to be made both at the national and regional levels, since the impulse of a search for a Latin American political and economic identity will allow, gradually, to overcome the downturn with a trend regional (in some cases temporary and in others constant) that has a structural background with some common causes in the different countries.

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Again the war in Syria, and something else...

By Francisco Javier Blasco Robledo, Colonel (r) (Spain)



Strategic situation northeast of Syria

Despite the fact that Turkey, together with Iran, is part of the troika headed by Russia that is negotiating peace for Syria in Astana and other capitals; It is not the first time that he has looked for a pretext to stick his nose in that country, although he is not called for it. The arguments used have been various, sometimes against and others in favor of the forces loyal to Bashar al-Assad, as it suited them; but always and incidentally, to do the greatest possible damage to the population and to the Kurdish forces deployed in or near the strip bordering their common border. Among those operations, the so-called "Euphrates Shield" in 2016 and the "Olive Branch" Operation in 2018 stand out.

Only a few days have passed since Erdogan launched the last military operation on Syria, the hypocritically titled Operation "Peace Spring or Spring" or something like that; again in the area occupied by the Kurdish-Syrians to massacre them without hesitation or merciless excuses. Despite such a short period of time of combat, there are many consequences that can be drawn from this conflict both because of its importance, because of its ferocity and its great international repercussion as a result, above all, of the hypocritical passivity of the International Community (IC).

Erdogan has always tried to hide his true intentions to launch those or this new operation and, to do so, he disguises them so that it is not seen that they really constitute an act of force, retaliation and warning against the Kurdish population – a primitive people that after the Treaty of Lausanne (1923) was distributed in various areas of various surrounding countries (Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq and part of the USSR) and continues to dream of the rebirth, one day, of his people in their primitive settlement, Kurdistan -. People, currently concentrated in the plains and highlands of Mesopotamia that comprise: southeastern Turkey, northeastern Syria, northern Iraq, northwestern Iran, and southwestern Armenia. It is estimated that in total there could be some 25 to 35 million people, most of them in Turkey.

For the aforementioned reunification to become a reality, the Kurds need the effective support and armed uprising of the PKK (the Kurdistan Workers' Party), which has been very active politically and militarily in Turkey for many years and to which several million Turks are affiliated. ; more than enough reason for Erdogan to think about deactivating it at all costs.

On the other hand, and following tradition, the mendacious use of the Kurdish peshmergas by the US to use them as a shock force in the fight against ISIS

in exchange for weapons, money and instruction and thereby avoid US casualties in this case , was one of the main triggers for Erdogan to begin his policies of distancing himself from the US and, on the contrary, of rapprochement with Iran and Russia.

The distances and reproaches, despite the many interests they share, have become too great; caused real situations of great diplomatic tension and various Trump vetoes for the sale to Turkey of sophisticated material such as F-35 fighters as a retaliation for the purchase, in turn by these from Russia, of anti-aircraft defense missiles S-400. Sale vetoed by Trump to, officially in prevention, avoid the possible transfer of information to the Russians of the navigation, weapons and control systems of this plane when it is integrated into Russian anti-aircraft defense means.

As usual with Trump, who changes his position immediately and out of the blue, he goes from hate to love and vice versa in a matter of seconds and sometimes a simple call or a wink is enough for him, as happened with Erdogan. In days or hours, after many discussions and vetoes, he went from being a villain to being a soulmate and to do so he had to change horses and abandon those who had been oppressed, hated and persecuted by all and had no friends other than Uncle Sam. , the Kurds.

Suddenly he fell from his horse in the purest style of the apostle Santiago and realized that the Kurds were inconsiderate because the US had already paid them well for their services, despite having been very bad children, since, according to him and their theories or personal inventions (fake news), these did not run "to the aid of the allies in the Normandy landings". The real story is very different since we must not forget that the Kurds, for a long time, have been massacred or used in various conflicts by many Westerners in major conflicts, only to be later forgotten like a disposable handkerchief when they have a big cold . Thus and overnight, he left them lying in the hands of the new Sultan, Erdogan.

Sultan, who seeks revenge because the truth behind all the incipient disproportionate and inhuman massacre lies in the bad result of the last local elections in Turkey and the decline in his popularity. So much so, that he cost him the loss of the mayoralities in several important cities -including Istanbul- no matter how much after all kinds of tricks he had the electoral process repeated in them. Loss of popularity and support, which many internal Turkish analysts attribute to having lowered the traditional degree of harshness and persecution of the PKK and to their rise in popularity among the Turkish people.

Another reason for his military intervention is based on his desire for expansionism in Syria; a

country in which there are still areas considered Ottoman Turkish, such as an enclave located on a peninsula of the Euphrates River, about thirty kilometers inside Syria, which consisted of a military post and a mausoleum where the remains of Suleyman Shah were housed , the grandfather of the founder of the Ottoman dynasty.

The place was sovereign territory of Turkey under an international treaty of 1921 and was protected by 38 Turkish soldiers, whose mission was renewed periodically. Faced with the possibility of being isolated and falling into the hands of ISIS, in 2015 it was the target of a fleeting military operation to rescue the Turkish security forces, recover the religious remains deposited there and transfer them to an enclave of the same size, although safer and more secure. always within Syria, taken by force, in the village of Ashma, about 200 meters from the border with Turkey.

In any case, whatever it is; The truth is that, after seven days of ruthless fighting and totally unbalanced in means and forces and in which everyone -civilians and guerrillas- are enemies, there have already been hundreds of dead and wounded, as well as more than 150,000 displaced before the " clueless" eyes of the CI that once again has shown its inefficiency, little interest in solving attacks against human rights and its great moral turpitude.

Neither the global forums, nor the regional ones such as the EU, NATO or the Arab League have been, for the time being, capable of reacting to stop those who are using a more than disproportionate capacity and means, without a prior declaration of war or As a reaction to a forceful attack on his nation, he invades another neighbor in search of the mouse that swarms, dwells or lives in an area that the sultan does not like because of what one day he may regret.

Syria with its few true allies, Russia and Iran, try to fill the physical void - the military bases abandoned by the Americans have already been occupied by troops loyal to Al Asad - and morally left hastily by the US, who once again lied repeatedly both when changing the version and in relation to the entity and actual deployment of its forces in said area or in its vicinity. There has been talk of between fifty and one hundred, for the next day, reaching a thousand troops who left the place.

The EU - frightened and distressed by Erdogan's announced threat about the possibility of opening the tap and leaving the way open for the more than three million long refugees that it retains in its territory on our nearby borders, if it is bothered or reprimanded - shut up and grant It limits itself to censoring and insulting with a small mouth the unwise Turkish

actions in the international arena and thereby demonstrating that the several billion euros ignominiously handed over to the most atrocious jailer of the 21st century -appointed and requested at the request of a "civilized" society like the European one - have gone directly to the sink; they have not satisfied his desire for money and, what is worse, they have made it easier for him to subsequently, as is the case, can use the refugees as a missile and a deterrent against taking more serious retaliation. Only some of its members have agreed not to sell, at least for now, weapons to the evil Ottoman.

As an institutional declaration of the Union, in the mouth of its High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Federica Mogherini days before being replaced by Borrell, the following message was left as a light scolding: "The Turkish operation in northeast Syria can open a new and dramatic chapter in the already very dark history of the Syrian war... We call on Turkey to immediately stop its unilateral military actions."

Spain, as always, with a changed pace and making a fool of itself for a long time despite all the alarm lights that have been going off in and from Turkey for more than three years; exactly, since in 2015 he volunteered - to increase visibility in NATO and not act directly in force in other conflicts in the area - to cover the gap left by other allies, Dutch and North American; sick and tired of dealing with the Turks, to defend their borders from potential anti-aircraft attacks stemming from the conflict in Syria. Support that was given even at the cost of leaving our homeland unprotected from similar attacks by providing our scarce Patriot material so that the Turks would find themselves protected against "imaginary" threats from hypothetical enemies: Enemies,

Zapatero took days to get our troops back from Iraq because he said that this was an absurd and disproportionate mission against human rights and it was not endorsed (which is a lie) by the UN. However, his best student, Sánchez; the same one who tears his clothes off against the Americans and the Saudis; He has been in office for more than a year, plucking the daisy with this issue and has not yet decided to take a position despite much that he has seen and heard, and he even extended the mission for six more months last summer. It seems that now he is thinking about it. We will see.

Trump, the miserable president, who lies more than he talks, who sells anyone in his circle to the highest bidder no matter how much of a colleague he appears to be, who has shown that he truly has no friends and that he is less reliable than a sideshow shotgun; He has lied several times on this subject and

now, with a very small mouth, he promises to ruin Turkey economically if Erdogan finally dares to massacre the Kurds in his lands and villages. On Monday the 14th, he gave the order to start taking measures on the tariffs that are levied on certain products (mainly steel, on which he had recently reduced his surcharges by 50%) and some people related to the ongoing military operations in this part of Syria. I don't know how much will have to be seen and counted for this rogue,

In reality, the US is yet another country on Turkey's hostage list, which forces Trump's reactions towards them to be quite measured and very calculated, knowing Erdogan's hotheads and brusque reactions. Since the famous missile crisis in Cuba, the US has been forced, as an exchange with Russia, to dismantle some obsolete missiles that they had deployed in Turkey and that they were already thinking of deactivating. In exchange for those missiles and with a lesser degree of imminent danger, the US introduced some 50 B61-type nuclear bombs into the country, deposited together with the aerial means and personnel necessary for their launch, at the Incirlik air base; base, which they share with Turkey.

If relations between the two become complicated, the US will be forced to relocate them to another safer NATO country or definitively withdraw them from the vicinity of Russia together with all the necessary means and some 2,500 soldiers involved in said mission. Which would reduce the threat to Russia; At the same time, it is not easy to execute and very expensive at the same time.

The Kurds, in their hasty flight for their own survival and/or as a way of attracting international attention, have abandoned part of the ISIS prisoners incarcerated in some prisons under their custody to their fate and have also opened the doors to the families of these who patiently waited in certain refugee camps for their license or release. This gesture or new real injection of bloodthirsty characters and battle-hardened jihadist warriors on the ground is still the root and soul of a new and certainly possible recovery of the capacity and power of ISIS in those lands or wherever those who so easily they just got rid of their jailers and shackles. Of those who remain behind bars,

Israel, a country that is going through very important internal and external problems at the moment and a very good specialist in discovering ladinos, traitors and falsehoods, has already officially declared that it has stopped believing and trusting the US, if Trump continues to change his mind and mess up so easily as long as he remains at the head of a

country; The one who has always been considered his best friend, but now with these gestures of abandonment towards the Kurds, he shows that he has no relatives or preferences. For them, the Jews, "America First" has been translated as "Only America."

A similar thing is happening to Saudi Arabia and a few other Arab countries that still seem to be able to resist the pull to be able to request and welcome more US troops in order to buy or guarantee their safety and protection. But, I have the feeling that the fly behind his ear in this regard, has become very fat and has become a bot when he sees how easy they make the lollipop to others. Another point of great undisguised anger towards the costly protection of the Americans comes from how ineffective their services, weapons systems and means of intelligence and early and close information have been in protecting their oil installations during the recent attacks with Iranian missiles and drones. not very sophisticated or truly advanced;

Putin with this issue, is misplaced, at least apparently and initially. His other friend in the area, to whom he sells everything (sophisticated weapons, technology for nuclear power plants and pipelines for the transport of petroleum derivatives, fundamentally), the one who walked by his side in Astana for the peace negotiations in Syria and the that it served as a link with Iran in regional conflicts; Suddenly, he sees that he abandons his footsteps, apparently not informing him beforehand, and again wages war in Syria on his behalf.

It has already prevented Erdogan, from time to time and by force, from penetrating mass troops into Syrian territory; This time he has not said anything publicly, but his silence could be a harbinger of something much worse if Al Asad intends, as it seems, to defend the territorial integrity of Syria. Putin will have no choice but to side with one of the two, I think I can guess which way the balance will tip. At the moment, by telephone and relocating in a future meeting in Moscow - in exchange for letting him kill a few Kurds - he has already made him promise that he will not endanger the Syrian territorial integrity. Losing his role and prestige in Syria and keeping his window to the fresh air of the Mediterranean is worth more than a series of arms deals, especially when many sales are still on the wing.

The UN does not seem to be willing to do much more than condemn a rogue act and urge Turkey to stop fighting. To date, only five of the European member countries of the United Nations Security Council (Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Poland), on October 10, have issued a

joint statement urging Turkey to stop its military operation in northern Syria, as they consider that the action will not help solve Ankara's security problems. The rest, and it is not known how long, keeps a cowardly silence, nothing compatible with its fundamental mission of protecting human rights in the world.

The Arab League, meeting urgently on October 12 through its Secretary General, Ahmed About Gheit, urged Turkey to immediately stop its military operation in northeastern Syria and withdraw its troops from the Arab country. He placed full responsibility on Turkey "for possible humanitarian consequences of the aggression." In addition, the foreign ministers of the Arab League countries agreed to examine political and economic measures against Turkey. Until today.

For its part, NATO, an organization of which Turkey is a member and a very important one - the second largest in the Alliance - could not have been more diplomatic in the caustic reaction of Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, on his Twitter profile "I trust that Turkey act with restraint and ensure that the progress we have made in the fight against Daesh is not threatened." Not even flinch, refuse, or suffer a fit of laughter when at the beginning of the events, Erdogan had the audacity to request the help of the Alliance based on Article 5 of the founding charter.

NATO interprets and fears that angering Turkey even more (given the above), could pose a great danger to the cohesion and future of the Alliance-Organization, which is going through situations of serious tension due to issues arising from the ridiculous investments in weapons. by many of its members, Trump's reluctance to keep the Organization as it is, the future role that the new EU will play and its self-defense claims after the Brexit of the United Kingdom, the pending new reorganizations of its own structures and missions , the true redefinition of relations with Russia and the position to take in the face of growing Chinese threats.

The situation of tension and uneasiness created in view of the ease of penetration and the little real resistance of the Kurds against the Turkish attacks, both due to the great difference in capabilities and military means between the sides, caused a few days ago that Erdogan is encouraged to continue and has decided to take his actions and troops beyond the limits initially planned. Limits, which apparently had been previously agreed with the Americans for the establishment of a security zone on that side of their common border to expel the Kurds who could threaten them in their day and as the appropriate land where to resettle the already mentioned more of three million Syrian refugees that you have living in your country.

The possibility that this extension of the terrain to dominate is carried out, makes the fear of Turkish expansionism move to other coastal countries where Kurds live; thus the protests against the Turkish invasion are multiplying throughout the territory of neighboring Iraqi Kurdistan, which greatly complicates the fragile political situation that the country is going through and its fragile government with the population rising up against it due to the situation of poverty and need in which they live and for being fiercely repressed by it.

For its part, Iran does not appear to be very happy with this Turkish interference in the territory of its friend Al Asad, for whom they have put on the ground many efforts and deaths to defend him and at the same time, as a means to train their elite forces, to deploy them in positions close to Israel, as a means of finding their way out to the Mediterranean and to use said territory as a starting base or a place of passage for dealing with all kinds of weapons and missiles with their protégés, the Hezbollah forces of Lebanon. Just in case and as a way of showing its teeth and notifying Erdogan of his presence, Tehran - without prior notice - mounted major maneuvers last week on land near the common border with Turkey.

Turkey, after this false geopolitical move and based on poorly balanced arguments, is making its initial August, but it may be that all its narrow and thorny path has been walked for several long and difficult years towards its transformation into a power with the possibility of aspiring to a certain leadership zone, could go to waste for being seen as an aggressor country, which acts for no apparent reason, lacks coordination and, at the same time, has shown itself to be very ruthless; so that any day, the forces of the divergent countries with their way of acting and thinking, get fed up and react against them. In short, he may recover some of his internal prestige for his parish, but it is very possible that he was losing it in abundance away from home.

It cannot be said that Erdogan and his strategists have not carried out a good study of the factors of the decision. They know that most of the fundamental elements of IC are indebted or constrained by favors or threats on their part. After having remained the "protective guardian" of more than three million refugees, the UN and the EU, although it has been paid for it, are indebted for this gesture and cannot make a "reasonable" skirmish ugly; above all, after being denied incorporation into the Union after many attempts and knocks on the door to enter it in every way. NATO and the US have significant debts for their deployment and contributions to the Alliance and to the US in particular; a hasty Turkish exit from NATO

would leave it at a clear disadvantage in the face of the great threats it could face. Russia and Syria, after Erdogan's initial doubts and his ambiguities with ISIS at the dawn of the conflict, they also thank him for finally taking part in their side and "internationalizing", with said support, the defense of Al Asad and the role of Russia before the IC regarding the pacification of Syria. Iran and Iraq, each in its own way, had begun business and political relations of some importance from which everyone benefited by leaving the US and its regional leadership aside. Israel, for his part, hangs on the brush when the ladder is taken away from him and puts his beard to soak when he sees others shave. With this support, the defense of Al Asad and the role of Russia before the IC in relation to the pacification of Syria. Iran and Iraq, each in its own way, had begun business and political relations of some importance from which everyone benefited by leaving the US and its regional leadership aside. Israel, for his part, hangs on the brush when the ladder is taken away from him and puts his beard to soak when he sees others shaving. With this support, the defense of Al Asad and the role of Russia before the IC in relation to the pacification of Syria. Iran and Iraq, each in its own way, had begun business and political relations of some importance from which everyone benefited by leaving the US and its regional leadership aside. Israel, for his part, hangs on the brush when the ladder is taken away from him and puts his beard to soak when he sees others shave.

Given that everything has its breaking point and the boiling temperature is clearly marked, and although it is not that most of the actors mentioned have special sympathy and are burning with the desire to protect the Kurds, any aggressive movement, which day by day increases of intensity and radius of action, it soon becomes a danger to the neighborhood by inspiring moments of greatness and announcing claims of leadership in times of tension, just at a time when the Americans show that their idea of leaving the Middle East is taking shape and They already give clear symptoms of reaching their decision point.

The area has been and is a hotbed of conflict; reopen a conflict, which had not yet been completely closed, in a country that has been involved in a fratricidal and very bitter war for more than five years; in an area and at a time when everything pointed to a possible and gradual recovery of normality and without the US discretion, nor the official approval of Moscow, it is not a dish of good taste for anyone, least of all for an IC steeped in issues very hot in each and every one of the continents and being very short of powerful, capable and decisive leadership.

We will see how it is solved; Trump's recipe is long-term if it is also applied with greater scope and intensity, and those of the rest of the actors are as inoperative as they are empty of content and reality. Perhaps the only solution, once again, lies in the direct suffering and neighboring countries; again led or coordinated by Putin, albeit in the shadows, with which his hegemony in the area will be sealed for decades without discussion.

Once again, the silent and elusive Xi Jinping, is silent and concedes without giving his opinion or thinking about how it should be solved. His thing is

easy and cheap business, not making much noise and always staying on good terms with the one with whom he can negotiate in advantageous conditions to meet his great external need at the lowest price.

If in the US, hand in hand with Trump, it was decided to leave the area; this is the worst way and time to do it. Not only, he doesn't leave friends there; His latest acts are so crude and grotesque that they can give much to think to all those who do business with them in the areas of defense and in deals that they thought had no expiration date.

Image Source:

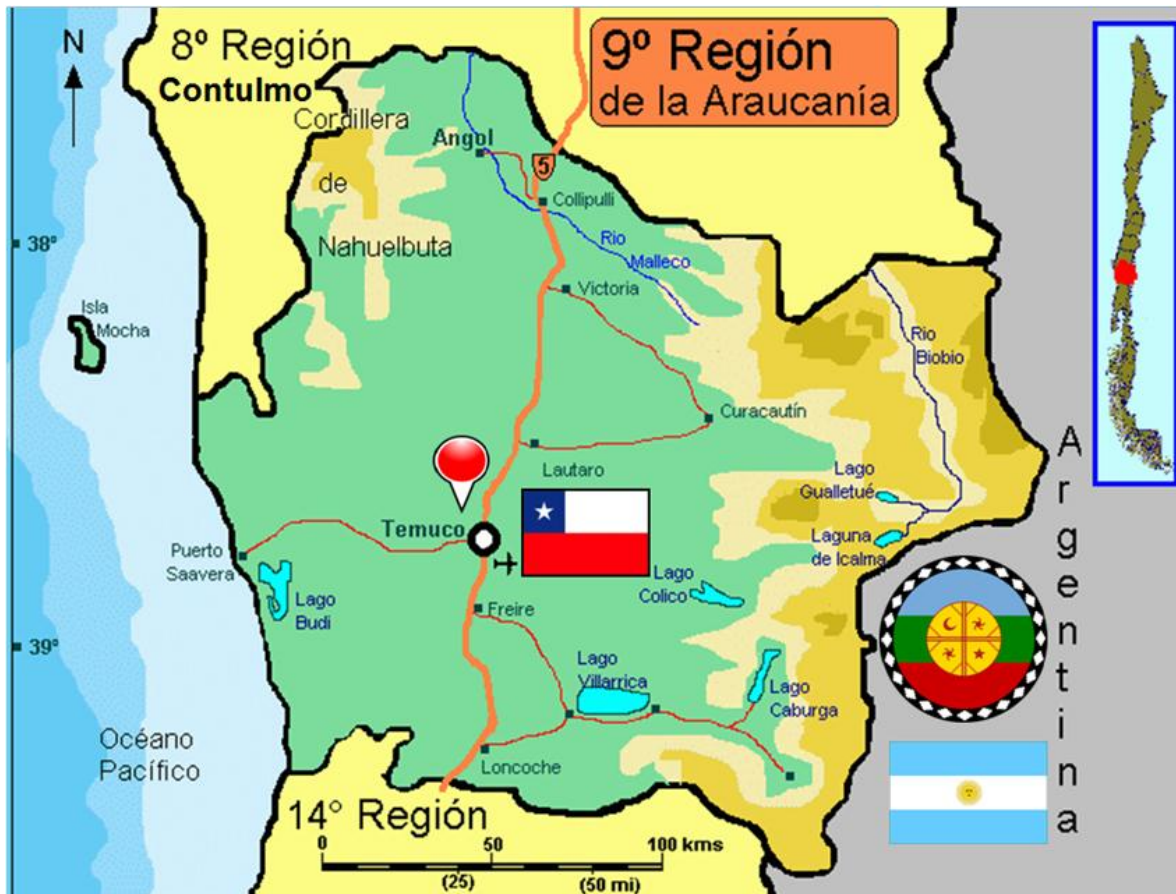
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Francisco Javier Blasco Robledo

(Spain) Colonel of the Army, retired. For two years, as Colonel-in-Chief, he commanded the Isabel la Católica Airborne Infantry Regiment No. 29, was Deputy Director of the Armed Forces Intelligence Center (CIFAS) and Head of the Proliferation Department; Defense Attaché in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic; 2nd Chief of the Spanish-Italian Brigade in the Western Region (KFOR) in Kosovo; Principal professor of the Army at the Higher School of the Armed Forces (ESFAS) of CESEDEN, among other positions of great importance.

Insurgent Movements in Chile

By Daniel Martínez, Colonel (r) (Uruguay)



Introduction

The social actors that generate low-intensity violence are:

A.- Arauco Malleco Coordinator (CAM-Mapuche) and its Organs of Territorial Resistance (ORT) with epicenter in Temuco (9th Region of Araucanía)

B.- Anarchist Groups

1. ITS "Individualists Tending to the Wild"
2. "Seditious accomplices / Fraction for revenge"
3. CRA "Anarchist Revolution Current"

On the other hand, the alleged activities of the Islamic State are reduced to possible threats to the then presidents of Argentina and Chile, Cristina Kirchner and Michelle Bachelet respectively (ABR2015) and the hacking of the Chilean Ministry of Defense website (FEB2015)

II.- Insurgent groups

A.- **Arauco Malleco Coordinator**(Coordinator of Mapuche Communities) and its Organs of Territorial Resistance (ORT)

Among the main actions of the CAM "Coordinadora Arauco Malleco" are: homicides, illegal possession of weapons, burning trucks, forest machinery, rural establishments, helicopters and churches, and robberies.

It should be noted that these violent events do not involve the majority of the peaceful Mapuche communities in Argentina and Chile, which claim reasonable social demands, particularly rural communities that suffer high levels of poverty.

The CAM maintained links with Hezbollah (Shiite Islam) and groups that defend the Palestinian cause, as well as with other radical Muslim armed structures in Asia, with former members of the FPMP (Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front, 1983-1999. Armed wing of the Communist Party in Chile and former members of the FARC (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). In addition, the Chilean justice system studied in 2017 possible links with former activists of the Mapu Lautaro (Lautaro Youth Movement) and the Revolutionary Left Movement (MIR – EGP, Guerrilla Army. de los Pobres) for assaults on ATMs and transportation of valuables in La Araucanía.

"Kutralwe, tools for the struggles" is the 278-page book, divided into 17 chapters, written by Chilean Mapuches that inspires members of radicalized groups in the South. The text explains the methods to take land, manipulate public opinion and even how to act against the security forces. "Kutralwe" in the chapter "Notes on tactics and strategies of struggle, actions and processes", develops 3 types of strategies:

1. Choice of a territory for combat.
2. Previous intelligence work: "Hit without being hit."
3. Subject the enemy to tactical disadvantage.

To achieve these objectives, it is recommended to take action: "Prepare actions to sabotage the means of transportation and infrastructure of the usurping businessman and together with that, prepare a legal defense in the face of any eventuality, build a political and social movement to carry out and support all actions that are carried out. The war of liberation requires a very broad and diverse set of disciplines that must be learned to master in order to win. One must know how to identify and avoid those consequences that slow down or regress steps that took years to advance".

On the other hand, when it is not possible to carry out "major sabotage of their assets, to achieve a definitive blow", the manual proposes a "prolonged and silent anonymous struggle of harassment and micro-recoveries, with the aim of attacking their vulnerable points, with This will weaken it, slowly take away spaces and it will be involved in a spiral of violence".

"This is how it is understood that they are executed at night, to avoid harming people or avoiding confrontations and other collateral effects. The objective is material property and the surprise factor is used as a method."

"If justice cannot be done under the imposed laws, we will do Mapuche Justice, within what is worthy and just for us, within what we believe and can do (...) Justice for us is in the Fire." The Manual made by radicals identified with the Mapuche people, with the advice of the FARC, stands out, in which on page 242 there is a paragraph with the title: "The power of anonymous fire".

B.- Anarchist Groups

1.- ITS "Individualists Tending to the Wild" (Anarchists)

ITS maintains a presence in Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil and Greece.

On 12SET2019 ITS through the "December 8 Command", executed barricades in the capital Santiago de Chile and an attack against a Carabineros gas-launching car, which suffered the impact of 15 Molotov cocktails and injured 3 policemen, in protest against the "Coup of State of JUN 27, 1973".

The barricades in Santiago de Chile, were executed by:

Antagonistic Nuclei of the New Urban Guerrilla, made up of:

- Karr-kai cell
- Forces for the Rim of Civilization
- Insurrectionary Column "Anger and Plot" – FAI/FRI

The 09MAY2019 Eco-terrorist group ITS (Individualists Tending to the Wild) claimed responsibility for sending an explosive package to Louis de Grange, chairman of the Metro board.

04JAN2019: 5 injured. Through its website, the eco-terrorist group "Individualists Tending to the Wild" claimed responsibility for the explosive attack at a Transantiago stop (Vicuña Mackenna), in the capital of Chile.

JAN 15, 2017: ITS (Individualists Tending to the Wild), self-named eco-terrorists, claimed responsibility for the explosive attack on the house of the president of CODELCO (National Copper Corporation), Oscar Landerretche (JAN 13, 2017), who was injured along with the employee.

2.- "Seditious accomplices / Fraction for revenge"

30JUL2019: Anarchist Group "Seditious accomplices / Fraction for revenge" is awarded the shipment of 2 bomb packages that caused 8 wounded carabinieri (25JUL2019). Another bomb was sent to the office of former Defense and Interior Minister Rodrigo Hinzpeter, which contained dynamite.

3.- Anarchist Revolution Current (CRA)

In 2014 they executed 30 explosions with homemade explosive devices, presumably coordinated with other Anti-System groups, with an anarchist profile, resulting in one death and more than a dozen injuries, some seriously. The anti-system groups placed between 2005 and 2014, 209 improvised or handmade explosive devices.

III.- Conclusions

- A. The Arauco Malleco Coordinator uses fires as the main tool to cause damage to those it considers its adversaries.
- B. The CAM claims the ancestral political, economic and cultural rights of the Mapuche people.
- C. They denounce the criminalization of what they consider to be: "just claims of the Mapuches' territorial rights, in complicity with multinational forestry and other extractive companies, as a strategy to protect their economic interests, denying the legitimacy of an original people."
- D. The CAM demands that the international agreements of which the state of Chile is a signatory be respected, such as the Declaration of Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN), the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (OAS) and Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), on indigenous and tribal peoples.
- E. The anarchist groups were criminalized by the Chilean prosecutor's office and police, accused of disorderly conduct on public roads and planting bombs, in their struggle against the current political, social and economic system.

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Syria, fire again

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Turkish troops advance into Syrian territory.

It is inadmissible to believe that the United States had not taken into account the consequence that its withdrawal from northeast Syria could bring and what the attitude of Turkish President Recep Erdogan, who is now free to move the Kurds away from the Turkish-Syrian border, was going to be, and annihilate Rojava, the Kurdish enclave, in northern Syria, which could turn out to be the embryo of the much-desired Kurdish state.

Ankara and Washington were two very old acquaintances, from the end of World War II, until the attempted coup against Erdogan in July 2016, when Presidents Trump and Erdogan seemed to take different paths and the intense relationship between the two nations fundamentally at the military and intelligence, began to cool down.

For seven decades, Washington, within the framework of the Cold War and beyond, assisted the Turkish armed forces, with enormous material resources, training and training of its officers, the same has happened in the field of intelligence, training hundreds or thousands of agents, so to believe that these seventy years of relations have not left the Turkish military with a very strong imprint of

ideological dependency and that the CIA does not have infiltrated agents in the complex military machinery of the Eurasian country is naive or intentional.

On the other hand, Erdogan, a man who is not a political outsider, is very well known by the State Department whose turn towards Russia and China in recent years will also have been thoroughly analyzed and monitored by Pentagon specialists. The weapons that Turkey has been using for decades to fight the protest struggles of the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (Kurdistan Workers' Party) or PKK in a dirty war that is being waged in the southeast of the country in full view of the world are also American. Despite this, there are always few voices denouncing genocide.

Erdogan's onslaught against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), and the People's Protection Units (YPG), has already caused the death of nearly a thousand peshmergas (combatants), an unknown number of civilian deaths and the displacement of 100 thousand Kurdish refugees.

Hypocrisy is perhaps Trump's most exercised muscle, and it is what has allowed him to be surprised by the virulence of these actions, when it is clear that

this move is nothing more than a strategic operation, to be able to say goodbye to the Syrian conflict, with with our sights set on the US elections in November 2020, but somehow trying to keep it open, so that we can return when the opportunity and US interests require it.

The adventure against Syria since 2010, at the time of the Arab Spring, which tried to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad and partition the country into three or four states in order, among other objectives, to take from Moscow and Tehran, a faithful and historical ally . That "liberating revolution" against al-Assad represented and continues to represent a multi-million dollar investment by the United States and a significant number of its Western allies, particularly: France and the United Kingdom, and from the region: the Sunni monarchies of the Persian Gulf. and Israel, in resources and lives so that everything has been in vain, so the objectives remain the same, more than now the Moscow, Beijing, Damascus and Tehran alliance has been consolidated, with which Ankara also flirts.

Therefore, the recent 13-point agreement, known as the "Ankara agreement" reached by Vice President Mike Pence with Erdogan, which implies a 120-hour ceasefire and a "security zone" for Turkey, indefinite in its limits and from where the Turkish heavy artillery will not be removed, until now it is nothing more than a new station of the Via Crucis of the Syrian people.

Everything has been too long, the threat of US sanctions against Turkey was suspended and its presence in the Turkish-Syrian border area was sanctified, so President al-Assad is removed from the possibility of unifying the territory, ending the war and begin the reconstruction of a country devastated to the ground.

Turkey will maintain 440 kilometers from the Euphrates to the border with Iraq, and another 32 kilometers inside Syria, reaching as far as the M4 highway, which runs east-west through the region, marking the line behind where they will have to Kurdish populations relocate at the same time as the peshmergas, from all over that sector will have to hand over their heavy weapons.

On Tuesday the 22nd, the Turkish president will travel to the Russian city of Sochi to meet with President Vladimir Putin, with whom he will have to agree on the new situation, which will undoubtedly force the Russian leader, a great player in the field of realpolitik, to a job of high diplomatic surgery, so that Erdogan does not cause more damage to the exhausted Syrian people.

The usual suspects.

The Kurdish authorities in Syria hold about 12,000 men belonging to Daesh and al-Qaeda, in different prisons in northern Syria and about 70,000 relatives of those captives in the al-Hol camp, in the Syrian province of al -Hasaka, so there is a danger that, after the chaos caused by the Turkish invasion, his "brothers" will try some liberation operation in those prisons. Some reports mention that there have already been some leaks which could bring the fundamentalists, who were practically defeated, back into action.

The last Daesh positions in the city of Baghouz fell last March, so the survivors scattered in rural areas, among whom it is believed was Caliph Ibrahim, (Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi), the leader of the organization, seeking to reorganize and attacking SDF patrols. While in the cities of Raqqa and Dayr az Zawr, former terrorist strongholds, some cells collect information to prepare, assassinations, suicide attacks, kidnappings to finance themselves and support from local Sunni tribes to start a new offensive.

The gang founded by Osama bin Laden al-Qaeda and directed since his death by the untraceable Ayman al-Zawahiri, is also taking advantage of the new situation of SDF, to mobilize its men towards the Syrian west, after having left the province at the beginning of the year from Idlib, expelled by the liberating coalition led by the Syrian Arab Army (EAS).

The blow to the terrorist organizations given by the EAS, with the collaboration of Russia, Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, has provoked since 2017 towards the interior of the Wahhabi gangs, which operate in Syria, such as the al-Nusra front, affiliated with al- Qaeda, microsismas that reconfigured the terrorist mosaic giving rise to new gangs like Hurras al-Din, (Guardians of the religion) led by Abu Humam al-Shami, a veteran of the war.

The Turkish invasion has allowed the terrorist groups that had not been totally annihilated to begin to show signs of their resurrection. Ankara's objective, which is now focused on exterminating Rojava, will once again allow the free movement of Daesh and al-Qaeda cells in that region.

More so when the SDF seems unable to contain the thousands of mujahideen in its prisons and their relatives in the al-Hol camp. What a massive escape would allow northeast Syria to once again light up and allow these organizations to filter fighters to generate chaos in the liberated cities and areas.

For its part, the SDF, confronted with the central government in Damascus, have now tried to reach an agreement with President al-Assad, who had already sent EAS troops, to maintain the territorial integrity of

his country, repel the Turkish presence and regain control of the northern cities of Manbij and Kobani.

If President al-Assad, a Shia from the Alawite sect, gains a foothold in the northwest of the country, and if Putin's pressure on Erdogan fails on Tuesday the 22nd, it will provoke the reaction of the Sunnis, a situation that will be used again by fanaticism

Wahhabi, to recruit more men to the hosts of al-Baghdadi or al-Zawahiri, and try to bring everything to zero, although the margin for them is also very narrow, if somehow they were not to be financed again by the Wahhabi monarchies and the United States, always interested in keeping the fire going.

Image Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/07/briefing/syria-houston-rockets-nobel-prize.html>



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Hybrid Warfare Operations in the Latin American Context. The Venezuelan case.

By Pablo Escalante, Lieutenant Colonel (R/A) (Venezuela)



Parachute Infantry, Bolivarian Army of Venezuela

Latin America has become one of the foci of geopolitical confrontation for the United States, focusing its attacks on Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia and especially Venezuela, recently declared the number 2 proven oil reserve in the world (300,000 million barrels). in gas reserves on the planet, number 2 in gold reserves (11,300 tons), number 3 in Coltan (only 7 countries have), number 6 in Uranium and number 5 in Thorium (nuclear fuel).

This recent "Humanitarian" interest of the United States towards Venezuela has turned it into a battlefield, in which mechanisms of unconventional warfare have been used, called by some authors as Hybrid War. The term hybrid warfare was coined by Mattis and Hoffman in 2005 and since then the search for consensus around its definition has been the subject of debate and discussion within the scientific community. In a generic way, hybrid warfare is understood as one that uses symmetric and asymmetric means coordinated in time, space and purpose, to reach the desired final state, uniting the levels of tactical, operational and strategic leadership.

Villarejo (2014), citing Calvo, points out that "hybrid warfare is one in which at least one of the adversaries resorts to a combination of conventional

operations and irregular warfare, the latter mixed with terrorist actions and connections with organized crime." José Luis Calvo Albero, «The Evolution of Insurgencies and the Concept of Hybrid Warfare». That is to say, the term accepts a number of elements where irregular forces, paramilitaries, homemade weapons, cyber attacks, urban guerrillas, closure of public roads with barricades (guarimbas), attacks on government entities, attacks on the electrical system, confrontations come into play. with law enforcement, discrediting members of the armed forces, war in the media, use of social networks and the economic war of sanctions, among other. All this with the backing of the so-called civil society, supported by NGOs financed from abroad and by countries allied with the United States, as has been seen in recent years in Venezuela.

As mentioned in NATO Review digital edition. Hybrid warfare: an opportunity for NATO-EU collaboration? "It has been demonstrated in the case of Ukraine, hybrid conflicts involve efforts at different levels with the aim of destabilizing a functional state and causing a polarization of its society." This same recipe has been applied in Venezuela, however, it has not given the expected results.

In this new type of war, the focus of attention is directed at a certain group or sector of the population in order to intensify that polarization, for which it applies various unconventional techniques, directed at these specific sectors of the population in order to generate the matrices of opinion favorable to their interests, combining political pressure and at the same time developing clandestine or veiled subversive war operations and making them look like legitimate expressions of a people under the yoke of a dictator. A palpable example was the frustrated assassination attempt that took place on May 4, 2018, at a military parade in Caracas, when a group of terrorists trained in Colombia and supported from Miami, attacked with two drones each loaded with a panel of 1 kilo of explosive C4. But nevertheless, the electronic disruptive means prevented the drones from getting close enough to assassinate the president, the military high command and the representatives of the public powers who were in the gallery at that act, however, they were detonated, but only some soldiers were injured and cadets who were in formation stationed at the military parade, being able to activate the immediate reaction and managing to arrest and dismantle the group that perpetrated the attack. This serious fact went unnoticed by most of the national and international media, they even tried to make it look like a false excuse from the government, and others took it as a mockery. the military high command and the representatives of the public authorities who were on the platform at that act, however, were detonated, but only some soldiers and cadets who were in formation at the military parade were injured, being able to activate the reaction immediately and managing to arrest and dismantle the group that perpetrated the attack. This serious fact went unnoticed by most of the national and international media, they even tried to make it look like a false excuse from the government, and others took it as a mockery. being able to activate the immediate reaction and managing to capture and dismantle the group that perpetrated the attack. This serious fact went unnoticed by most of the national and international media, they even tried to make it look

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The help of the big media, political leaders, influencers, actors and artists, renowned public figures, former presidents, who echo the "fake news" spread worldwide, transmitting a distorted message, presenting the performances and exogenously created situations, as typical of the state to which they want to attack. In this way, to generate an international political and diplomatic floor that justifies a military intervention approved by international organizations and with the consent of the UN Security Council, where the United States has tried to debate the issue and seek unanimous support from its allies, the which it has not achieved so far, despite the pressure it exerts in the different countries.

To this end, they allocate a large amount of resources that are managed through non-governmental organizations and allow them to pay for the logistics of the shock groups and terrorists, to provide them with combat devices, such as shields, mortars, homemade explosives, Molotov-type bombs, , artisanal weapons, food and money offered as payment to stay on the streets for agitation and to confront law enforcement agencies, who, in compliance with their constitutional duty, must maintain control of the roads prevent these groups from closing the roads and hindering the free transit of other people, burning public transport vehicles, setting fire to government administrative offices, banks, and even reaching the barbarity of burning people alive, for being "suspected" of being supporters of the government.

The United States finances these groups and its main interest is to keep them on the streets, always confronting law enforcement agencies, to seek the death of young people and use them as a political flag in order to generate the idea of a repressive state that crushes the supposed "peaceful protests" and that he massacres his people. Although it is true that peaceful protests are contemplated in the Venezuelan constitution, no self-respecting state allows vandalism or terrorism on public roads or so-called "hate crimes." We can see how recently in France there have been acts of protest, even violent, of the so-called "yellow vests" with strong repression by the police, resulting in people who have been disabled and injured, but no human rights defense organization .H H.

One of the most terrible forms that has arisen from this type of "hybrid wars" is the injection of hatred in the minds of people and especially in young people, which has been inoculated in Venezuela for more than 20 years, as a latent germ in the minds of those who oppose a political project of a socialist nature, like a blow from the cold war and its anti-communist discourse that generated panic in the Western world in the last century, which has aroused discontent in part of the Venezuelan population.

Likewise, the Chavista project sees the power groups, the businessmen and the oligarchy as adversaries, and North American imperialism as guilty of all its ills, which has turned the Venezuelan government into a declared enemy of "Uncle Sam". which led to the issuance of an executive decree during the government of President Barak Obama declaring Venezuela an "extraordinary and unusual threat to US national security and foreign policy," laying the groundwork for military aggression.

Venezuela and its people have been stoically resisting this new type of war, the "hybrid war", aggression that has generated economic hardship, food shortages, foreign exchange restrictions to be able to import the necessary supplies to keep the productive apparatus moving, as well as such as the acquisition of raw materials, medical supplies, including high-cost medicines for chronic and terminal illnesses, which has caused the death of many people -including many children-, since millions of dollars have been blocked in foreign banks allocated to the payment of these medicines, the impossibility of acquiring spare parts for the industry and in general affecting all sectors of the nation, supported from abroad in support of internal political actors, who justify these aberrant measures as necessary, that is, for them the end justifies the means.

The United States has used all available means at its disposal, trying to get the Venezuelans themselves to confront each other, so that they do the dirty work of overthrowing the government. Twenty years have passed in this destabilization attempt, and they are so frustrated with the so-called Venezuelan opposition, who have not been able to fulfill the task entrusted to them, to the point that the United States government has already taken the initiative with the direct participation and active of its officials, such as Mike Pence, Mike Pompeo, Elliott Abrams and Donald Trump himself, who has declared that "all options are on the table", including military intervention. These characters have become the main actors in the attempt to overthrow Nicolás Maduro,

As is well known, in January 2019 they used the thesis of humanitarian aid, whose justification had

been worked hard at the international level, leaving the crisis in Yemen where every ten minutes a child dies, as something trivial, just to mention one of major conflicts worldwide, in the ideal pretext to forcibly introduce both human and logistical elements across borders, to create a beachhead, which would allow them to take control of border states, gain strength in them and from there move towards the seizure of the centers of political power. Not without first having made contact with different Latin American countries gathered in the so-called "Lima Group", with which the United States hoped that their armies would invade Venezuela, among them,

The role of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) has been decisive in the dismantling of these plans, whose new doctrinal paradigm called "Integral Defense of the Nation" based on the asymmetric approach of dissuading or defeating a numerically and technologically superior aggressor, through the combination of two fundamental elements such as the "Prolonged People's War" and the strengthening of conventional military defensive capabilities.

This new approach was proposed as a result of the coming to power of Commander Hugo Chávez, convinced that the military doctrine of the 1960s to the 1980s, based on the vestiges of the cold war, with Cuba as a potential enemy and the subversive movements in Latin America as battle fronts and where the role of the United States consisted of coups and the imposition of military dictators and right-wing governments, to crush this threat, and the training and indoctrination of military bodies through the "School of the Americas", was replaced and refocused on enhancing the capabilities of the Venezuelan military apparatus, which had been left behind due to the justification of the immediate support of "Uncle Sam" in the face of any armed subversion. Bear in mind that Venezuela was the only non-NATO country to which F16 combat aircraft and Boeing aerial refueling tankers were sold in the 1980s, with the clear intention of providing extraterritorial projection of attack and reaching the Cuban island.

The United States, seeing the change in the doctrinal paradigm in Venezuela, ceased technical support, as well as the sale of weapons and spare parts for existing weapons systems, which forced Commander Chávez to seek other allies, such as China and Russia, the which went on to become the main suppliers of weapons in the last 20 years, managing to significantly increase the deterrent and defensive capabilities of the FANB.

An air defense system was acquired as an anti-access/area denial strategy (commonly referred to by its acronym in English anti-access/area denial A2/AD)

with the creation of an air defense system (ADS) of the stratified type or staggered, short, medium and long range, with the formation of a detection and monitoring network with coverage of the entire national territory and beyond its borders, the incorporation of high-performance means with long-range 3D radars for detection and early warning and anti-aircraft systems with anti-ballistic missile capability, long-range reactive artillery, anti-ship/anti-radar missiles launched from air platforms.

This tiered SDA, made up of the Iglas-S, Pechora S125, Buk-M2E, and S-300VM systems, protects against any threat, under any weather conditions, being able to achieve a kill rate of over 85%, and no attacking air force can afford this fee, so they think twice before attempting an attack. In addition to the above, Sukhoi 30MK2 air superiority fighters were acquired as a missile launch platform. This capacity somewhat curbed the idea of invasion by neighboring armies, who with their aircraft would have to circumvent the strategic advantage of a geographical and technological nature, because to enter the territory they must rise above 2000 meters above sea level to pass through the Andean mountain range. and from the coast,

On the other hand, conventional land warfare systems were modernized, as an element of subsequent territorial defense, with BM-30 SMERCH high-precision mechanized artillery and high firepower, BM21-1 GRAD multiple rocket launcher system, 2S19 MSTA- S, T-72B tanks, ZU-23-2 towed twin anti-aircraft gun. Naval means were also acquired, and the marine infantry was reinforced with VN-1 armored vehicles with a 30 mm main cannon, a 7.62 mm machine gun, VN-16 armored vehicles, equipped with a 105 mm cannon, and VN-18, with a 30 mm and large displacement capacity on the sea surface, multiple launch vehicles for 122 mm rockets, 81 mm and 120 mm mortars.

In addition, an important change was introduced in the Venezuelan military doctrine, once the 1999 Constitution included the principles of national security and where co-responsibility was established, which did not leave the State alone to defense of the nation, but includes the individual as a fundamental part of the defense. Thus, the Organic Law of the Security of the Nation establishes comprehensive defense as: "The set of defense systems, methods, measures and actions, whatever their nature and intensity, that the State actively formulates and executes with the participation of public and private institutions, and natural and legal persons, national or foreign, in order to safeguard independence, freedom, democracy, sovereignty, territorial integrity and

comprehensive development of the nation." (Organic Law of Security of the Nation, 2002, art, 3).

Once included in the legal framework, the individual as co-responsible and through the generation of the fourth generation war hypothesis where the "Prolonged People's War" is proposed, the need arises to group citizens in a leading role, who in many cases they have not performed military service nor have they been part of the FANB. One way to incorporate this common citizen, the worker who lives in the neighborhood, the peasant in the towns, in the hamlets, women, regardless of their social status, physical condition, age or level of education, is through the Bolivarian Militia, whose functions are to maintain and train militia units that collaborate with the professional branches of the FANB in the defense of the sovereignty and independence of Venezuela. Being a bridge between the FANB and civil society,



Bolivarian Militia

This component has had its detractors and critics making it look like a kind of "political army" with the intention of defending the Bolivarian revolution, alleging that it has been used as an intimidating element for dissidents and opponents of the regime. So far there are 2,000,000 men and women, with projections towards 3 million by 2020, which makes it a respectable number of complementary personnel for the FANB.

Earlier this year, a Congressional Research Service document entitled Venezuela: Background and US Relations was published. Where it is noted that "The Trump Administration has worked bilaterally and multilaterally to increase pressure on the Maduro government. In addition to increasing targeted sanctions, the administration has implemented broader sanctions that limit Venezuela's and PDVSA's access to the US financial market."

The most recent aggression that is intended to mount on Venezuela, as a new attempt to militarily attack and initiate an invasion, was carried out by the Center for International and Strategic Studies (CSIS,

for its acronym in English) that presented on May 26 in Washington DC a report entitled "Maduro's Last Defense: Venezuela's Survival Through the Bolivarian Joint Criminal Enterprise", written by Douglas Farah and Caitlyn Yates, who are part of IBI Consultants, LLC and are "visiting fellows" of the National Defense University (INSS).

In the aforementioned report, it is intended to position the Venezuelan government as a "criminal state" or "joint criminal company" The report concludes that the result of this process of structuring

the Bolivarian Joint Criminal Company "is a complex criminal operation that undermines the empire of law, democratic governance, and American alliances throughout the Western Hemisphere. A new Hybrid War threat, which brings back memories of the late 1980s, when a false argument was used as a pretext to attack Iraq, where it was claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction (chemical weapons), that he used against his population and that was later proven to be totally false.

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Afghanistan, the country of bloody limbo.

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



A group of men arrive to cast their vote at a polling station in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, on September 28, 2019. Parwiz/Reuters

Despite the fact that the results of the presidential elections were expected for the 19th, almost a month after they were held, the Electoral Commission of Afghanistan continues without giving information on the results, excusing itself in what biometric data system, which is supposed to avoid any possibility of fraud, has complicated and delayed the scrutiny. While the two sides that led the polls, Ghani's independent coalition and Abdullah-Abdullah's National Coalition, have claimed victory after the first round, although the electoral commission believes it may have some certain results for the next Seven of november.

Both the current president Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah, who has served as "executive president" throughout Ghani's term, a position not contemplated by the constitution, but tailored to Abdullah, by the United States, to keep him within the "democratic" system in "a unity government", since this same situation was repeated in an almost identical way, in the 2014 presidential elections, given the accusations of widespread fraud and corruption.

Abdullah, who is competing for the third time in a row having lost in 2009 to Hamid Karzai and in 2014 to the current president Ghani, had announced his victory on Monday the 14th, as had Ghani's vice

candidate, Amrullah Saleh, who that same day claimed a "clear victory in the first round", none of the candidates supported their statements with evidence.

On September 28, with little voter turnout, barely 21% percent of the total electoral roll of 9.57 million turned up at the polls, just over 2 million. This low attendance has several explanations: the disbelief of the Afghan people in the "democratic system"; the unattractiveness of the electoral offers, and the threats announced by the Taliban and other organizations operating in the country.

On the day of the vote, 28 civilians were killed and another 249 were injured, although for the numbers that are usually used in these cases, the total number of deaths due to strictly electoral violence from June 8 to December 30 is low. September was conspicuously low, with "only" 85 deaths and 373 people injured.

In any case, whoever wins will not change the fate of the Afghan people, the political class of Afghanistan, emerged from the anti-Soviet war (1978-1992), and entrenched by the United States after the 2001 invasion, is permeated by corruption, consented by the State Department, who knows perfectly well the strong ties that these former leaders of the anti-Soviet war maintain with drug trafficking, smuggling and arms trafficking, an oiled machinery of corruption that

did not even stop during the interregnum government Taliban 1994-2001.

The Secretary of Defense of the United States, Mark Esper, arrived in Kabul on Sunday the 21st, to meet with the North American troops stationed in the Central Asian country, to continue trying to phase out the withdrawal of the North American troops stationed in the country, which the stalled peace negotiations with the Taliban (See Afghanistan, the only choice is death) and the constant attacks by the insurgents have prevented the withdrawal of more than 5,000 men from a force of 14,000 that still remain in Afghanistan. Esper's intention is to reduce the presence by some 8,600 soldiers, without affecting operations against al-Qaeda and Daesh Khorasan.

The American manager, to continue the peace talks with the Taliban Zalmay Khalilzad, met earlier this month, for the first time, after Trump's door slam last September with the envoys of the mullah, Hibatullah Ajundzada, in Islamabad (Pakistan) . Nothing has been leaked from the meeting led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar with the Americans.

the blood quota

While the Afghan politicians and the United States make them decide how the stabilization of the country continues, a dream as remote as it is impossible, the terrorists remind them that they are the ones who really hold the key to that dream, charging the Afghan people every time higher blood,

Last Friday the 18th, during the prayers of the holy day of Islam in the village of Jawdara, in the eastern province of Nangarhar, in the district of Haska Mena, where some seventy families live, an explosion of which it is still not clear which was its source, caused seventy-three deaths and 50 injuries. Survivors reported that the 150-person building was full, so it is believed that more bodies could be found under the rubble. Among the victims was the only doctor in town, along with his two brothers and two of his children. Of the fatalities, at least 23 of the 73 murdered were minors.

Image Source:

<https://www.france24.com/en/20190928-afghanistan-attacks-ghani-presidential-elections>

Editor's note:

President Donald Trump announced to the media that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would have lost his life on October 26, 2019, in an operation by the United States Special Forces. This article was written days before that announcement.

Although none of the takfirist organizations operating in the country claimed responsibility for the attack, it was initially believed that it would have been an action by the Taliban, seeking to expose Trump, after the September 9 snub. Although his spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, in a statement condemned the attack, calling it a serious crime.

Some versions insist that the explosion was caused by the fall of a missile from the army, while other witnesses insist that it was the attack of a shahid (martyr) who would have immolated himself inside, although it has also been mentioned that the explosives they were already placed inside the mosque and were operated by remote control, a rare tactic in this war.

In the south of the province of Nangarhar, in addition to the Taliban, Daesh Khorasan also operates, which eight months ago, according to what the inhabitants of the attacked town have denounced, have cut off the flow of the river, upstream, forcing them to depend on seasonal rains. The mujahideen often harass the inhabitants of small villages, accusing them of being on the side of the central government.

A UN report has verified that, between July and September, the highest number of civilian victims was recorded since 2009, the year in which the mission began monitoring this type of casualties, with the death of 1,174 civilians, while 3,139 were wounded, July became the bloodiest month with 425 deaths and 1,164 injuries. In the first months of the year, civilian deaths rose to 2,563, while 5,676 were injured, for which terrorist organizations are responsible in 62% of cases.

since one of the key points to finalize the negotiations, demanded by the United States, is that the Taliban does not support any terrorist organization on Afghan lands. What could produce an earthquake between the two, from which the caliphs of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi would undoubtedly take great advantage, to keep Afghanistan in a bloody limbo.



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The world and Spain in boiling

By Francisco Javier Blasco Robledo, Colonel (r) (Spain)



Perhaps, having spent many years without conflicts with large and disastrous results or excessively generalized ones that involve several continents at the same time or the so-called International Community (IC) as a whole, further facilitates the tendency we have to look at our own navel and let to observe that of others, even that of the immediate neighbor or the well-connected person. But, the reality is very different; nothing that we look at those next door, we can see that the world is on fire and constantly boiling.

Without going into depth in each one of the many existing cases or without definitively closing, this work aims to highlight that despite their apparent differences there are many common and uncommon indicators in the many protests, riots and riots that devastate the entire world and that lately, they are a fairly widespread evil as they are not something that bears fruit especially in a certain part of the planet nor at the same social level or political regime.

Generally they are not derived from the same theme, claim or struggle; they usually involve very young or very old people who, in both cases, see their "rights" curtailed; they generally involve poorly trained or ill-prepared people; they flourish and are sheltered under a diverse range of elements that includes governments of different signs, religions (the least) and disparate trends (political and social) and yet all or the vast majority of them have a common element as the main protagonist, populism. Populism, which sometimes acts as a catalyst in their favor - it drags them down - and other times, on the contrary, the claims are built as a fight against said scourge.

The proof of the generalization of these movements and that they appear, evolve and multiply everywhere, is in the high number of disturbances that at this time -or in close times- there are or have been in places as

disparate as: Chile¹, Barcelona, Mexico², Lebanon³, Syria⁴, United Kingdom⁵, Ecuador⁶, Hongkong⁷, Iran⁸, Iraq⁹, Greece¹⁰, Tunisia¹¹, Algeria¹², Morocco¹³, Paris¹⁴, Berlin¹⁵, Austrian¹⁶, Argentina¹⁷, Colombia¹⁸, Venezuela¹⁹, Peru²⁰, Bolivian²¹, Russia²², in several places at the same time, such as those produced by Climate Change²³, those of the well-known Me Too movement in support of women and against sexual harassment²⁴ as well as all kinds of demonstrations or demonstrations -spontaneous or not-, against the scourge and attacks produced by jihadist terrorism and its damnable results.

If they are observed globally, it can be affirmed that the world is involved in a true boiling situation tending to chaos everywhere; Many of these manifestations are not as simple as they are presented to us. They have become shows of force and real pitched battles between angry hordes, well trained and better led, and police forces that, in general, are very controlled, poorly prepared and poorly equipped. Hard and bloody confrontations that usually produce dozens and even hundreds of wounded and, in some cases, even many, too many deaths.

A high percentage of those are not flowers of a few days; their roots and goals are so big and deep that they often prepare in detail; they manage to become entrenched and exist in large spaces of time despite the measures to extirpate them by the authorities of the place or country in question. Others, without being so bloody, cause serious discomfort and even political overthrows, changes or falls in and of government.

Their origin is very varied and in some cases, they could be considered as anecdotal or singular, as happens in those conflicts that, well latent waiting for events for a time, appear after a simple increase in the price of the ticket. of the metro, the cut in subsidies to reduce the prices of automotive fuel or the restrictions on access to the Internet and social networks or WhatsApp itself.

¹<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2019/10/19/5daa7413fc6c83416d8b45ac.html>

²<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2019/10/18/5da9fc69fdddf114b8b467b.html>

³<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2019/10/18/5da9ccac21efa008368b4648.html>

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/internacional/20191020/471094607851/cuarto-dia-de-protestas-en-el-libano-a-la-espera-del-anuncio-de-reformas.html>

⁴<https://www.elmundo.es/internacional/2019/10/19/5dab2a1521efa0286a8b4575.html>

⁵economista.es/internacional/noticias/9779157/03/19/Hundreds-of-thousands-of-demonstrators-call-in-Londres-for-another-referendum-on-Brexit.html?gclid=EAlalQobChMIguj9_deo5QIVEfIRCh2MIQ8zEAAYASAAEgIkwfD_BwE

⁶<https://www.bbc.com/world/noticias-america-latina-50009459>

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonstrations_in_Ecuador_de_2019

⁷<https://elpais.com/tag/c/7cdc80971bf5081d894e178c6db04bac>

⁸<https://es.euronews.com/tag/demonstrations-in-iran>

⁹<https://www.dw.com/es/gobierno-de-iraq-cifra-en-93-los-muertos-en-%C3%BAltimas-demonstraciones/a-50708919>

¹⁰https://cadenaser.com/ser/2019/01/20/internacional/1547998617_227554.html

¹¹<https://es.euronews.com/tag/demonstrations-in-tunez>

¹²<https://elpais.com/tag/argelia/a>

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¹⁵https://www.abc.es/internacional/abci-manifestation-ultraright-berlin-unit-alemana-201910031912_noticia.html

¹⁶<https://luchadeclases.org/internacional/23-europa/2585-austria-massive-demonstration-against-the-government-of-the-right.html>

¹⁷<https://www.france24.com/en/20190905-marches-argentina-food-emergency-crisis>

¹⁸<https://www.dw.com/en/new-mobilizations-of-students-in-colombia-for-the-budget-for-educaci%C3%B3n/a-50787614>

¹⁹https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protests_in_Venezuela_de_2019

²⁰<https://www.elperiodico.com/es/internacional/20190906/marcha-lima-peruanos-exigen-cierre-congreso-nuevas-comicios-7622270>

²¹<https://www.infobae.com/america/america-latina/2019/10/23/nuevos-disturbios-en-bolivia-ante-la-imminente-conclusion-del-scrutinio-definitivo/>

²²https://elpais.com/internacional/2019/08/14/actualidad/1565791975_558244.html

²³<https://www.bbc.com/world/news-49768853>

²⁴https://elpais.com/internacional/2017/12/23/actualidad/1514057371_076739.html

Nowadays, any type of purely banal facts, sayings or actions can be a reason for protest or vindication; the environments of the working and student world are very fanaticized, muddled and even drugged by populist movements and ideals that promise and offer all kinds of arcadias, solutions to the many problems of a general or domestic nature, a better future, a multitude of direct panaceas and without palliatives and even a more than efficient complete economic, social and health security in the future without having to go through the need to have contributed just -in time and amount- in their long or short working life.

List of offers and trifles that is complemented by a multitude of easy and fruitful exits to diminishing or squalid studies, important sums for scholarships, various subsidies, non-refundable contributions, social and protected housing for all, freedom of free occupation of premises and homes of others for the mere fact of complying with a "social work", control or reduction by Law of the price of free rentals, reduction of sentences and declassification of a lot of crimes, release from possession, consumption and sale of drugs and a long list of romantic ideals or not, that trick the smartest and the dumbest in the same boat, heading to their more than certain and definitive perdition.

To which we must undoubtedly add the special chapter dedicated to migration, its possibilities, advantages, disadvantages, support, reticence and all kinds of palliative measures for its reception or, on the contrary, for its dissuasion, expulsion or containment outside of their own borders as the wind turns or the moment and the situation arise. Movements that, in general, move large sums of money and involve real organized crime mafias, human trafficking, child abuse, pornography, prostitution and all kinds of evils of the lowest condition.

The world of protest and directed agitation is constantly evolving and for this reason, those who try to destabilize do not stop looking for new formulas, impacts, excuses and other types of complaints that seek to cause chaos, which is really the true final objective that they seek. Any harsh popular demonstration. Thus, what is known as extreme nationalism has recently appeared.²⁵, something as serious or more serious than traditional formulas to provoke and encourage discontent and excitement in the mobs.

This is what the world moves today; to which we must add all kinds of long and contagious local, regional, political and religious wars. Wars, which are born from the simple desire for leadership, power grab or to expand the territories under the domain of someone who feels powerful, for the defense and extension and implementation of all kinds of political and religious ideologies.

A world fed up and fleeced on all four sides; source and origin of important businesses, fat profits for a few and misery for many and full of great fanaticism and terrorism. These scourges, who do not look the other way than their own advantage, fame, and being able to spread terror as a means of making themselves respected by the outcasts, have no other choice but to endure or die under methodical and well-studied yokes that lead them straight to hatred and destruction.

The always limping and ineffective CI, after the two world wars, decided to look for means, organizations and legislation to fight against all these scourges that threaten society; but I must say as a conclusion or final balance that, after more than eighty years, the efforts and costs have been disproportionate and the results are very scarce.

The vested interests, growing and interconnected, are many. It seems that today it is fashionable to say and ensure that we move in a global and transversal world; concepts we use for the economy, communication, the free market, travel and research. In this context, we must bear in mind that this concept can also be applied to the transfer of all kinds of political and social ideas and interests, including those that inevitably lead us to the barricade and confrontation.

The transfer, contagion, and transmission of slogans and ideals is today much simpler, more direct, and more effective than in the past due to the capabilities and penetration characteristics of cybernetic media, networks, and other means of communication. Media that, in constant and dangerous evolution, take advantage of the massive activity in them at all levels of society, the possibility of arriving, simultaneously and instantly and even if you want, in a certain degree of obscurantism and opacity. They cover the entire world without distinction of latitude, language or affiliation, unless strong, undemocratic measures are taken to prevent their spread.

We live with these complex and malignant wickers; of them, almost without realizing it, all kinds of baskets are made daily that, although apparently unconnected, can come to share similar vested interests, desires and results on, apparently, different social and political movements without connection. In such a way and manner, that various foci can be influenced and even opened simultaneously or successively that, duly coordinated

²⁵<https://www.cronista-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.cronista.com/amp/columnistas/EI-peligro-mundial-del-nacionalismo-extremo-20181112-0093.html>

externally, can lead a part of the society, region, nation, alliance and even in several continents to situations of conflict or confrontation.²⁶

Conflicts, which may or may not start as a simple historical protest movement; for -after feeding and pampering them for the necessary time- they end up leading to crisis situations and even revolution that, due to being unexpected, not having wanted to be seen in time or due to the incompetence of those who should have identified and annulled them, are transformed into abominable creatures that no one - except their true original parents - are capable of stopping, appeasing and reverting; once, they have their claims and demands assured as a non-negotiable condition.

There are many examples of all that has been said throughout history; it is enough to remember those macabre populisms on which massive movements such as communism, fascism, Nazism and other national socialisms were based. All of them disproportionate and inhumane that, finally, resulted in multimillion-dollar deaths, persecutions, deportations and in the expansion to all continents of hatred and desolation.

It is clear that the world is in full and constant boiling and, undoubtedly, Spain cannot remain unaware of the ups and downs of this situation. Allow me, based on this, to briefly analyze the situation that we have been experiencing for too long in Catalonia and that, unfortunately, we may still be forced to experience there and even out of sympathy, in some other region.

Situation, which has been reached for many reasons and ways: vagrancy, collusion, inaction, political falsehood, lack of vigilance, spurious interests and even treason or covert felony of all, without exception, the central governments since 1978; To which must be added, the increasingly patent and excessive apparent blindness of its own or directed by the judiciary and the lack of courage of the legislative power to channel the correct direction and correct proven errors since we endowed ourselves with and approved the Constitution.

Curiously, on these dates we have been able to verify the easy concurrence of the three powers to exhume Franco, but, nevertheless, we continue to see that they are not capable of reaching an agreement to define and apply the necessary actions that paralyze everything that damages our coexistence as a nation.

No one denies anymore -except the government in office- and even less so after the so-called procès, the sentence to its architects and the recent tragic week lived in the streets, highways, and infrastructures of Catalonia, that said region, as it is currently infected by the desire for self-determination, constitutes a serious problem for Spain. A problem that, furthermore, has never been wanted or known how to see, or deal with adequately and in which all its actors, either by direct or indirect action or omission, have tried to pass by, look the other way, or what is worse, encourage it or fuel it with malicious intent.

Some facts that we have reached with the direct support and without restrictions of those who hold or have held the presidency of the regional government and, therefore, the highest representation of the State in it. On this occasion, without ambiguity or hesitation, Mr. Torra has been setting opinion on fire, corroding the mood of the street mobs and leading some action; bragging about it, he publishes and solicitously without considering that said personal attitude only serves to confront the nation.

Foolish man, who should have been in a safe place long ago, claimed and wanted by the justice system or on the run like his predecessor; but that due to the bad habit of the current government of looking the other way, silencing its Attorney General's Office and not seeing what we all clearly appreciate, there it continues, enjoying its position, giving the rattle, without ceasing and even promising to investigate its own guardians of order and security, because, according to their way of seeing, on this occasion, they disobeyed their anxieties and desires by siding with the general Law to repel "with viciousness" the enormous uprising.

Although, there is also another type of leaders even more reckless, harmful and reckless; I am referring to those who are fully convinced that they have the key to the solution to these problems and think that there are many possibilities for the success of their simple remedies. Remedies, which are based on giving them a little more rope; a lot of petting and gossiping with constant tug-of-war; twist the various tools of the State to encourage its powers -including the judiciary- to turn a blind eye, change their criteria or tiptoe over the outrages and excesses of those responsible, their parties and relatives; increase their benefits by transferring all the powers they ask for and something else and, above all, despite the comparative insult with the rest of the nation, give them billions of euros in cash or in infrastructure,

Last week - with deep anger, great sorrow and much feeling - we witnessed firsthand the unbridled rage of authentic street terrorism. Terrorism and vandalism that only an inept government, in the mouth of its Minister of

²⁶<https://alnavio.com/noticia/17350/firmas/what-role-will-russia-play-in-the-outcome-of-the-crisis-in-venezuela.html>

the Interior, has dared to describe as simple disturbances of public order -someone who should know a lot about terrorism for having been a judge of the National High Court-. Times of tension and gravity in which, for long moments, the prestige and future of Spain were in real danger due to the hatred and evil shown by the mobs in an unequal struggle for having left the government, almost handcuffed and in dire conditions. to their reaction forces.

Moments and circumstances that have put on the table quite a few conclusions, of which I would like to highlight only six due to their importance and seriousness: the revolutionary separatists are strongly prepared due to their many years of training and apprenticeship under the tutelage of intelligence agents, movements and services. from external countries; those involved have in their hands the tap to open and close their anger during the riots at their whim and order as a demonstration of strength and capacity for action; the Spanish intelligence services, for the second time in two years and even being warned beforehand, have once again failed resoundingly or someone from the government has not wanted to listen to them; our FCSE are not prepared, equipped or trained for such a disproportionate challenge and never seen in Spain to date; the government has not wanted to face it with all the tools at its disposal, and lastly, but perhaps the most serious of all, this serious situation has only just begun. Unless you openly give in to their claims and demands, they will continue with varying intensity and rhythms, seeking confrontation. Demands, without proportion and outside the Law, that once again, have just been put on the table ignoring and challenging the previous prohibition of the Constitutional Court.

They will do it again and not because I say so; they repeat it ad nauseam and have conspired to continue in this mono theme and situation. They will do it as and when they want, no matter how many years they come and continue to force the machinery of the State to please them or satisfy their requests. Forcings in which, as a consequence of this endless drift, recently, one more step in the wrong direction has been taken.

Having impressed locals and strangers during the trial with an apparent ironclad and impenetrable Supreme Court room; After the government forced the resignation of an inflexible and serious State Attorney, her successor - a bad, hesitant and unconvincing representative of the establishment - fulfilling the wishes of her boss, lowered her criminal classification from Rebellion to Sedition.

Discount, which incomprehensibly, being unique and contrary to the well presented and formulated by the convincing Prosecutor's Office, overnight, with all secrecy and discretion, incredibly became the decision of the room. Decision, adopted unanimously by relying on the aforementioned request and interpreting in a very sui generis way, that the coup by those of the *procés*, in reality, was only the result of a daydream.

Some say that the objective of the room with this decision was to seek consensus and avoid loopholes where they could get their hands on a sentence with disparity votes by higher or international authorities; I do not believe it. I am more inclined to a transfer, seeking the satisfaction of the government and those sentenced who will soon see the doors open to a third grade around Christmas. The change achieved in the qualification and the corresponding penalties, applied in its minimum expression, is substantial. Despite this, and I don't know if it was due to real disagreement, putting on the *paripé* or due to the demands of the guide; As soon as the sentence was known, the puppies rushed to the barricades in Catalonia and following their planned plan, they set up the mess at will.

I am fully convinced that for many more millions that could be offered to clean up their disastrous and wasteful regional administration and improve, if possible, their already unbalanced infrastructure works, nothing would be achieved. They have exhausted this route from using it so much, they are no longer interested; they opt for other things much more important to their interests; the right of self-determination and the vindication of the sovereignty of the people of Catalonia to decide their political future, as was seen in the measure adopted unanimously by the separatist tripartite last day 22 by the Parliament table²⁷. Aspirations, which have once again caught the central government out of place and out of foresight. Only on the 12th in the circles of the royal reception on Hispanic Day, President Sánchez assured, under sarcastic smiles, that everything was under control and that thanks to his government action and the sentence -coincidentally conveniently leaked on the day before, in order to make sediment- no shocks or any kind of insurrection were to be expected.

Torra continues in her thirteen, she is not intimidated or corrects; many think that as the last of the mohicans he is willing to die and he prefers to do it by killing. Others, that he counts for no one and will soon be sacked. Meanwhile, this government remains handcuffed, looking the other way and waiting for things to sort themselves

²⁷https://www.abc.es/espana/catalunya/politica/abci-tripartito-independentista-catalan-pacta-resolucion-para-seguir-disobeying-leyes-201910221145_noticia.html

out on their own or due to the internal breakdown of the nationalist coalition. His trump card of repeating the elections -in the hope of being able to count on the support of the separatists and philo-terrorists whom he seeks and supports in their communities and municipalities to continue longer in Moncloa- could cost him, the PSOE and all Spaniards of good condition.

At the moment, his last cartridge, unearthing and moving Franco's remains -failing to fulfill his promises to do it in a familiar, intimate act, almost at night and without much publicity- after more than a year twisting and approving unclear Laws and adapting them as many times have been precise to counteract the maneuvers of the family to keep him in his grave, once again he has had to resort to the same Superior Court, to give him a juridical-legal stamp. Despite this, I don't think he was of much use to him because the acts of transfer and re-burial had been announced for so long that both were more than discounted. In addition, they have concurred with two events, one planned and another that has caught them unprepared.

With his idea of covering up clear and certain harmful effects, he calculated to unearth it the day the active population survey (EPA) for the last quarter was known; data that was expected to be unconvincing, but the reality of it has been even more forceful. And because of the skinny donkey, the day coincided with the publication, in a national newspaper, of the devastating criticism adopted by the National High Court on a notorious recusal of the famous magistrate José Ricardo De Prada. Criticism, which concludes that the assessments that said judge made in his day on box B of the PP in the famous Gürtel sentence "destroy the necessary appearance of impartiality that every member of a court of Justice must have." In short, his assessments and appraisals were totally inadequate, they constitute parallel judgments,

The fact would not be important if it did not happen that, it was precisely these assessments, which served Sánchez to base his motion of censure, kick Rajoy out and occupy the presidency of the government²⁸. Any normal person in his place, in view of this and who, as he appears, both believes and approves of the decisions of the courts, would have already or justified his position, apologized or resigned from him. Not a word, you miserable cowardly chiton.

The world and also Spain, of course, are in frank boiling; with many big and serious problems on the horizon and without strong or bragados aspiring to take the bull by the horns and skillfully lead us towards salvation. Ours, I am very afraid, is beginning to be too serious and may become the prelude to something worse to come. Of course, nothing good I augur; There is no time or big tricks up the sleeve for an effective and powerful reaction.

With these pints and oxen we are facing, in a little more than fifteen days, an uncertain electoral process, where anything can happen because absolute majorities are not expected or by chance; the parties are very divided and it will be difficult to count on the Catalans unless they are offered independence and impunity; each one goes their own way and there are no strong coalitions in sight to create the sufficient and strong majorities that we need to sustain and strengthen our economy, face new and great challenges - internal and external - and take the structural measures to correct our worrying trend to deceleration, at least. Measures, which we all know, the government wants to hide from us and that are already marked and impatiently demanded by our colleagues in the Union.

²⁸<https://www.elmundo.es/espana/2019/10/24/5db08778fc6c83d3708b4579.html>

COTECMAR the Colombian shipyard

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



This is the design of the OPV-93C, developed from the know-how acquired with the OPV-80

To exercise its sovereignty over seas and rivers, Colombia depended for decades on boats and ships built in other countries. The main vessels used to be donations or transfers of second-hand vessels of American origin. These ships required constant repowering and modernization of their combat, propulsion, navigation systems, etc. Which was quite costly for the country. With the aggravating circumstance that they were units designed to operate in other operational contexts.

For the year 2000, the Ministry of Defense and the National Navy of Colombia decided to create their own shipyard, which they called the Science and Technology Corporation for the Development of the Naval, Maritime and River Industry, COTECMAR. From the beginning, its strategic objective was to build all the vessels that Colombia needed to guarantee its security and sovereignty. But, in addition, offering products and services for the private sector, such as, for example, maintenance of merchant ships, oil platforms, tugboat manufacturing, and service vessels, among others.

In this line, COTECMAR began the manufacture of river mother ships. Which are basically armored and armed military vessels, designed to navigate Colombian rivers providing support to the River Combat Elements. They provide logistical support and fire support to the Marine Infantry units that operate light artillery boats of the Piraña, Eel and Guardian types.

Of these mother ships, called Fluvial Support Patrollers - PAF, three generations were built, each

much more advanced than the previous one. The third generation, equipped with Pump Jet type propellers, which allow it to eliminate the rudders, preventing the shallow draft of rivers or floating debris from damaging the propellers. In addition, they have better electronics, angled armor, a heliport, and remote-controlled weapon stations, among other sophistications.

Eventually and taking into account the experience with the PAF, a light version was developed, which was called PAF-L, therefore, the previous ones were reclassified as PAF-P (for heavy), these units have access to rivers of very little depth, which are like this permanently or because their flow decreases in summer.

COTECMAR also thought of improving the protection of the crews of the artillery boats, and for this it developed the so-called Rio Patrol Boats, or LPR. They have a design that allows the crew not to be exposed, but the marines go inside protected from enemy rifle fire and the weather. Little by little, more units have been incorporated, some were even sold to the Marinha do Brasil.

Until now, among the excellent products manufactured by COTECMAR, the "jewel in the crown" are the OPV vessels, not only because of their size, but also because of the level of sophistication they involve. The transfer of technology that the Colombian shipyard has received has been of the highest level, and all this contributes to its qualification, in order to comply with the projected process of design and construction of the so-called

Strategic Surface Platforms, PES. Which are the frigate-type combat units that will replace the current FS-1500 and that will be Colombian-made.

At its plant located in Mamonal, south of the city of Cartagena, COTECMAR is capable of performing major maintenance on the main ships and submarines of the National Navy. Previously, these works had to be carried out abroad at high costs for the country. Now it has advanced to the point where we are manufacturing Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), and other smaller vessels, with which we are complementing or replacing older units, approaching levels of self-sufficiency that we had not known before. All in compliance with the Plan 2030 of the National Navy that traces its strategic route, and that contemplates the "Orión", "Puente" and "Faro" plans. As already mentioned, we are on the way to build our main combat ships, the Strategic Surface Platforms (PES), in Colombia.

In its development process, three hangars have been built at COTECMAR, one for the construction of ships of up to 3,600 tons, another for the maintenance of submarines, and a third for cutting up to 4,000 tons of steel per year. Due to its turnover, this company, attached to the Social and Business Group for Defense - GSED, is among the 500 largest companies in Colombia.

The company has a multidisciplinary team of engineers, as well as professionals and technicians in different areas of knowledge who, as a whole, are highly qualified to contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives of both COTECMAR and the National Navy. With these material resources and its human talent, COTECMAR offers design and construction services for ships and naval artifacts, certified under the most demanding quality standards. Including constructions in fiberglass and composite materials. In the area of repairs, the company has two

shipyards and a technical services department in the city of Cartagena, located in the Caribbean Sea and close to the Panama Canal, among its capabilities it covers dock, afloat, and industrial repairs. , covering a fairly wide range of services for all types of vessels up to 3,600 tons of displacement. Including propulsion systems, electrical systems, automatic control, valves, pipes, hydraulic systems, paints and coatings, among others.

COTECMAR is a non-profit science and technology corporation, with the legal nature of an indirect decentralized entity, linked to the Ministry of National Defense, with a legal regime of private law and its own budget. It has 3 technological partners through which it develops applied research, always with an innovative spirit. These partners are: The National University, the University of the North, and the Technological University of Bolívar.

Being a non-profit entity, the financial surpluses from its industrial and commercial activities are reinvested in science and technology projects, which contribute to the development of the naval, maritime and river industry. For this, it has a Science and Technology Department, which leads the various research and development projects in which the Corporation is involved, integrating the efforts of each of the partners mentioned above.

Among the projects in which COTECMAR works, we can mention the comprehensive management of marine corrosion, research and development of materials for shipbuilding, research and development in ship design and engineering. In addition to its own resources, to finance these projects, it has received resources from other entities, including COLCIENCIAS, which is the Colombian state institution responsible for promoting science and technology.

Image Source: Cotecmar

Douglas Hernandez

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Al-Baghdadi, the opportune dead

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, during his last public appearance, in April 2019

With a great sense of opportunity, the leader and founder of Daesh, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi or Caliph Ibrahim, has died at the hands of a group of US special forces, as reported on Sunday, October 27, by President American Donald Trump, after announcing it via twitter on Saturday the 26th at 9:23 p.m.: "Something very big has just happened!"

This death is the best oxygen for President Trump, surrounded by espionage vaudeville in Ukraine, which once again puts him within range of impeachment; the strong criticism he is enduring for having betrayed the Kurds in Syria, leaving them in the hands of an anxious Recep Erdogan, the president of Turkey who, after the US withdrawal, set out to annihilate them, something that would have been possible if the president had not mediated Russian Vladimir Putin, who at the summit last Monday, October 22, in the city of Sochi, together with his foreign minister Sergei Lavrov, built a silver bridge tailored to Erdogan, avoiding, once again, a massacre in Syria, and confirms Russia as an essential player in the politics of the region.

Trump tries to turn al-Baghdadi's head into a "nice" electoral souvenir to offer to the American people who, in November 2020, will have to decide whether to send the ruddy businessman home or confirm him in a new term. The president without any shame in the

cumbersome announcement of this assassination said that al-Baghdadi was: "the greatest criminal that exists" and did not hesitate to describe the operation as the greatest anti-terrorist feat of the United States, surpassing "Operation Spear of Neptune", which apparently would have located and assassinated the founder and leader of al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden, developed by an elite unit of the Navy Seals, on May 1, 2011, in Abbottabad, a little more than a hundred kilometers from Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan.

Al-Baghdadi, would have been surprised by a group of US special forces, in one of his safe houses, near the village of Barisha, in the province of Idlib, in northwestern Syria, five kilometers from the Syrian border. Turkey is one of the few areas not yet under the control of President Bashar al-Assad.

Trump explained that in a two-hour operation that he described as: "a dangerous and audacious raid, fulfilling its mission in great style", also calling it "flawless" carried out during the night of Saturday. Al-Baghdadi, 48, was caught trying to reach a tunnel, according to Trump: "as he moaned, cried and screamed" until he detonated the explosive vest he was wearing, also killing three of his children. . Trump gloated, explaining that "he died like a dog, he died like a coward. The world is now a much safer place."

The "Mueller" operation, by Kayla Muller, a 26-year-old humanitarian worker who died in captivity in 2015, after being kidnapped by Daesh militiamen, tortured and raped by the Caliph, began with the arrival of eight helicopters that with the permission of President Vladimir Putin, they used Russian-controlled airspace, while Kurdish fighters provided intelligence on the scene.

The helicopters arrived at the building where al-Baghdadi was taking refuge, along with his family and several of his assistants, including his spokesman Abu al-Hassan al-Muhajir. While it was "cleaned" of booby traps and mujahideen, who tried to resist the American commandos, eleven children were found, who were rescued alive, al-Baghdadi, along with his children, were the last to die after the American assault.

Once again, as happened with his "colleague" Osama bin Laden, the identification tests of the remains found in the tunnel were positive, so it is ensured that it was indeed the Caliph.

Everything was precipitated more than a month ago, when Iraqi intelligence agents, involved in the search for al-Baghdadi, obtained information that the two wives of Jumah and Ahmad, brothers of the Daesh leader, along with other relatives, had abandoned Iraq, heading for Syria, information that was immediately forwarded to the CIA.

The death of al-Baghdadi will be used by Trump as one of the most important successes of his administration, and as an argument against criticism from both Republicans and Democrats for the spasmodic international policies in the fight against the terrorism it is carrying out in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Africa.

goodbye to an old friend

Like Osama bin Laden, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been suspected of being, at least, a functional agent of the United States, even in the days of his irruption in the media, photos of al-Baghdadi in meetings with Republican Senator John McCain.

After breaking with al-Qaeda, in Syria, and resisting during the first six months of 2014, to a siege in the Iraqi city of Falluja, from where he was able to escape to Mosul, becoming the deadliest terrorist group in history, expanding his actions to Europe, the United States and incorporating militias from Nigeria to the Philippines, and competing in Afghanistan with none other than the Taliban.

Therefore, the disappearance of al-Baghdadi will not bring about the pacification of the regions where he operates, and as has already happened three

times with the Taliban and once with al-Qaeda, these organizations that know perfectly well the danger counted on their high-ranking controls, the hierarchical scale is well organized and if there is no internal clash, the structure will not suffer beyond the symbolic the disappearance of its leader.

The "heirs" are almost always much more lethal than the original chiefs, since they need to demonstrate audacity and courage to their organizations, giving blows to more spectacular ones, to earn the respect not only of their men, but also of others. other bosses and also from their enemies.

The death of the Caliph has already been announced at least five times since December 2016, although this is the version with more force and detail. According to some presumptions, the dead man would not be al-Baghdadi again, but Abu Mohammad Salama, the leader of Haras al-Din, a subgroup that answers to al-Qaeda. Other versions indicate that al-Baghdadi's successor had already been named, and it would be Abdullah Qardash, alias Hajji Abdullah al-Afari, an Iraqi, former officer in Saddam Hussein's army. Qardash, in August, had been designated by al-Baghdadi as in charge of "Muslim affairs", and seems to meet the necessary conditions from the religious point of view to be appointed Caliph, the first is to descend from the Quraysh tribe, to the that belonged to the Prophet Mohammed and the other to know deeply the Islamic jurisprudence.

With Washington's withdrawal from Syria and the Turkish invasion of Kurdish/Syrian regions, the chances have grown that Daesh and a dozen smaller organizations, along with al-Qaeda militiamen in Syria, could regroup into a single organization. to relaunch operations against Syrian targets, which would generate, according to US estimates, a force of 35,000 men.

For his part, the head of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, to whom al-Baghdadi rebelled in 2013, and with whom he has since had countless ideological confrontations and on more than one armed occasion, could be seeing the possibility of a reunify the global takfirist movement and relaunch the war in Syria.

President Trump in his message on Sunday also reported that very sensitive information had been found in al-Baghdadi's bunker, such as future plans, supply networks, training camps, not only in Syria, but in many other places where the organization operates. In addition, the coordinates to locate other leaders could be found, which would represent a mortal blow to the terrorist organization and would give Trump the opportunity to demonstrate his ability in a field as sensitive as security.

Although for these days all the security services of the places where Daesh operates, including Europe, will have to be more vigilant, since they will undoubtedly try to avenge their leader, a timely death.

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CHAD

Armed forces

The Republic of Chad (République du Tchad) is a landlocked Central African nation bounded to the north by Libya, to the south by the Central African Republic, to the east by Sudan, to the west by Niger, and to the southeast by Nigeria and Cameroon. Chad has an area of 1,284,000 km² and a population estimated at 11,000,000 inhabitants, the capital of this country is N'Djamena.



It is a presidential republic, which became independent from France in 1960, has a very low level of development, there at least 3/4 of the population subsists on agriculture. The main export product is cotton. Although important oil deposits have recently been discovered that would allow the country to alleviate its situation of extreme poverty, but at the same time they are being a source of conflict.

The Chadian Armed Forces are made up of the Army (Armée de Terre, AdT), the Chadian Air Force (AAT), the National Gendarmerie, and the Chadian National and Nomadic Guard (GNNT).

For several years the Armed Forces have been involved in the fight against insurgent groups on various fronts. Below is a list of the main equipment in use by the Chadian Armed Forces.

Chadian Army

It was created in 1960 after independence from France. The army has about 29,000 troops. He actively participated in the wars between Libya and Chad in 1978 and 1987 and also in the civil war since 2005.

Chadian Army Armored Vehicles

- 40 T-55 tanks.
- 5 EE-9 Cascavel armored fighting vehicles.
- 4 ERC 90 Sagaie armored fighting vehicles.
- 265 BMP-1 infantry fighting vehicles.
- 95 Panhard AML-60/90 scout vehicles.
- 10 BRDM-2 scout vehicles.

- 9 Cadillac Gage LAV V-150 Commando scout vehicles.
- 37 RAM-2000 troop carriers.
- 24 BTR-80UM armored personnel carriers.
- 10 Panhard M3 armored troop transports.
- 10 WZ551B armored troop transports.
- 10 ZFB05 Xinxing armored troop transports.
- 8 BTR-3U armored troop transports.
- 4 self-propelled rocket launchers BM-21 Grad.
- 10 self-propelled guns 2S1 Gvozdika.
- 6 Panhard AML-20 anti-aircraft self-propelled systems.
- 12 Mercedes-Benz L-2426 ARV recovery trucks.
- Humvee scout vehicles.

trucks

- ACMAT VLAR 2.5ton.
- M35A1 2½ ton.
- 228 Unimog.
- 43 Mercedes-Benz AFV Transporter.

Light vehicles

- 24 Land Rover 4x4.
- Sovamag.
- 400 Toyota 4x4.
- 30 M151A1 MUTT.

towed artillery

- 6 guns of 130 mm. M1954 (M-46).
- 22 guns of 122 mm. D-30 (ZA-18).
- 10 x 105mm guns. M101.
- 10 mortars of 120 mm. Brandt AM-50.

anti air artillery

- 130 MANDPAD FIM-43B Redeye anti-aircraft missile launchers.
- 30 MANDPAS FIM-92 Stinger anti-aircraft missile launchers.
- 12 SA-6 Gainful/9K12 anti-aircraft system.
- 4 SA-13 Gopher/9K35 Strela-10 anti-aircraft system.
- MANDPAS SA-7B Grail/9K32 Strela-2 anti-aircraft missile launcher.
- 30mm cannons.
- 20mm cannons.
- 16 twin 23mm ZU-23x2 cannons.
- ZPU-41\2\4 14.5mm machine guns.

anti tank weaponry

- 50 MILAN anti-tank missile launchers (400 missiles).
- BGM-71C TOW missile launcher (50 missiles).
- ERYX anti-tank missile launcher.
- APILAS rocket launcher.
- RPG-7 rocket launcher.
- M72 LAW rocket launcher.
- B-11 rocket launcher.
- M40A1C1 rocket launcher.

light armament

- Assault rifles: FAMAS, SIG SG 542, Heckler & Koch G3, FN FAL, Type 56, AKM, AK-47, M16.
- Machine guns: MAS-36, FN MAG, PK, M2HB, DShK, RPK, RPD.
- Submachine guns: MAT-49, Uzi.

Chadian Air Force (Armée de l'air Tchadienne)

Formed in 1961, the Air Force actively participated in the defense of the country during the invasion carried out by the Libyan Armed Forces in 1983. It has also supported surface forces in the internal conflicts that have affected Chad.

fighter planes

- 3 single-seat Mikoyan-Gurevich Mig-29S interceptors.
- 4 Sukhoi Su-25 attack single-seaters.

training aircraft

- 2 Sukhoi Su-25U two-seater attack and advanced trainers.
- 1 Aermacchi SF-260W basic trainer two-seater.
- 1 two-seater Pilatus PC-7 basic trainer.
- 1 two-seater Pilatus PC-9 basic trainer.

transport aircraft

- 1 Lockheed C-130H Hercules tactical transport.
- 2 Alenia C-27J tactical transports.
- 1 Antonov An-26 tactical transport.
- 5 Beech 1900D light transports.
- 1 Douglas MD-87 VIP transport.
- 1 Pilatus PC-6 Porter Utility.
- 2 Reims F337 Skymaster utility vehicles.

helicopters

- 7 Mil Mi-25 attack helicopters.
- 4 Mil Mi-17 transport helicopters.
- 6 Eurocopter AS550 Fennec utility helicopters.
- 2 Aérospatiale SA 316 Alouette III utility helicopters.

Age and obligation of military service

In Chad, the legal minimum age for Compulsory Military Service is 20 years. When the service is voluntary, the minimum age is 18 years. The service time is 3 years. Women in this country are subject to one year of Compulsory Military or Civic Service at 21 years of age.



TRIARIUS

POR UN MUNDO MÁS SEGURO, ESTABLE Y EN PAZ