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EDITORIAL

We begin this edition by wishing for the well-being of our readers around the world, and sending sincere thanks to the military, police, firefighters, and members of the civil defense, who continue to put their own health and safety at risk, in the line of duty. , but especially to doctors, nurses and paramedics, who are the front line of battle against this virus that has put humanity in check. Thanks a lot.

Our first article refers to the paradisiacal Maldives islands, which are visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, and which now register an active presence of the Daesh terrorist group, which -along with the issue of the pandemic- will undoubtedly seriously affect the political, social, and economic future of this country.

Step by step, Mauricio Javier Campos enlightens us about the problem of corruption that has plagued the Argentine Republic for decades. Without fear of being wrong, we can say that corruption is the main threat to society, particularly in developing countries. This phenomenon generates poverty, poverty favors the appearance of crime, crime generates violence, violence generates social unrest, social unrest... well, fighting corruption prevents other evils.

Guaidi Calvo takes us to Mozambique, an African country threatened by terrorism, where the security forces seem to be increasingly overwhelmed by radicals, and where the population suffers from multiple problems.

Next, General (r) Migel Ángel Rodríguez Díaz, of the Colombian Army, makes an approach to the role of the Armed Forces in the face of disasters and emergencies, and in particular in the face of the current pandemic.

Next, we find another approach to the problem of terrorism in the Maldives, from the hand of Colonel (r) Daniel Martínez, who writes to us from Uruguay.

Guadi now takes us to Libya, to give us an overview of what has been the last great offensive that has been advanced in that country.

We close this edition with a brief review of one of the OPV-type vessels with which the Colombian Navy confronts drug trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking, the depredation of natural resources and other crimes that take place in the seas.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

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TRIARIUS

The situation with the pandemic must force us to reflect on how vulnerable we are. The COVID-19 disease has manifested itself without distinction in very poor countries, and also in developed countries. No one is safe. The lifestyle we lead in the overcrowded cities of today's mostly urban world makes social distancing quite difficult to carry out. We depend on each other in an intricate network of relationships, and most of us like to share with others in different settings, which means that the isolation imposed by quarantine or curfews generates all sorts of discomfort and complications. In addition, there are millions of people with informal jobs who live off what they produce on a day-to-day basis. If they go out to work they can get sick and die, if they don't go out they will starve. Today we are becoming more aware of the social inequalities that make millions of people suffer and that are a factor that generates violence.

On the cover, **Greek Paratrooper**.
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.

Maldives Islands, on Daesh's radar

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Luxurious resorts and the presence of foreign tourists are common in the Maldives.

The appearance of fundamentalist groups in the Maldives was only a matter of time given the significant number of combatants from that country that were detected in the Syrian war, belonging to different khatibas (brigades) of Daesh and the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham group. (Organization for the Liberation of the Levant) formerly known as al-Nusrah Front, the former membership of al-Qaeda in Syria. Even Maldivian fighters have been detected in Pakistan's al-Qaeda. According to some international intelligence agencies, Maldives is the country with the most mujahideen per capita, and has contributed to extremist groups in Syria and Iraq in the world.

Last Wednesday, April 15, it was learned that Daesh carried out its first attack in the Maldives, a small archipelago, made up of 1,200 islands and islets, located 450 kilometers southeast of India in the Arabian Indian Sea, with 345,000 inhabitants, overwhelmingly Sunni Muslims, according to the official publication of the al-Naba terrorist group.

Although the operation only caused material damage, since four speedboats, a maritime ambulance and two boats were destroyed, moored on the Mahibadhoo island, in the Alif Dhaal atoll, belonging to the "apostate Maldives" government, according to the publication of al -Naba, leaving neither dead nor wounded. On March 22, another police boat was intentionally destroyed in the port of Gan, in the Laamu atoll, but on that occasion no

extremist organization took responsibility for the event.

Although the attack did not have major consequences, it makes it very clear that the takfirists are already installed in the archipelago, so new actions could surely be expected.

For the local media and the authorities of the city of Malé, the country's capital, the intentionally set fire to the boats is an action against the authorities for an investigation into drug trafficking and religious extremism.

This first formal action by Daesh, which required a certain structure, could have a precedent, not very clear, in an attack against two Chinese citizens and one Australian last February, on the island of Hulhumale, when two men who were traveling on a motorcycle, attacked the three foreigners with knives. Finally, the two attackers along with another person were arrested.

At the end of last October, the Maldivian authorities arrested Mohamad Ameen, 35, whom the United States Department of the Treasury has listed as the head of a network of Daesh recruiters, who have mobilized a significant number of young people. local to Syria and Afghanistan. Ameen agents work with the facade of alleged religion classes, which they taught about ten a week, in different parts of the archipelago and mainly in Malé, where the will of possible future mujahideen was sounded out. It was

learned that the recruiters also had fluid contacts with members of small youth gangs dedicated to different types of crimes, such as retail drug sales, robbery and outbursts, several of whose members were co-opted.

Mohamad Ameen, in addition to his work as a recruiter, was accused last September by the Pentagon of being one of the leaders of the increasingly active Daesh Khorasan front, which operates in a wide swath of Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Emir Ameen, had begun to be investigated by local authorities in September 2007, suspected of being responsible for the first explosive attack recorded in the country, against the facilities of the Sultan Park, in Malé, where a dozen tourists were injured. mild. Beyond the commotion caused by being the first recorded action, it was striking that it was close to a secret base of the security force. After Wednesday's attack, the head of the investigation stated: "The recent attacks by religious extremists are an indication that the organization intends to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic to infiltrate the country, given that the maximum attention is put in control of the health situation.

Maldivian mujahideen in the wars of the caliphate

Last June, in an appeal by Maldivian Muslims to different international organizations, help was demanded for some 160 citizens of that country, detained, along with thousands of Wahhabi fighters in different Syrian prison camps, after the defeat of Daesh. This figure is still significant, if you take into account those who have been free and the possible deaths, for a country with just 345,000 inhabitants.

The Maldives islands have been, since the beginning of the different wars established by fundamentalist organizations against Muslim nations, a propitious field for the recruitment of young fighters. By mid-2014, when large demonstrations took place in Malé in favor of the newly constituted Daesh, and for the establishment of sharia (Koranic law), there were already 200 mujahideen from the archipelago who were fighting in Syria, the vast majority of them former members of the security forces, where radical Islam continues to be widely accepted. What draws the attention of the different foreign intelligence services.

In the first years of Daesh's creation, it was common to see the black flags of the organization

founded by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi just a few months earlier on the streets of the city, while the military pressured the government to allowed to wear a beard, a symbol of distinction for all fundamentalists, which the then president Abdullah Yameen (2013-2018), already very weakened by internal political issues, had to allow.

In April 2017, 29-year-old blogger Yameen Rasheed was assassinated in Malé for his preaching against Islamic fundamentalism and the local government. Rasheed, who had received numerous threats and was arrested on more than one occasion in the midst of anti-government protests, was found at three in the morning, fallen on the stairs of the building where he lived, with sixteen wounds, all stab wounds.

They concluded that, in hardening of the conservative doctrines, in contradiction of the liberal traditions of the islands, it was due to the influx of Saudi funds, which paid imams and created madrassads and mosques, for the spread of Wahhabism, a fact that is replicated in almost the entire Muslim world and even many Western nations. Riyadh still continues to influence the internal politics of the archipelago. In 2018, the Maldives received a \$160 million donation from the governments of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (USA) for development projects, including the construction of an airport and the expansion of its fishing industry.

If a terrorist presence were to settle in the archipelago, it would be a devastating blow for the country, whose most important source of income is tourism of a very high economic level, which is estimated at just over a million visitors a year, given the quality of its beaches, which would be added to the restrictions that the world is going to have once Covid-19 is over, where tourism, fundamentally, will be the sector, which is going to be the last to be restored, so they await the Maldives, two or three years of strong economic distress.

It is still early to establish whether the attack on Wednesday the 15th represents the establishment of a new attempt by the Caliphate to establish a beachhead, and if so, if it were possible to sustain it, as it has already achieved in Mozambique, the last front opened by terrorists, which, since mid-2018, starting with small actions, has now become a spectral reality for the punished African country. Whether it can be installed or they manage to deactivate it, one thing is very specific, the Daesh central command has put the Republic of Maldives under its radar.

Image Source:

https://www.hispanidad.com/uploads/s1/27/84/47/islas-maldivas-mas-parece-un-resort-que-un-pais_1_640x384.jpeg

Guadi Calvo

(Argentina) Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia.

Here could be the advertising of your company.
Thousands of people would be watching it now.

Homeland, corruption and crack

By Mauricio Javier Campos (Argentina)



City of Buenos Aires, capital of the Argentine Republic

Historical sketch

Corruption in Argentina is historical and recurrent. But it is not an exclusive situation of our country, it concerns the region and the world. It responds to cultural and idiosyncratic causes, to the accumulation of power and to the political system. The connivance of the latter with the current networks of private corporations, added to the globalization process of recent decades, have **accentuated its transnational character**.

Since colonial times in the 16th century, when the Spanish Crown ordered the closure of ports to foreign trade and smuggling proliferated, corruption has parasitized social and government structures, whether through bribery, drug trafficking, influences or illicit enrichment, among other modalities.

As an example, it is enough to cite the wars for independence in the 19th century, which left large profits for those who interceded in the sale of arms and ships for the new government in the making; the loan for public works requested in 1822 from the English bank, which began the path of **indebtedness and foreign economic dependence**, damaging Rivadavia's reputation and, already in the 1880s, financial speculation and fraudulent loans to influential

politicians, that led to the financial crisis of 1890 and caused the resignation of President Juárez Celman. Those were the years of electoral fraud, which Sáenz Peña tried to solve with the secret and compulsory voting law of 1912.

In the middle of the 20th century, Senator Lisandro de la Torre denounced the negotiations derived from the Roca-Runciman pact between the British refrigerators that aspired to a monopoly and the officials of the Argentine government, and the Buenos Aires Deliberative Council extended, after payment of bribes, the concession of electrical services to certain companies. It was the time of the Infamous Decade (1931-1943), where electoral fraud and political violence were repeated and it was exposed how **corruption undermines and destroys republican values and practices, the division of powers, the administration of justice and the system electoral**.

With the fall of the myth of the agro-exporting country and with the arrival of Perón to power (1946-1955), **state intervention increased** to the detriment of groups opposed to the government, which had an **exhaustive control over the media and exercised its own propaganda**, experience acquired by Perón in his time as a military attache in pre-war European countries.

In this period, the creation of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, labor unionization, the redistribution of wealth among the most dispossessed sectors, the empowerment of women and their political rights, the industrialization and nationalization of the economy and a foreign policy stand out. not aligned with the hegemonic powers.

But this increase in the public apparatus, a historical turning point, gave rise in the following years to the **bid between various sectors, lobbyists and interest groups in order to get a slice of the State**. The situation became increasingly complex with the policies implemented by Frondizi in 1958 and the successive currency devaluations.

From 1971 dates the installation under monopolistic conditions of the Aluar aluminum plant, achieved with state aid through bribes, and the social works law that benefited the unions, granting greater financing, influence and power to the leadership, in order to contain social conflicts.

The military dictatorship established in 1976 aggravated external indebtedness and constituted another key turning point, since it **avored the businessmen of the so-called "contractor country"** linked to the State. They were the ones who appropriated the state companies once the privatizations began in the Carlos Menem period (1989-1999), and even before, with the case of Papel Prensa, a paper factory acquired by a couple of monopolistic graphic media in complicity with the Military Junta in government, supposedly from a fraudulent purchase. Several of the members of the former owner family were kidnapped, tortured or died under suspicious circumstances.

It was in this period (1976-1989) that the ideas supported by the "Washington Consensus" were developed, a theory by which **only the business class can generate authentic wealth**. He argues that **excessive state intervention is the source of corruption and conflict**.

Menem was inextricably linked to various scandals and for some of them he was sentenced. Together with his inner circle, he will be involved in the case of the bribes requested from the American refrigerator Swift (1990), in the cover-up of the attack on the Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (1994), and in arms trafficking. Also noteworthy are the dark ties woven with the government by the businessman-mafioso Alfredo Yabrán, mastermind of the murder of photojournalist José Luis Cabezas. And, of course, the **interference in the Supreme Court of Justice**. A spirit of the times that will be reflected in the book "Theft for the Crown", by Verbitsky.

The role of the **media and its influence on public opinion** was undermined by the prosecution of the journalist and former Menem intelligence chief, Juan Bautista Yofre, for joining an illicit association, revealing and profiting from confidential information of a political nature, social, military and economic, obtained through espionage with technology of state origin.

De la Rúa (1999-2001), also saw his short term in office marred by corruption. His vice president soon resigned in the face of the bribery scandal in the National Senate for the approval of the new labor reform law and, in the end, the president himself had to leave power early and was prosecuted for various reasons, including repression and death of civilians in the social outbreak caused by the economic crisis of 2001, another turning point in Argentine history.

The balance of these years can be summarized in what is maintained by the OAS consultant, Rubén Perina (2019), who maintains that **impunity is extraordinary and reaches 90% of the corruption cases that reach justice**. It is also worth mentioning the devastating effects it had on the different sectors of the country: social precariousness, tension and discomfort in the population, lack of opportunities, worsening of working conditions; loss of institutional credibility and governance; loss of competitiveness, disinvestment and economic stagnation, inequality in the distribution of wealth, inequality in the distribution of public resources and loss of growth.

There were monopolies, nepotism, a judiciary without autonomy, and uninformed public opinion.

Last years (2003-2019)

After the crisis of 2001, there was a **destruction of social identity** propitiated through the phenomenon of "**the crack**", of a political, cultural, economic and judicial nature, and that confronts two clearly defined models: that of the present State, interventionist and regulator and that of the minimal and liberal State, which promotes private action. A process that started from the Kirchner period (2003-2015) and that intensified during the Macri mandate (2015-2019).

For the historian Luis Alberto Romero (2018), the Kirchner apparatus was organized into a government that came to plunder the State and therefore constitutes a "**kleptocracy**".

The complaints and files opened for alleged acts of corruption include bribery in relation to real estate deals, illicit enrichment and falsification of public documents. The most widespread cases are linked to the contracting of public works and transportation (construction and infrastructure), as well as to the energy and hydrocarbon sectors. Other crimes identified in the so-called "K Money Route" are: money laundering, tax evasion and fraudulent maneuvers from an extensive client network.

The opposite model promoted by Macri fared no better. From the beginning of his government, a **culture of opacity prevailed** with the support of the hegemonic media where advertising plays an essential role. The economic mistakes are reflected in external indebtedness, disinvestment, the loss of the State's collection capacity and the growing inflationary process, as well as the deepening of the gap between the less wealthy classes and the elites.

There are several cases of possible corruption that point to Macri and his entourage, among others, the

Panama Papers scandal and the numerous offshore accounts in tax havens, the link between his former intelligence chief and the Odebrecht construction company, and the payment of bribes. , the debt of the Argentine Mail owned by his family and the attempt to empty the company; money laundering linked to HSBC Bank transactions, irregularities in Customs and in the Anti-Corruption Office; the conflicts of interest of CEOs turned into officials (Shell, energy companies, banks); the concession of air routes and tolls or the controversial money laundering among which family members are included.

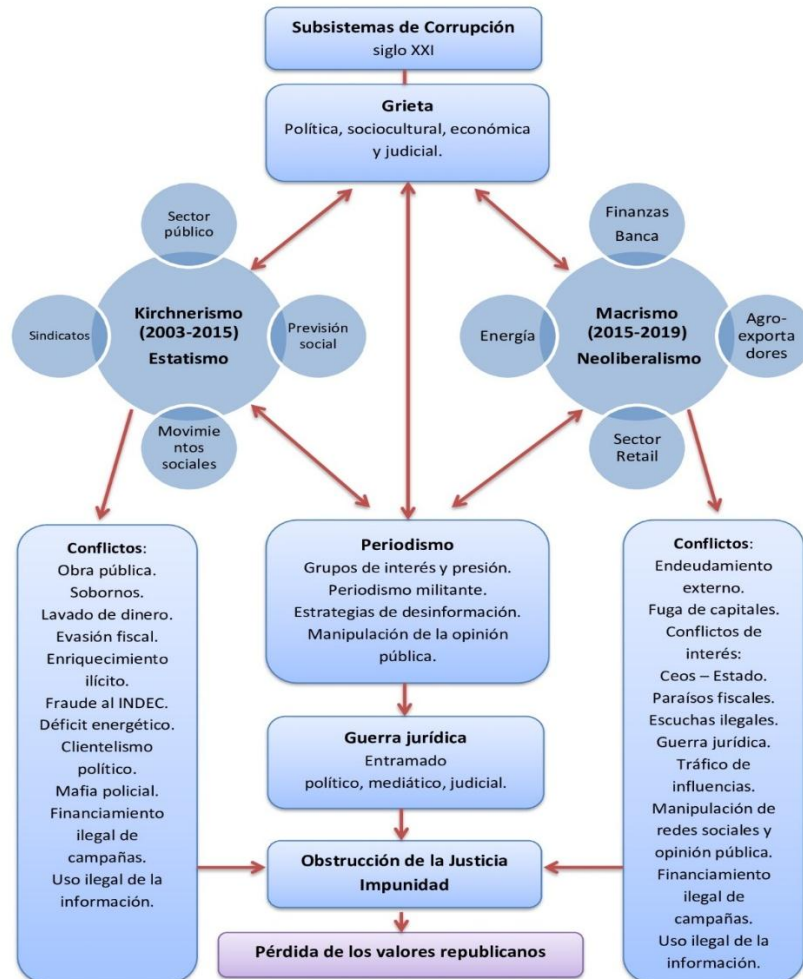
Added to this list is the questionable illegal financing of electoral campaigns, influence peddling and judicial operations called "**lawfare**" or legal warfare, as well as the persistent leak of illegal wiretapping.

After the crack

After all of the above, consequences emerge that are verifiable with the naked eye and that, for now,

have continuity over time. The most important ones are:

- A **social precariousness** in all its aspects, which was channeled into protests and massive marches of various kinds.
- The **loss of political and institutional credibility**, which entails incivility, anomie and little citizen participation in bodies with regulatory capacity.
- The persistence of a **media and quasi-monopoly power** that aims to manipulate public opinion, favored by new communication technologies.
- The existence of a **police mafia** linked to the growing organized crime, with widespread networks and involving various actors, including the violent "barras bravas" of football.
- A **very discredited Justice**.



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Graphic: Subsystems of corruption in the 21st century. Argentina 2003-2019. Scheme drawn up by the author.

Image Source:

<https://cdn.blueswandaily.com//2019/04/BuenosAires-1815x1200.jpg>

Mauricio Javier Campos

(Argentina). 25 years of experience in the private and corporate sphere working for six Security Agencies. Studies completed at the Universities Blas Pascal, Empresa Siglo 21, Maimónides, Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (through AGS/Executive Management) and the International Campus for Security and Defense of Spain (CISDE), in the areas of Private Security and Corporate, Criminalistics and Criminology, Sociology, Strategy and Terrorism. Several conferences and several books published in the area of historical and social research.



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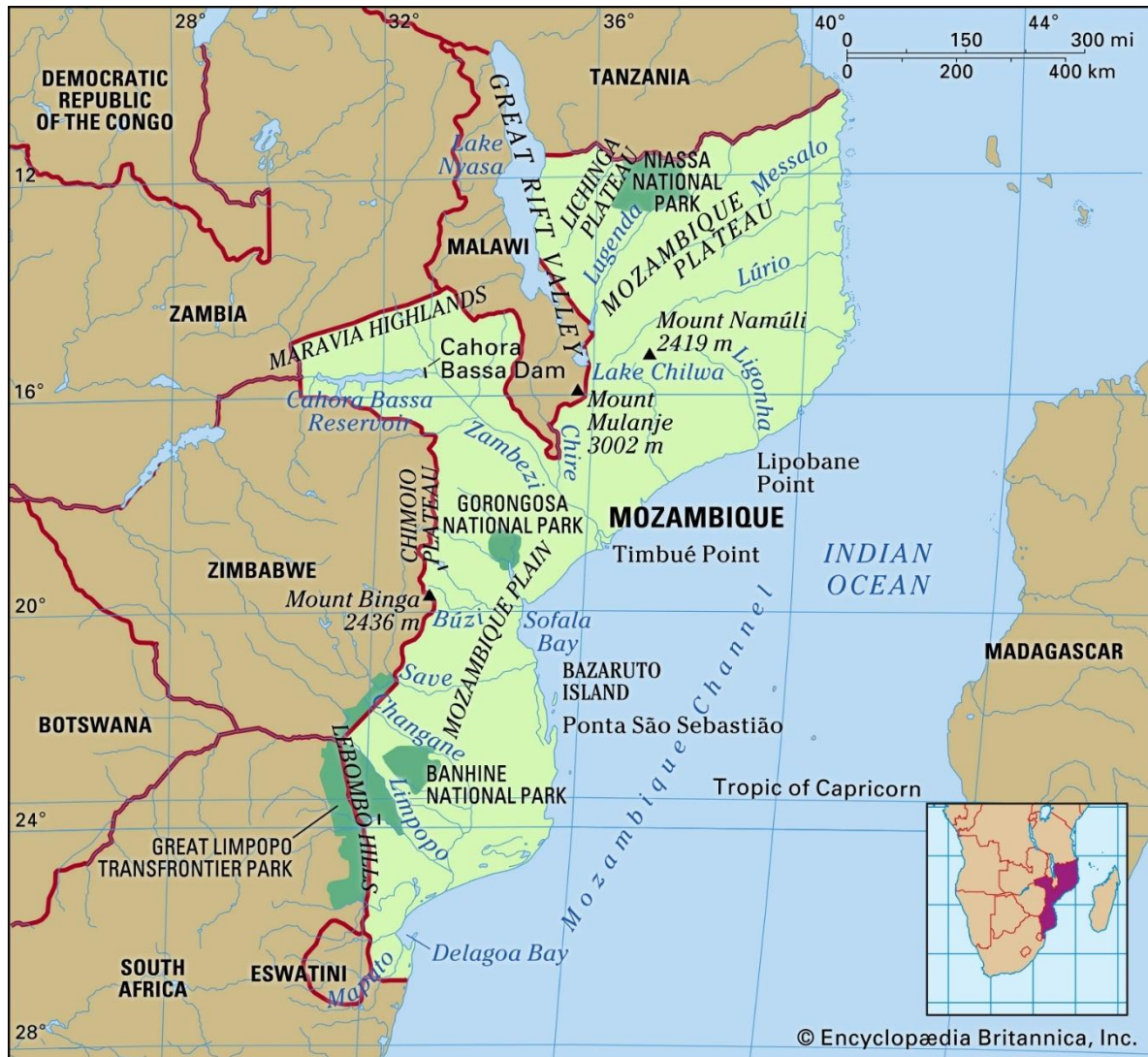
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Mozambique, under the black flags of the caliphate

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



On April 8, militiamen from the terrorist organization Wilāyat Wasat Ifriqiya or (WWI) (Islamic Province of Central Africa), affiliated with the global Daesh, which has been operating in Mozambique since 2017, murdered at least 52 people from the village of Xitaxi in the Muidumbe district of the northern province of Cabo Delgado. After having gathered the villagers and one of the leaders of the attacking group, he harangued those present, in the local Kimwane and Kiswahili dialects: "We do not want a government of non-believers, we want a government of Allah". The civilians who have managed to escape, denounced before the authorities that they had witnessed: mutilations, torture, and executions; while their houses, businesses and crops

were consumed by fire. The kidnapping and disappearance of an undetermined number of women and children have even been known.

The killings followed the refusal of the victims to join the WWI khatiba as combatants, as reported by local police. Most of the bodies had gunshot wounds, although some had been decapitated. While the militiamen looted schools, hospitals and bank facilities, they destroyed the machinery used to build a bridge near the town. By the time the Defense and Security Forces, which have intensified their operations in the province's hottest spots, arrived in Xitaxi, the terrorists had disappeared.

So far this year, the actions of the terrorists have already reached thirty, which makes the intention of

the mujahideen, who have been intensifying their actions since the middle of last year, ever more striking. It was also known that on April 9, a group of terrorists arrived at one of the islands of the Quirimbas Archipelago, seven kilometers from the coast, and launched an attack, in which five people died, one of them burned alive, another executed shot and the last three drowned, in the attempt to escape.

The presence and increase in attacks by the WWI, puts the government of President Filipe Nyusi in a position of extreme weakness, with more and more accusations of corruption, the financial crisis, now deepened by the fall in oil prices and the extreme vulnerability with which Covid-19 will have to face, which so far has not reported deaths and only 41 infected, but when the pandemic is fully attacked it can produce real massacres.

Until now, all the actions of the terrorists have taken place in the province of Cabo Delgado, one of the most historically forgotten by successive central governments, despite the fact that in 2010, it was discovered off its coast, in the basin of Rovuma, on the Indian Ocean, important reserves of natural gas, which are already being exploited by various energy giants in the West and some in Asia.

The Wilāyat Wasat Ifriqiy, has caused 900 deaths in the last two years, and according to figures from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), close to one hundred thousand displaced persons, although for the Catholic Archbishop of Pemba, the provincial capital, the Portuguese, Dom Luiz Fernando, the figure would be practically double.

Those displaced after the actions of the Wahhabis do not have any official support, and have had to take refuge in the homes of friends and relatives, mainly in Pemba.

The violence has spread to nine of the 16 districts of the province and increasingly haunts the southern areas of Cabo Delgado, threatening provinces such as Nampula, Niassa or Zambezia and causing these displacements, which force them to leave and properties, crops and animals.

The taking over of towns is happening more and more frequently and with practically the same methodology in the face of the ineptitude of the Defense and Security Forces, who shy away from combat, since they are poorly trained, poorly equipped, practically without pay, and without logistical support prefer to defect.

While the mujahideen are in a position to take important cities such as Mocimboa da Praia, with almost 30,000 inhabitants, and Quissanga, with nearly 43,000, where they looted public buildings, commercial establishments and defiantly display the

black flags with Arabic inscriptions of the caliphate, while keeping nearby routes blocked. On many occasions, the terrorists announce in which village the attack will take place, which causes its inhabitants to a state of general panic, fleeing precipitously from their homes, without time to carry, documentation, money and food, which allows them to travel through exile. to which they are forced.

The United Nations, together with the Mozambican government, have established a collaboration to provide better care to refugees, who in many cases must live in the open, in areas where they lack drinking water, sanitary facilities and medical services. Registering on the island of Matemo, already six deaths from digestive infections. What made UNHCR ask for urgent support, to meet the needs of the population established in makeshift camps. While the World Food Program (WFP) is preparing to provide assistance to some 90,000 in different locations in the province affected by the Takfirist violence. At the same time that the European Union, submerged in the pandemic crisis, only this week announced some type of collaboration with Maputo.

When the presence of the terrorists in Mozambique became known in October 2017, they were mistakenly called al-Shabaab, due to their similarity to the Somali fundamentalist group, although their links are few, since Somalis register with al-Shabaab. Qaeda and Mozambicans respond to Daesh.

The origin of evil

The northern sector of Mozambique began to be Islamized from the 9th century, but it was only in early 2010 that a radical, non-violent religious group emerged, founded at the return of some militants, who had studied in madrassas in Tanzania, Kenya and Somalia, which had come into contact with Wahhabi ideas, after linking up with sheikhs from Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the Persian Gulf monarchies, and where they came across the indoctrination videos of the Kenyan preacher Aboud Rogo, assassinated in 2012, who spoke of the world conspiracy against Muslims while calling for a return to "purer" Islam, Rogo is also responsible for giving a philosophical foundation to the Somali terrorist group al-Shabab.

This original group installed in the north of Mozambican, had about fifty members, managing to sustain itself thanks to the economic support of Tanzanian merchants, dedicated to the illegal traffic of wood, rubies, coal or ivory. The increase in their links with other similar organizations in neighboring countries allowed them to displace the moderate

imams treated as takfires (infidels). To attract more faithful, they obtained financing to be able to offer microcredits to small merchants and farmers in the area, which also attracted the attention of marginalized youth who saw in fundamentalist Islam an opportunity to challenge the authorities, to build a new order.

At the end of 2015, some training camps were built, hidden in the thick forests, where it is believed that veterans from Syria and Iraq, and especially Tanzanians, began to form these forces that are estimated at about 2,000 men.

While according to an investigation carried out by the Center for Strategic and International Studies of the Joaquim Chissano University of Maputo, which concluded that the Defense and Security Forces are neither prepared nor committed to face the challenge of the armed organizations that operate in the north of the country, with the attacks against Quissanga and Mocímboa da Praia as the focus of the investigation, emphasizing the fact that: "A barracks the size of those invaded was not able to contain the advance of the enemy, in addition to lacking information about the

attack and with a completely inoperable defense device."

The lack of confidence in the country's armed forces led President Nyusi to hire last year the Russian security company (mercenaries), Wagner, which would have suffered significant losses throughout this year, for which Maputo it is replacing those already in the country with South African mercenaries.

The closure of the true situation in the province of Cabo Delgado, has made journalists victims of government persecution, recently the disappearance in Cabo Delgado of the journalist Ibraimo Abu Mbaruco, of the Community Radio of Palma, in Cabo Delgado, has been denounced, whose disappearance occurred during the night of last April 7 and that the authorities deny having held. While the journalists Amade Abubacar and Germano Adriano were detained and beaten for four months, accused of violating state secrets and inciting disorder, in a country that seems ever closer to falling under the black flags of the caliphate.

Image Source:

<https://cdn.britannica.com/40/4240-050-605C3A53/features-Mozambique.jpg>



fuerzasmilitares.org
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The role of the Armed Forces and the National Police in dealing with disasters. Challenges and challenges facing COVID 19

By Miguel Angel Rodriguez Diaz (Colombia)



Soldiers of the Colombian National Army, equipped with biosecurity elements, guard the border region in the south of the country.

Natural disasters are a current issue, and they are occurring with greater frequency and intensity. To face this fact, throughout history, countries have instituted a set of preventive, relief, care and recovery actions aimed at avoiding disasters and minimizing their impact on the population, as well as restoring social normality. That set of measures is generally called Civil Protection or Emergency Management.

Thus, the insertion of military power in natural disasters occurs as a last resort, in cases that exceed the local capacity to deal with the situation, for the urgent provision of relief of a diverse nature with the objective of protecting, sheltering and offering well-being to the victimized populations. This military action intended to fulfill this type of mission is commonly called Humanitarian Aid Operation or Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Assistance (HADR).

Having this concept clear, it is important for the author to define what a disaster is according to the WHO:

"It is defined as unforeseen situations that represent serious and immediate threats to public health or any public health situation that endangers

the life or health of a significant number of people and requires immediate action."

Accepting this definition, it is also opportune to remember the mission of the Military Forces and in this case I speak of the Republic of Colombia, whose mission is imposed and consigned in the Political Constitution as in other countries, as follows:

CPC. Article 217: expands that the constitutional mission of the Military Forces is the defense of sovereignty, independence, the integrity of the national territory and the constitutional order.

With respect to this definition, we can then affirm that our country has Military Forces with a civilian spirit and attached to the Constitution, an institutional principle that deserves full recognition by Colombians.

"**Damascus**" doctrine that accompanies the transformation process that the Army is developing makes it clear that **the role of the military in urban spaces is developed under the concept of Defense Support to the Civil Authority**. This means that the leadership continues to be in the hands of the civil authority and that the army only complements the action of the local authorities.

The military are not going to become policemen, nor are they going to replace them. It is a matter of

recognizing that there are complementary capabilities between the two forces and transferable to urban citizen security situations that can increase their effectiveness and contribute to control actions in high-risk situations.

Undoubtedly, now that the country is on the path of transition, **the organizational and logistical experience of the Army is a strength that should be used to establish teams** that contribute to improving communication and work between the military and the police and between the public force and other state agencies. The role of the Army, far from weakening the military institution, consolidates it. The Land Force continues with its responsibilities against drug trafficking, the protection of critical infrastructure of the state and the fight against organized crime in rural, urban and border areas, to exercise territorial control without neglecting its main task of ensuring national defense. .

Rather, it is a question of clearly identifying the capacities that the military and police have in order to build strategies that articulate them. This path has yielded more convincing results to face the great security challenges that the post-agreement already shows with concern.

In this order of ideas, experiencing the uncertainty of a pandemic caused by a lethal virus such as the coronavirus or COVID-19, went from imagination to reality in a few weeks. It is inevitable to relate the actions to be taken based on health and medical measures, addressing the economic, political and social approach at the level of each country, whether it is a developed country or a precarious and emerging one.

In accordance with the above, it is important to highlight that: Colombia was one of the first countries in Latin America to announce mandatory isolation for incoming travelers, to declare a mandatory preventive quarantine at the national level and to prohibit all passenger air traffic, measures that they received support from forces across the political spectrum, which is normally highly polarized. However, these steps raised concerns in certain sectors, especially in prisons and others that are considered highly vulnerable to an epidemic, who fear a sudden interruption of their livelihoods and where there is the possibility that armed groups, including criminal groups and guerrillas, take advantage of the quarantine to consolidate your influence.

In this context, the Government has installed the High-Level Multisectoral Commission against COVID-19, and specialized committees of medical professionals to deal with the management of the health crisis caused by this national emergency. In

addition, several high-impact economic measures have been adopted, such as the suspension of non-essential productive activity; arranging a restriction on the mobilization of citizens, **in a so-called state of national emergency**, and it is there in this framework of facts, situations and challenges, where we can appreciate the vital and determined presence of the Military and Police Forces, which have assumed the great role of helping to comply with the provisions established by the Government chaired by President Duque.

That is "The Military and Police Forces become part of the response of the States to prevent, control and manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Their adequate preparation and professionalism allow them to fulfill the mission, avoiding unnecessary risks and humanitarian consequences that a situation of this type can generate."

They are institutions that have professional education and training, which play an important role in controlling internal order in this pandemic that affects more than 200 countries in the world, which has determined a new challenge in the work and this is in accordance with the framework of the functions established in the Colombian Constitution.

But here is something interesting. The performance of the Military and Police Forces in the control of internal order is facing an enormous challenge due to the lethal effects that this COVID-19 pandemic has been producing in our country and in the world; an invisible enemy of humanity, which has manifested itself with the thousands of dead and sick, and whose end as a virus is unknown.

Therefore, their dissuasive and authoritative presence is essential for compliance with the measures adopted by the State to deal with this situation."

Moreover, the exercise of this function of internal order control in a pandemic context is highlighted, we are not in an armed conflict, we are facing a serious impact on the population that causes a lethal virus, which science has not yet found. explanations of how it was formed, and the means to control its harmful effects on the health of humanity.

Another important point that we cannot overlook is that, to this extent, the actions must follow a protocol of respect for the human rights of all citizens, especially the rights to life, dignity and integrity of people. So, in the face of social disorders or behavior of citizens in the context of this pandemic, it demands that our Military and Police Forces continue to act responsibly; and, avoiding incurring in excesses that, instead of promoting an adequate control of internal order, may lead to serious damages to the rights of

citizens, and this is a variable that must be taken into account as a priority.

The military deployment aims to collaborate in support tasks, as the forces have done so far in more limited catastrophes such as (the Coffee Belt Earthquake, the Armero Catastrophe, the floods in Mocoa, among other catastrophes.).

To conclude this first part: we can affirm that: *"Because of its extension and its distribution capacity throughout the country, the Military and Police Forces are today the largest logistics agency in the country and they play a decisive role, as in the case that COVID 19 afflicts us.*

From a geopolitical point of view, our Military and Police Forces have also been decisive in enforcing the "State of Emergency" declared by the national government, and this is how the 2,219 km border with Venezuela has also been an objective. of the Colombian government's efforts to stop the virus. On March 14, President Iván Duque closed all seven official border crossings, which have since remained hermetically sealed with additional police and military support. More than 5,000 uniformed officers were also dispatched to police Colombia's many illegal border crossings, known as trochas, while hundreds of Venezuelans have been deported from across Colombia since the lockdown.

Globally, COVID-19 has also fueled geopolitical friction, with the US blaming China for the disease, while Beijing tries to win friends by offering aid to affected countries, thus exacerbating existing tensions between major powers and complicating cooperation in crisis management.

Populations in countries affected by conflict, whether at war or in the aftermath, are likely to be especially vulnerable to disease outbreaks. In many cases, war or prolonged unrest, especially when compounded by mismanagement, corruption, or foreign sanctions, have left national health systems profoundly unprepared to deal with COVID-19.

In general terms, the disease means that international leaders, focused as they are on their dramatic internal problems, have little or no time to devote to conflict or peace processes.

For example: European officials say efforts to secure a ceasefire in Libya no longer receive high-level attention. Diplomats working to avert a deadly clash in northern Yemen desperately need the time and energy of top Saudi and American officials, but report meetings with both have been canceled or scaled back.

The Kenyan president canceled a summit scheduled for March 16 with his counterparts from Ethiopia and Somalia that was aimed at calming the

growing tensions between Nairobi and Mogadishu; Kenyan officials noted the need to focus efforts to stop the potential spread of the virus.

The disease could also affect multinational peacekeeping and security assistance efforts. In early March, the UN secretariat asked a group of nine peacekeeping troop contributors, including China and Italy, to suspend some or all unit rotations to blue helmet operations due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

New limitations on rotations have been announced since then, meaning peacekeepers' tours of duty will be extended for at least three months in difficult conditions such as the Central African Republic and South Sudan, which could affect their morale and effectiveness.

While these diplomatic and operational decisions will not have an immediate impact on UN operations, a prolonged pandemic could make it difficult to find and deploy new forces and civilian personnel, wearing down missions.

Having made some notes from a geopolitical point of view, it is also important to note the imminence or presence of Risks to the social order: COVID-19 could exert great pressure on societies and political systems, creating the potential for new outbreaks of violence. In the short term, the threat of disease is likely to act as a deterrent to social unrest, as protesters will avoid mass gatherings, but will come protests, marches, walkouts, blockades, and disorder in search of food, jobs, and more. .

In broader terms, the coronavirus and how it is dealt with are likely to have a profound influence on the shape of the multilateral order that will emerge after it. It will test not only the operational capacities of organizations like the UN and the WHO, but also basic assumptions about the values and policies that underpin them.

But in any case, every crisis generates opportunities, positive changes always appear and altruism and solidarity come to the fore, as we can see in tangible events in the world: The United Arab Emirates, for example, transported more than 30 tons of humanitarian aid to Iran to face the disease.

States with closer ties to Iran, including Kuwait and Qatar, have also offered assistance.

President Trump wrote to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un expressing his willingness to help Pyongyang deal with the disease, prompting a message of thanks in response.

Colombia, despite closing its border with Venezuela, has also had its first official contact with Caracas in more than a year, under the auspices of a teleconference mediated by the Pan American Health

Organization, in order to discuss a health care response. together in border areas.

Two other examples: in the Caucasus, the US sent its first aid to the secessionist Georgian region of Abkhazia in more than a decade to help counter COVID-19, the supports from Russia to Italy, from Korea to Colombia and many plus.

What could be done to mitigate the crisis?

In this spirit, and to mitigate the possibility of COVID-19 generating a new security crisis, governments seeking to limit the impact of the pandemic could consider the following steps:

- Follow the needs assessments of the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other relevant agencies, and inject essential funds related to COVID-19 to humanitarian support, especially for refugees and displaced persons.
- Work hand in hand with the UN, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to mobilize funds and address health system failures and economic disruptions in the wake of COVID-19.
- temporarily lift sanctions on those States affected by COVID-19, either through multilateral frameworks such as the EU or the UN, or through the suspension of unilateral sanctions, as appropriate, for humanitarian reasons, and remove any obstacles to the delivery of humanitarian aid;

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to be long and exhausting. It will complicate diplomacy, and especially crisis diplomacy. But it is crucial to keep channels of communication intact, and a spirit of cooperation, at a time when the international system seems so ready.

Another challenge that the Armed Forces and the Police have to face: The threat of armed violence

Throughout Colombia, armed groups have reacted to COVID-19 with a mixture of fear, contempt, and opportunism. On March 29, the largest leftist guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), declared a one-month unilateral ceasefire with the government as a humanitarian gesture. Although the ceasefire is welcome, it is not clear how it will affect the ELN's struggle for territorial control, particularly against the Gaitanista Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, as there were heavy clashes between the ELN and the Gaitanistas in March, which are still ongoing. and that has led to further mass

displacement and confinement. The disputed areas largely lack a permanent state presence or healthcare systems capable of fighting a pandemic.

Health and subsistence on the border

The demand for medical care in La Guajira by both Venezuelan migrants and Colombian locals, already considerable since before the pandemic, continues to be high. But local hospitals and NGOs that provide care have decided to see fewer people to reduce the risk of overcrowding, restrict the number of patients in waiting rooms and reduce opening hours.

Another challenge: The possibility of a humanitarian agreement

The spread of the coronavirus in Latin America and its impact on vulnerable people, both in Colombia and Venezuela, especially along the shared border, make a coordinated health and humanitarian response that can confront, treat and isolate local outbreaks of the utmost importance. However, after Venezuela expelled all Colombian diplomats in February last year, high-level official communication between the two countries ceased.

An understanding between Venezuela and Colombia would be vital to unblock the impasse between the government and the opposition in Caracas, as well as to lay the groundwork to address the health risks shared by these countries.

Conclusions

- The role of the military in urban spaces is developed under the concept of Defense Support to the Civil Authority. This means that the leadership continues to be in the hands of the civil authority and that the Armed Forces only complement the action of the local authorities.
- The role of the Army, far from weakening the military institution, consolidates it. The Land Force would continue with its responsibilities against drug trafficking, the protection of critical state infrastructure and the fight against organized crime in rural, urban and border areas, without neglecting its main task of ensuring territorial control and national defense.
- The Military and Police Forces become part of the response of the States to prevent, control and manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Their adequate preparation and professionalism allow them to fulfill the mission, avoiding unnecessary

- risks and humanitarian consequences that a situation of this type can generate.
- The action of the Armed Forces in the control of internal order is facing an enormous challenge due to the lethal effects that this COVID-19 pandemic has been producing in our country and in the world; an invisible enemy of humanity, which has manifested itself with the thousands of dead and sick, and whose end as a virus is unknown.
 - Due to its extension and its distribution capacity, the Armed Forces are today the largest logistics agency in the country.
 - The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to be long and exhausting. It will complicate diplomacy, and especially crisis diplomacy. But it is crucial to keep channels of communication intact, and a spirit of cooperation, at a time when the international system seems so ready.

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The Islamic State in the Maldives

By Daniel Martinez (Uruguay)



Introduction

The Republic of Maldives is an archipelago made up of about 1,200 coral islands (203 are inhabited), located in the Indian Ocean, about 450km southwest of the India already a few 600km southwestern Sri Lanka. The islands are distributed in 26 atolls, spread over 90,000 km², making the Maldives one of the most dispersed countries on the planet.

Islam, introduced in 1153, is the predominant and official religion. It was a Portuguese (1558), Dutch (1654) and British (1887) colony. In 1953 an attempt was made to establish a republic, but a few months later the sultanate was re-imposed. It gained independence in 1965 and the republic was reinstated in 1968. It is the least populated country in Asia and among Muslim countries

The Maldives Islands took a turn in their foreign policy (2018) giving their support to the West, particularly Saudi Arabia by breaking relations with Iran and rejoining the British Commonwealth of Nations in 2020, from which it had withdrawn in 2016

II.- The presence of the Islamic State

The Maldives Islands is the geographic extension of the emerging Golden Horseshoe Caliphate of the Islamic State, stretching from the western side of Indonesia to include Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, all connected by land and water through the Andaman Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. Other countries on the eastern side, including Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, have yet to be infiltrated by Islamic jihadists to the same levels.

The vast majority of Muslims in the Golden Horseshoe Caliphate are Sunni, who have learned and accepted Islam through trade and conquest, while the other predominant religions are Hinduism and Buddhism, which are

the most ancient religions. widespread in the region and whose teachings reflect peace and tolerance. There are smaller populations of Christians and ethnic religions in the region.



III.- Terrorist attacks in the Madivas Islands

15APR2020: Fire of the Islamic State. 5 speedboats and 2 boats in the port of **Mahibadhoo Island** (South Ari Atoll). First time Islamic State has claimed responsibility for an attack. The attacks would have been revenge attacks after an increase in counter-terrorism measures since the end of 2019. The attack coincided with the first cases of COVID19 in the Maldives, which will reduce the government's capacity against extremism. Jihadis renewed their effort in the Maldives to spread their ideology by exploiting the pandemic.

In **Maduvvaree** (Meemu Atoll) there is a cell of the Islamic State (30 terrorists, Telegram channel "TouristWatchMv")

22MAR2020: Fire in a police boat in **Gan Island** (Laamu Atoll)

21MAR2020: Fire at the luxury resort on **Cheval Blanc Island** (Noonu Atoll)

09FEB2020 Terrorist campaign against tourists. 3 foreigners stabbed (1 Australian, 2 Chinese). Attack claimed by extremists linked to the Islamic State, in Hulhumale, an artificial island north of the capital, Malé.

DEC 16, 2019: The Maldives Police revealed that local Islamic State terrorists manufactured an improvised explosive device to blow up a plane in 2017 and 2 other IEDs to detonate in public places.

2007: First terrorist attack. IED (improvised explosive device) exploded in Sultan park (capital Male, 12 tourists injured).

Murders: 1.- DEC2006: Ibrahim Shaheem (Himandhoo Island), 2.- 2013: Afrasheem Ali (religious scholar) 3.- 2014: Ahmed Rilwan (journalist) 4.- 2017: Yameen Rasheed (blogger). Wounded: 2012: Khilath Rasheed (journalist stabbed).

12 Maldivian terrorists were killed in Pakistan (2008-2009).
173 Maldivian terrorists fought in Syria (26% women). As the country underwent rapid political liberalization, adopted a new constitution, and held its first multi-party democratic elections in 2008, these religious actors advocated an "Islamic state" rather than an "apostate" democracy.

IV.- Terrorist group "Dot".

Objective: Spread of violent extremism in the Maldives. They have ideological and educational roots in Pakistan and transnational jihadist groups
2012: Start to "Islamize" up to 30 radical gangs in the capital, Male.
The recruitment of young people with criminal records would be 50% of the terrorists from the Maldives. "Dot" maintained its allegiance to al-Qaeda and another faction followed the Islamic State.

V.- Conclusions

The sale to Saudi Arabia of Faafu, one of the 26 atolls of the Maldives (04MAR2017), would spread Wahhabism.

The threat of terrorism and extremism in the region alerts India and the Maldivian opposition

The fight against terrorism intensified after the US Treasury Department designated Mohamed Ameen (Maldivian) as a terrorist on its sanctions list (SET2019) and after a presidential commission investigated the murders of two bloggers and a religious scholar linked the killings to religious extremists.

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Libya, victory changes sides

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



General Khalifa Belqasim Haftar Alferjani

General Haftar has failed in the attempt to conquer Tripoli, after having conquered most of the Libyan territory and which only needed to be taken, the capital, with two million 300 thousand inhabitants, which could have meant, if not the end of the fighting, but it would have set a definitive course for the war, which devastates the country after the fall of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, in 2011. Now that end is once again uncertain. The new situation in a war with an unknown death toll, due to the impossibility of forming a credible record, given the multiplicity of organizations that have participated, in different combat fronts throughout the country, which increase or decrease the figures, according to its convenience, to which is added the concealment carried out by the dominant West, due to its responsibility in each of these deaths, ensures that this uncertain list will continue to increase.

The bloody maneuver to remove Gaddafi from power has left what was the most progressive nation in African history literally demolished from what was its rich infrastructure, to the always difficult clan and tribal network, with which it settled as an Italian colony. after the Berlin Conference of 1884 and after its independence in 1951, until 2011, which includes the 42 years of the Jamahiriya (the State of the masses) established by Colonel Gaddafi in 1969, which not only managed to keep that tribes, but also giving them a national feeling.

A few days after the anniversary of the offensive launched by General Khalifa Haftar against Tripoli,

who had promised the men of the Libyan National Army (LNA) -as most analysts assumed- that this would be a quick and definitive campaign. After the impossibility of achieving it, not only the war bogged down again, but also the ailing government of Prime Minister Fayeze al-Serraj, in charge of the Government of National Accord (GNA), formed after long lobbying by the United Nations in 2015, not only has it been able to resist Haftar, but it has also taken the initiative in the war, thanks to the boost that Turkey has given it, as a new player in the conflict, which was publicly recognized by Recep Erdogan, who at the end of December in the past, he made a tour of Algeria and Tunisia, in order to achieve an alliance to support Tripoli. What was elegantly rejected by both the Tunisian president Kais Saied, and his Algerian counterpart, Abdelmajid Tebboune, who chose to follow the UN diplomatic path. Therefore, after the rejection of these two nations, Turkey becomes the only military ally of the al-Serraj government. In addition to providing weapons, training for the autonomous militias, which were already supporting Tripoli, veterans of the Syrian war transferred by Ankara to the Maghreb country, in addition to providing fundamental air support, basically artillery drones that support the ground forces to recover large extensions of territory. Although in recent weeks this support and the possibilities of continuing to resupply the ground forces, Tripoli has been partially interrupted by the tightening of controls on the naval mission deployed by the European Union in pursuit of

compliance with the United Nations provision. Nations, on the arms embargo on the contenders in the conflict.

On April 14, a counteroffensive by the Tripolitan government seized an area of three thousand square kilometers from Hafther, including the provinces of Sabratha and Surman, in the hands of Haftar's militias, in addition to launching the reconquest of Tarhuna, a city of strategic value for Haftar and his last important stronghold in the surroundings of Tripoli. So now its territory reaches the Tunisian border, which would open the possibility of better resupply, in addition to marking a downward trend in the operation started by the Libyan National Army in April 2019, which makes it clear that the Hafther's promise, as in the presumptions of analysts have been failed, those who now classify the general's recent losses as: "damage of seismic magnitude."

Hafther once more alone

Due to the global economic recession, due to the pandemic, it is very difficult for Hafther's allies to continue giving financial, political and military support, with which he has been able to maintain his successful military campaign until a few months ago. , such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which considers Hafther as a brake on the containment of the Muslim Brotherhood, a fundamentalist organization that has given ideological and material support to numerous organizations such as al-Qaeda and Daesh. For what it has provided, among other contributions, the Chinese-made Wing Loong II unmanned aircraft and also the Russian-made Pantsir S-1 air defense system installed at the al-Jufra base near the city of Gharyan. While Egypt, whose border of more than a thousand kilometers with eastern Libya, the region where Hafther's power was founded, whose capital is the city of Tobruk and through which much of the support of Rais Abdel Fattah al-Sisi passes , while the United States would not have given more than a certain diplomatic support, remaining discreetly on the side of the eastern forces, like France and the United Kingdom, although other sources affirm that this "discreet support" is counted in communication equipment, satellite information and weapons.

Hafther understands that possibly from now on, the financing of his war by his allies and especially that of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed (MbZ), is becoming too heavy for MbZ, who would be running the same risk that caused the emir of Qatar, Khalifa al-Thani, in 2013, to have to abdicate in favor of his son Tamim bin Hamad al-Zani, due to the financial crisis to which he led the emirate, due to the enormous economic support given to mercenary troops trying to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad

The battle for Libya exposed more than ever the multiple international interests in that strategically located nation, and with extremely rich oil resources, in addition to having one of the underground freshwater reservoirs in the Murzuq Basin, in the southwest of the country, biggest in the world.

The failure of Hafther's operation to capture Tripoli could have consequences within his army, since several of his colonels disagree with the commander's decisions over the last few months. Casting doubt on Hafther's boast that he was leading a modern and organized force against a mass of autonomous and unprofessional militias, which have even dealt significant blows to the mercenary force of Russian origin, Wagner, who operated alongside the Tobruk troops.

After the failure in Tripoli, Hafther, who was very tough at the time of the negotiations, will have to appear a little more gentle in order to maintain his legitimacy before his own and his enemies.

Meanwhile Khalifa Haftar, has asked last Saturday 25, unity to his followers after the defeats suffered in the west of the country, while demonstrations were held in his support in this and at the gates of his residence in the city of Benghazi. The silence after his request for help from the Western tribes is striking, while the Berbers of the province of Zintan, in the south of the country, his last great conquest in 2018, forcefully refused to collaborate with him.

In the coming weeks it will be known if this decline that General Khalifa Hafther is experiencing continues or if he can somehow control the debacle, hoping that once again the elusive victory will change sides.

The ARC ship “Victoria”. Symbol of the end of an era

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



Oceanic patrol boat ARC "Victoria" of the Colombian National Navy.

The Colombian National Navy has 3 Fassmer OPV-80 model ships, built in Cartagena de Indias by the COTECMAR shipyard. Two of them are assigned to the Caribbean Naval Force, based in Cartagena de Indias, and the third was assigned to the Pacific Naval Force, based in Bahía Málaga, after 3 years and 5 months of service in the Caribbean.

The versatility of these ships makes them optimal for the missions that the Colombian National Navy must fulfill in its permanent fight against different threats. In particular, the fight against drug trafficking has been strengthened with the participation of OPVs.

In a routine operation, the OPV navigates a pre-established patrol course, with all its sensors active trying to detect aircraft, suspicious vessels, boats or semi-submersibles of drug traffickers. Once a possible offender is identified, the ship directs its course towards the objective and at a safe distance launches the helicopter and/or the interceptor boats, which approach the ship that will be boarded for anti-narcotics inspection.

It is worth noting that the interceptor boats are equipped with artillery and are manned by highly

trained personnel for this type of operation. In addition, helicopters on board are usually armed with machine guns, and they often carry a sniper on board, here called the Selected Shooter on Aerial Platform, carrying a 12.7 mm Barrett rifle. (.50), which, for example, hits the outboard motors of speedboats that do not obey the command to stop. The Vessel-Launch-Helicopter combination has been fortunate for the fight against drug trafficking, and these vessels have presented important results, in terms of confiscation of illegal drugs, immobilization of boats and semi-submersibles, as well as in the prosecution of people captured in illegal activities. illegal.

The third ship manufactured by Cotecmar, was initially designated ARC "Santander", to pay tribute to the greatest hero of national independence -after El Libertador Simón Bolívar-, its name was changed at the request of the then President of the Republic, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón, with the aim of commemorating the end of the internal conflict with the FARC group, with which a complex peace process was followed, which according to Santos' vision is the product of incessant pressure from the Armed Forces,

and therefore a military victory. This conflict lasted more than 50 years and cost the lives of more than 200,000 people and the forced displacement of more than 6,000,000 citizens, who saw their dreams truncated due to fratricidal violence.

In addition to the baptism of this ship with the word "Victoria", all active military personnel for 2017, the year of the signing of the final agreement with the

FARC, were awarded a military victory badge consisting of a sword on a rectangle. purple, which must be worn on the pocket flap of their jacket (shirt, jacket or jacket). In this way, the narrative is reinforced that although the FARC was not given a resounding military defeat on the battlefield, there was a victory, since they were reduced to the point of forcing them to negotiate.

"You can be invincible if you never engage in combat whose success you are not sure of, and only when you know that victory is in your hand."

Epictetus of Phrygia

Image Source:

<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Dm-zwnFW4AAHnan.jpg>

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Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Audentes Fortuna Iuvat



Greece

1st Parachute Assault Brigade

The Hellenic Army was formed in 1828. It is the land force of Greece, and together with the Hellenic Air Force and Hellenic Navy, it forms the Armed Forces of Greece. Currently, it is the largest branch of the three. The army is headed by the chief of the General Staff of the Greek Army, who in turn is under the command of the General Staff of the National Defense of Greece.

The motto of the Greek Army is "*Freedom Comes From Courage*", from Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War. The emblem of the Greek Army is a double-headed eagle with a Greek cross shield in the center, representing the links between modern Greece, the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Byzantine Empire. The main missions of the Greek Army are the defense of the independence and integrity of the State, the protection of the national territory, and the decisive contribution to achieving the objectives of the country's policy. During times of peace, the Army has the following main objectives:

- The maintenance of a high operational availability for the prevention and effective confrontation of dangers and threats, as well as the guarantee of rapid response capacity.
- Contribution to international security and peace.
- The contribution to social assistance activities and the support of state services to deal with emergency situations.



After a major reorganization that has occurred in the last decade, which included the transformation of most Mechanized Infantry formations into brigades and a parallel reduction in personnel, the top command of the Hellenic Army is the Army General Staff.

There are four main military entities that oversee all units in the army:

1. First Army, based in Larisa, including the I and IV Army Corps, responsible for the defense of the northern and eastern borders.
2. Supreme Military Command of the Interior and the Islands, based in Athens, with the mission of providing coverage to the islands of the Aegean Sea.
3. Supreme Military Support Command, in charge of undertaking various organizational and logistical tasks.
4. NATO Deployable Corps, based in Thessaloniki, Macedonia.

As already mentioned, the Greek Army is mainly organized into brigades, which follow typical NATO standards consisting of five battalions, three maneuver, one artillery, one support, and a few other company-sized formations. The divisions were dissolved in 2015, and another maneuver battalion was added to the Brigades, which largely eliminates the distinction between mechanized and armored formations, thus creating a new type of brigade, which bears the name Attack Brigade.



The Greek Army personnel is divided into professionals, volunteers and conscripts. There are approximately 90,000 active duty personnel, of which 30,000 are conscripts. As of 2012, the Greek Republic has compulsory military service (conscript) of 9 months for all males between the ages of 18 and 45. Citizens discharged from active service are normally placed in the reserve and are subject to recall periodic 1-10 days at irregular intervals. Greek males between the ages of 18 and 60 who live in strategically sensitive areas may also be forced to serve part-time in the National Guard. During a mobilization the number of recruits can exceed 180,000.⁶ Enlisted conscripts and non-commissioned officers wear special rank insignia to differentiate them from volunteers. Most of the professional officers graduate from the Evelpidon Military Academy in Athens

(Στρατιωτική σχολή ευελπίδων) and at the Military Academy of the Officers' Corps in Thessaloniki (Στρατιωτική Σχολή ξιωματικώνωμάτων), while the rest, in postgraduate of various military schools according to your specialization.

In the chain of command, graduates of the two military academies in Athens and Thessaloniki are considered higher in the rank order compared to professional officers of the same value who graduate from specialized military schools. The last officers are followed in seniority by the volunteers and finally the conscript personnel.



The heavy equipment and weaponry of the Greek Army is mostly of foreign manufacture, especially from the United States, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Russia. A notable exception is the Leonidas armored personnel carrier which was built by the Hellenic Industry Vehicle Manufacturer ELVO.

The First Parachute Assault Brigade

The origin of this unit dates back to World War II. During this conflict, the so-called "Sacred Squad" was activated, made up of free Greek troops. This was an assault unit (Raider) attached to the 1st Allied Special Air Service Brigade (1 SAS). Its members were mainly officers and non-commissioned officers who had fled to North Africa after the fall of Greece to Axis forces. After its formation in 1942, the Sacred Squadron, along with a unit of Free French troops and British commandos, formed the basis of L Detachment, a component of the SAS that specialized in hit-and-run raids on airfields, Axis ports and storage/fueling sites, throughout North Africa.

Sacred Squadron was then transferred to the Greek theater of operations, where they recaptured several eastern Aegean islands, wresting them from Axis forces. After the liberation of Greece from German occupation, a proposal was made for the reform of the Hellenic Armed Forces under British leadership. This proposal included the establishment of a small highly trained special warfare unit.

LOK

When the Greek Civil War broke out in 1946, the Greek government decided to form a special warfare unit, primarily to help Greek royalists capture territory still held by communist-inspired guerrillas. The Mountain Raider Companies or LOK (Greek: ΛΟΚ - Λόχοι Ορεινών Καταδρομών), were formed on January 20, 1947, and began operating almost immediately in the mountainous terrain of Greece. Raider Squadron Beta was formed at

Vouliagmeni, Athens, in August 1947 and took part in Civil War operations in Thessaly, Central Greece, Epirus, Western Macedonia, and Euboea. The Delta Raider Squadron was established in the port city of Volos, Thessaly, in December 1947 and operated in all regions of Greece during the Civil War. The Epsilon Raider Squadron was formed in April 1949 and participated in Civil War operations until December 1949.

In 1949, LOK squads were so successful against communist insurgents that Raider Forces Command was expanded to two brigades. Gamma Raider Squadron, also formed in 1949, was redesignated as an amphibious-capable unit in 1963, while Alpha Raider Squadron, disbanded at the end of the Civil War, was reactivated in 1968 and later reformed as an amphibious unit. in 1974, after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.



In the late 1960s, the Greek Central Intelligence Service (KYP) and the CIA secretly became involved with the training and arming of the Lokatzides. A tool of the KYP and the CIA, a LOK detachment played a role in the 1967 Greek coup by storming and securing the Army General Staff buildings in Chologos, Athens.

Raider (Assault) Forces

After the fall of the Papadopoulos regime, and the establishment of a democratic republic in 1975, the LOK were restructured and reclassified as Expeditionary Forces (Greek: Δυνάμεις Καταδρομών), and placed under the command of the Hellenic Army Special Forces Command.

A further restructuring of the Greek Army in 1996 mandated the amalgamation of all Raider Forces regiments to form the current Brigade.



Organization

1st Raiders/Paratroopers Brigade, in Rendina, Macedonia

1st Raider Regiment (1ο ΣΚ - 1 Syntagma Katadromon)

Beta Raider Squad (Β' ΜΚ - Beta Mira Katadromon)

Delta Raider Squad (Δ' ΜΚ - Delta Mira Katadromon)

Epsilon Raider Squad (Ε' ΜΚ - Epsilon Mira Katadromon)

14 Signal Company (14 SignΔΒ - 14 Lochos Diavivaseon)

2nd Parachute Regiment (2ο ΣΑΛ - 2 Syntagma Alexiptotiston)

1st Parachute Squadron (1η ΜΑΛ - 1 Mira Alexiptotiston)

2nd Parachute Squadron (2η ΜΑΛ - 2 Mira Alexiptotiston)

18 Signal Company (18 ΛΔΒ - 18 Lochos Diavivaseon)

13th Special Operations Command "Sacred Company" (13η Δ Ιερός Λόχος - 13 Dioikisi Eidikon Epiheiriseon "Ieros Lochos")

Alpha Amphibious Raider Squad (Α' ΜΑΚ - Alpha Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

Gamma Amphibious Raider Squad (Γ' ΜΑΚ - Gamma Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

Eta Amphibious Raider Squad (Η' ΜΑΚ - Eta Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

Theta Amphibian Raider Squad (Θ' ΜΑΚ - Theta Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

Iota Amphibious Raider Squad (Ι' ΜΑΚ - Iota Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

13 Signal Company (13ος ΛΔΒ - 13 Lochos Diavivaseon)

Special Unit of Parachutists (ΕΤΑ - Eidiko Tmima Alexiptotiston), qualified in HALO and HAHO.

Zeta Amphibian Raider Squad (Ζ' ΜΑΚ - Zeta Mira Amfivion Katadromon)

480th Signal Battalion (480ο ΤΔΒ - 480 Tagma Diavivaseon)

Delta Force

The Greek Ministry of Defense has a joint command unit for rapid response to delicate situations. There are members of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. This Special Forces unit is known as Delta Force.

The First Brigade of Raiders/Paratroopers, usually contribute elements to the Delta Force. Usually ETA and Z' MAK. Whose members are all highly trained military professionals, officers and non-commissioned officers. The Brigade Command Units implement an Operational Training program based on the General Training Instructions and the Special Training Instructions. The training is totally adapted to the operational missions of the units. A criterion for training, as well as general military training, is the possibility of executing missions in all weather conditions.

- (1) Support for regular operations.
- (2) Special operations.
- (3) unconventional warfare.



Special emphasis is placed on the following aspects:

- (1) Night training in the execution of cruise operations and night attack.
- (2) The excellent handling of the weapons of the specialty and the effective handling by all the personnel of all the weapons of the unit.
- (3) Carrying out exercises with the use of live fire, with the cooperation of Armored Vehicles, the support of the Artillery and the Air Force.
- (4) The execution of infiltrations by land, sea and air and through water obstacles, to attack an enemy objective and return to friendly lines or remain and act in the enemy's rear, for as long as necessary.
- (5) The tactics and techniques of air-land and amphibious cruise operations.
- (6) Specialization in disasters, sabotage and war on drugs.

The training lasts one (1) full calendar year in two semesters, starting on January 1 and July 1 for the 1st and 2nd semesters, respectively.

Skydivers

The Parachute Squads carry out an annual training cycle in harsh and realistic conditions, so they are correctly distinguished by both training and the strict selection of troops and commands, and the great tradition of the Special Forces. Appreciation, love, admiration and respect are feelings that flood the hearts of the residents of the areas where they are located, and are an integral part of them and the reason for their pride.



The main topics of the training are: training in the handling specialties of machine tools and materials of the Special Forces, advanced parachutist training, marching, shooting, training in Mountain Race and Conventional Warfare, training in open water and winter conditions, cooperation with Army, as well as with other branches of the Armed Forces, during small and large-scale exercises.



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