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EDITORIAL

May the opportunity be propitious to express all our solidarity to the people who are going through difficult times as a result of the current pandemic and the different measures and restrictions to which we must submit. Our best wishes to all.

We begin this issue with an article by Argentine analyst Ulises León Kandiko , in which he presents a review of the different philosophical and operational approaches of the police forces. Very timely topic regarding the crisis in the United States due to police abuse.

Then, also from Argentina, our expert in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, enlightens us on the problem that the existence of secessionist groups in the province of Baluchistan represents for Pakistan, which are supported in different ways by India, always interested to destabilize your neighbor.

Marco Aurelio Terroni , from Brazil, tells us about the threat that Covid-19 represents to society, and how criminal elements are finding opportunities to commit crimes in this crisis, with the potential use of biological warfare as a terrorist weapon being of extreme concern. .

Let's go immediately to Ethiopia, where the murder of the young singer Hachalu Hundessa has unleashed a whole political and public order crisis. The artist belonged to the Oromo ethnic group , and in his songs he constantly denounced the injustices committed against them.

Next, Alberto Carracedo, a retired officer from the Argentine Army, offers us a very interesting analysis on a complex issue, which not only concerns his country, but whose edges surely touch most countries in the world. Read it.

Guadi Calvo, our senior analyst, takes us to Turkey to talk about the crisis that has been generated by Erdogan 's decree that converts the Hagia Sophia cathedral (museum) into a mosque.

Colonel (r) of the Uruguayan Army, Daniel Martínez, presents us with a detailed report on the different terrorist groups operating in Mali, as well as a chronological list of the events with the greatest impact, related to terrorism in that troubled country.

We close this edition with a brief analysis on naval matters. Thank you very much for reading us.

Know to win!

Douglas Hernández

Editor



This newsletter has a Spanish version.

TRIARIUS 075

Content:

The police of the 21st century, what role should they play in a diverse and democratic society? p.4

By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)

Something smells rotten in Pakistan, p.8

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

The new COVID-19 and hidden terrorism, p.11

By Marcus Aurelius Terroni (Brazil)

Ethiopia, the resonance of a silenced voice, p.16

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Plague Soldiers, p.19

By Alberto Carracedo (Argentina)

Turkey: The Sultan in the Cathedral, p.22

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)

Terrorist groups in Mali, p.25

By Daniel Martinez (Uruguay)

OPV-80 vs. Tamandaré. Presence or Deterrence, p.34

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



TRIARIUS

Currently there are different regions in the world that are facing famines and water shortages. There are millions and millions of people who are in a permanent crisis. Climate change will exacerbate this crisis, and will expand the affected territories, as well as the number of people in vulnerable conditions. One way or another, that crisis will come to us. It is necessary to understand the seriousness of the matter and take measures to face this threat from a personal/family perspective, as well as lead prevention/mitigation processes in our social interaction spaces.

At TRIARIUS, we suggest planting fruit trees in your patio or residential unit, as well as experimenting with urban gardens, activities that, in addition to being beneficial for the environment and emotionally stimulating, are an investment in the future. Similarly, holding tree planting days, particularly near rivers and natural streams, will contribute to caring for water sources. In addition to the above, think about what you will do when environmental migrants/refugees arrive by the thousands.

On the cover, **Iraqi Tankers**.
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 police of the 21st century, what role should they play in a diverse and democratic society?

By Ulises León Kandiko (Argentina)



Members of the Argentine Federal Police, showing their different specialties.

These days it is very common to be faced with the debate about what kind of police is what society wants to have. Certainly the case of the Minneapolis Police in which Derek Chauvin is involved, has been a strong trigger for the matter, but the truth is that this is a debate that has been in the pending locker for many decades. On many occasions we are going to hear or read comments that refer to its effectiveness, the way it acts correctly or the use of the means it uses or as simple as if it does what it should do. Other recurring themes, at least in recent times, is whether the Police have a greater or lesser proximity to citizens and the increase in the Militarization of the Police.

On this occasion, and with the firm conviction that there are 2 central issues for any change that is wanted to be carried out in terms of a Police Model for the 21st Century, I believe that we must work on

Training (I include in this the training and retraining) and demilitarization.

If the Police is going to change, attention must be focused on the training centers, where the new recruits are impregnated with the popular customs of their profession

Where we come from

Throughout the history of humanity, the truth is that the solutions and/or models that have been given in the matter are varied, police problems are usually common to all police forces in the world, globalization and communications have allowed that police organizations share adopted experiences and with it strategies and techniques. So much so that it is possible to see in a given country police concepts or strategies that originate in other countries, including distant continents. Let's see some models of Police throughout history:

Government Model

It takes place throughout the 18th century, the Police Forces exercised their functions in absolute States, that is, they depended on the Government (generally Monarchies), they strictly followed their instructions without regard, and the purpose of the Police Force was the control of the population, ensure the continuity of the Governors and why not of the status quo, subduing any source of resistance.

A case that was sustained over time with this model is the one that had to do with social control and especially of those organizations that represented some resistance to the government model. STASI is the living example.

Professional model

At the beginning of the 19th century and with the development

and consolidation of the transition from a rural society to a more urban one, a professional police force was required to face the new challenges that, by the way, tend to be more complex.

This situation of global order favors and supports the creation of new police forces with a growing improvement in the aspects of their training and specialization, this with a clear idea of professionalism, that whoever wears a police uniform has specific knowledge, knows particular procedures which makes them the most suitable to ensure and provide the safety of citizens.

Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Model

This policing model has as its main creator the figure of Herman Goldstein, who in the mid-twentieth century referred to how the US police forces have focused on themselves and have forgotten the purpose for which they exist "to offer a service to citizenship".

The POP focuses on the idea of providing a service that is not only of quality, but also improves the quality of life of the citizen, responding to the problems that affect or complicate their daily activity, using the law when it is an effective instrument to do so. With these ideas exposed, Goldstein maintains that it is important to incorporate personnel from non-police disciplines into the analysis tasks of the police, as well as the collaboration of citizens affected by the incidents, although this model is not the same as that of the Community Police, it is no less true that it has multiple points of contact.

Intelligence Guided Police Model (ILP)

In its most complete definition, it can be said that the ILP is "intelligence-led policing is a

business model and management philosophy in which data analysis and criminal intelligence are essential for an objective decision-making framework that facilitates the reduction, interruption, and prevention of crime through strategic management and effective law enforcement strategies targeting prolific and hardened criminals" (Ratcliffe , 2008a: 89).

The purpose of the model is to undermine the ability of criminals to operate. It is not in itself a change in the definition of the purposes and priorities of the Police Forces, but rather the incorporation of new work techniques to improve the fight against crime. The ILP promotes the intensive use of ICTs to carry out its tasks, either with the use of CCTV (cameras), GIS systems, face recognition, patents, etc., thus showing an interest in similar techniques. to that of the Professional Model.

Order Police

This model is fundamentally based on concepts framed within the well-known Zero Tolerance and Broken Windows, these are police policies that came into force in New York with the arrival in 1994 of Rudolph Giuliani, under the operational and police leadership of Willian Bratton as Chief of Police, it is here that Bratton picks up the approaches of the Broken Windows theory and thus redefines a police strategy.

The central plan of this strategy focused on the need to defend the legitimate rights of good citizens who were victims of antisocial, uncivil conduct and crimes of varying severity. In other words, these were not repressive policies but policies whose fundamental objective was the defense of the rights of decent citizens. The entire process was marked by an important structural change in the

police organization, following the management criteria of business organizations, the fired policemen and the new recruits numbered in the thousands, and the operational and management dynamics abandoned the old parameters. The police became the point of reference in the fight against crime.

Community Police Model

The Community Police conceives the Police as a public service. This model places aspects related to power or organization in the background, and focuses on the idea of a service, a benefit to citizens. The use of the idea of public service aims to highlight the priorities of the model: "provide the citizen with a security service", it is assumed that this strip, the police of a position of power or superiority. The idea would be that the police are citizens like the others who have the task, coming from the citizens themselves, to professionally ensure the safety of their fellow citizens. Who sheds light on this is Martin when he expresses it "a uniformed citizen... does not represent power before a citizen, but the power of the citizen."

The Community Police continues to be an organization that fights crime, although this is not its main objective (Feltes), one of the primary objectives is not to use force, so prevention is taken as the primary objective of the model . Here the fundamental thing is the result, the public service, not the police activity that is only an instrument, for this reason the indicator of the efficiency of the system is not arrests or police actions, but the absence of crime and disorder.

What's happening to us

Currently, we see how in many countries, in addition to Covid19,

how to "fix" the Police is being debated, and certainly with great emphasis it is being considered in the United States of America (USA). Much of the criticism of current policing practices relates to the militarized aspects of policing. It is an important criticism, but one that often narrowly focuses on Police uniforms, weapons and equipment, rather than the underlying issues of organizational culture and structure. If we want to change Public or Citizen Security, we must also focus our attention on the Training, Training and Retraining Centers of the Police Forces, where the new recruits are inculcated for the first time in the customs of their profession.

It is not difficult to see the link between the Formation of the Militarized Police and the abuses that have motivated the protests of recent weeks, both in the USA and in other countries. When police recruits are belittled by their instructors and ordered to refrain from responses other than "Yes, sir!", they may learn stoicism, but they may also learn that taunting and barking orders at those with less power are acceptable actions. When recruits are ordered to push-ups to the point of exhaustion because their boots weren't polished well, they may learn the value of attention to detail, but they may also conclude that inflicting pain is an appropriate response to even the most trivial infractions.

It should not be forgotten that the underlying objective of military formation is to subdue the opponent, the enemy must be destroyed and annihilated, and if that enemy is certainly not dehumanized, it is very difficult to ask a conscious human being to end the life of another being. human, there lies a central theme. From a Police perspective it is evident that the neighbor should not be dehumanized. An example that I

usually refer to, if I ask the Commander of an Armored Regiment to carry out a police control on motor vehicles, he will surely deploy 2 Tanks to cut off accesses and a series of VTPs to reduce traffic lanes, since these are the elements with which the State has endowed it for its primary mission, to destroy the enemy.

Many police recruits enter the academy as idealists, and this is certainly not only laudable, but necessary, but the type of Militarized Training could unconsciously change their psyche. Although most Police Personnel will go through their entire career without firing their weapon, others will inevitably receive the wrong lessons from their Militarized training and end up like fired Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin, it's worth wondering too when was the last time that his ability to reduce dangerous people was validated or at least when he last retrained on it.

Most of the Police Training Centers in the USA are modeled on military training camps, and what happens in the rest of the New Continent is not very different, we should not be surprised to hear a bugle at sunset to pay honors in the lowering of the National Pavilion or the same for other activities. Proponents of this approach argue that police officers are much like soldiers: they have to follow orders regardless of their personal feelings; they have to run towards the shots, not away from them; and they have to remain cool and professional in the face of chaos, threats and harassment. In this view, Militarized training takes undisciplined young recruits and turns them into fighting machines, ready to handle the rigors of street patrol. Certainly, there are specific areas of the Police Corps that must handle riots or carry out special tasks such as break-ins, for which

there must be specialized training centers.

Some critics of the Militarized model even see that the Militarized traditions extend far beyond the Training Centers, and thus senior Police Officers can be seen commonly referring to the Personnel patrolling the streets as "troops", and truth be told, they do. The same happens in Private Companies or Corporations and they are far from being considered Military. However, returning to the case of the USA, it is no less true that many Police Departments have echoed the 1033 Program of the US Department of Defense (DoD) by which they are provided with surplus military equipment, including armored vehicles and grenade launchers, among others.

Almost all the Police Forces have had their origins in the Armed Forces of their country. Not only that, but with the passing of time they have been formed by former Military or Retired from said Forces. The various Police Corps adopted military-style titles, rank structures, and uniforms. A striking case that can be highlighted in the US Police is the path from military service to that of the Police Corps, almost 20 percent of police officers are military veterans, although veterans represent only 6 percent of the population. general population.

A local case has been the creation of the Metropolitan Police (2010) and later renamed as Police of the City of Buenos Aires (2016) in Argentina, this Police force in its beginnings was largely made up of members of other Police Forces. from various jurisdictions in Argentina, but what has been striking has been the high rate of entrants from the Armed Forces, Cadre personnel (NCO) and Officers who requested retirement or discharge to integrate this new Police Corps. I would think that it is

an isolated case in the contemporary context of Argentina.

Many times there is a tendency to believe that what happens has not been foreseen, however, as we will find in the Old Testament... and there is nothing new under the sun. Ecclesiastes 1:9, so much so that already in 1878 the Posse Law had been approved *Comitatus*, by which the Military Personnel of the Armed Forces of the USA and the units of the National Guard (when these are under Federal command) are prevented from having authority of law and order within the USA, except when they are expressly authorized by the Constitution or by Congress.

Challenges to face

In most cases of police reforms, they have occurred either because of the high levels of corruption or because of police abuses that in some cases end up in the so-called easy trigger cases. In either case, the truth is that they tend to create an opportunity for true police reform. States should get rid of militarized approaches to policing. That means going beyond the superficial criticisms of "police militarization", most of which focus narrowly on programs that allow the acquisition of Military equipment, and by this is not to say that those units that do need it should not have it, but it is also true that the greatest effort of the Police Corps is to prevent crime and work on the investigation to clarify crimes and I think the reader will agree that there is no need to have neither Armored Anti-mine Vehicles nor Caliber

Rifles. 50., but rather to analyze more subtle and more entrenched aspects of police culture.

The beginning of everything takes place in the Training Centers, it is very important that any reform or update has its axis in the Training of the future members of the Police Corps, and for this it is important to work on the entire life cycle of the personnel, their Training It must be the first and most important link with the Police structure, there he will not only learn his new profession but will imbibe the entire Police culture, what is expected of him as a future Public Servant in charge of enforcing the Law, then it will be necessary to accompany him in his Training where he will have to carry out his specialization there as well as the continuous professional updating plans to finally move from his graduation to his retirement through the processes of retraining and validation of his professional aptitudes. If the process does not start in the Formation and with a clear consensus, it will only be *gatopardismo* (everything changes so that nothing changes).

Not only is it vital to have a true political will for change, but it is essential to have disruptive police leaders who question the value of Militarized Training Centers, without neglecting what is necessary. An example of this has been former King County Sheriff Sue Rahr, now head of the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, who has pioneered an academy training approach centered on a vision of policing as guardians, not warriors.

A diverse and democratic society needs police officers who carefully engage with the historical issues of their profession and value meaningful and equitable interactions with members of the communities they serve. The reminiscences of the Military models must be carefully reassessed in light of the results they have produced throughout history.

The keys for a police force that wants to sustain itself over time, and be an institutional model for the coming times, would be:

- Greater specialization
- Centralization of large technical and administrative resources
- Decentralization and operational specialization
- Strengthen the selection processes for incorporations
- Strengthen and update education, training and retraining programs
- Strong commitment to the technological factor
- Strengthen the areas of criminal analysis and investigations
- Increase transparency processes and internal controls
- Accountability
- Citizen participation

Finally, and as a strong idea: We cannot apply a tactical response sustained over time to a problem that is of a strategic order, if we do, we end up with the usual results, the Police are not improved, nor is the underlying problem solved what is insecurity.

Image Source:

<https://es.panampost.com/belen-marty/2015/09/08/argentina-augenta-el-numero-de-civiles-muertos-por-policias/>

Ulysses Leon Kandiko

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Something smells rotten in Pakistan

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Flag of Balochistan, a Pakistani province with independence aspirations.

Last Monday the 29th, a commando from the Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) ethnic-insurgent group attacked the Stock Exchange building in Karachi, the economic capital of Pakistan. This operation allows more speculation than that of a simple terrorist action.

The Balochistan Liberation Army is one of the many separatist organizations that have been fighting since 1947 to secede from Islamabad. Balochistan in the Pakistani southwest, a region extremely rich in natural resources and where Pakistan concentrates its nuclear activity. Therefore, for the national authorities, keeping Balochistan as an integral part of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is essential for it to continue to exist as such. For this reason, the rebel province has been devastated by the repression of the successive

central governments of Pakistan, which has left and continues to produce thousands of deaths and disappearances. Perhaps one of the reasons that Baluchistan can continue its fight, beyond the indomitable nature of its people, has a lot of support from India, which has always supported all causes that may affect Pakistan, with whom they share a long history of conflicts.

Regarding the attack on the Stock Market that left seven dead, including the four attackers, two guards and a policeman, it was learned that it was carried out by a commando belonging to the elite unit of BLA, the Khatiba Majeed Fdayeen created in 2011, (Majeed Martyrs Brigade), name of a former BLA militant, who died in 1975 in an attempt to assassinate Pakistani President Zulfikar Bhutto.

Majeed brigade members began the operation on Monday by throwing several grenades at the main door, before entering the building, where they opened fire indiscriminately, which was answered by security agents, causing an exchange of fire that lasted more than an hour. Police sources revealed that among the belongings of the dead attackers, provisions and food were found, which gives the idea that the purpose was to sustain the takeover for several days.

The attacked building is located in an area of high commercial density, where there are headquarters of banks and private companies, public offices and shops, so the area has rigorous surveillance controls, since the country has suffered attacks since 2001 against military and

government targets, both by the Baloch insurgency, as well as by members of what is known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (Pakistan Taliban Movement) mainly in Baluchistan and Khyber provinces Pakhtunkhwa. The latest BLA attacks are concentrated against Chinese targets, such as the one in November 2018 against the Chinese consulate in Karachi and the one in May 2019, in the Baluchi province against the Zaver Pearl-Continental Hotel in the new port of Gwadar, a Beijing venture on the Gulf of Oman. Even last Monday's attack could be categorized as anti-Chinese as the Karachi Stock Exchange is 40 percent owned by Chinese investors. Actions against Chinese interests are not capricious, since today that country represents Pakistan's largest trading partner, and its main political and military ally.

Chinese investments under the concept of the "new silk road" in which Pakistan plays a fundamental role, for its realization, has caused India, the historical enemy of Pakistan, to openly launch a new alliance with the United States. and a brilliant and unprecedented commercial and military association with Israel, motorized since 2014, when the ultra-nationalist Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of India.

Speaking at the Pakistani National Assembly on Tuesday 30, Prime Minister Imran Khan, who called the three soldiers killed in the attack "heroes of Pakistan", said "he has no doubt that India is behind the attack" on the building. of the Stock Exchange in Karachi, with the intention of repeating what happened in Mumbai in 2008, where an alleged terrorist attack, which for many would have been organized and financed by the Inter-Services Intelligence or ISI, the

Pakistani intelligence service, left at least 160 dead.

Within the same Khan statement, in the midst of the devastation caused by COVID-19, which has already caused nearly 5,000 deaths, the Prime Minister recognized the health workers who remain on the front line of the fight against the disease, he said. the pressure they are working under and that the government "will try to reward them, but Allah will give them the ultimate reward because they are doing their jihad."

But terrorism and the pandemic are not Khan's only problems, at the time of the economic crisis that was already in full swing before the outbreak of the coronavirus, which is why he did not adhere to the proposals of the World Health Organization, (WHO) and ignoring the advice of the best professionals in the country, who called for a complete closure, allowed some activities to continue normally, which would have produced more infections and a significant number of deaths. To which is added the serious crisis experienced by the political coalition that allowed Khan to prevail in the 2018 elections, the Pakistan Tehrik -e- Insaf or PTI, (Movement for Justice in Pakistan), which has just ended of lowering the Balochistan National Party (BNP-M) thus losing the majority in the lower house of parliament. What weakens the government that is waging a major dispute with the country's main holding companies, such as the one headed by sugar businessman Jahangir Tareen, who is known to be working with the political leaders of the ruling alliance and the opposition trying to destabilize the government, increasingly alone. To which must be added, perhaps an insignificant detail in such pandemonium, but nonetheless a real scandal that has just been discovered, that a large number of pilots of the state line

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), have fake flight licences, which is why many European countries have already banned the arrivals of that airline.

problems in the neighborhood

Although Prime Minister Khan's internal front is truly complex, outside borders the situation is no better. The border disputes in the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, make Pakistan's skin bristle, which knows that in no way can it remain neutral. For this reason, the deployment of troops has already increased along the Line of Control (LoC), which separates Pakistan from India, in the controversial Kashmir, where roses and more complex issues such as the crisis continue to occur almost daily. of Balakot, in February last year, in which the Indian air force bombed in the vicinity of the Pakistani city of Balakot, with the excuse of destroying terrorist sanctuaries, in which, according to New Delhi, a large number of terrorists would have died. This attack was met by Islamabad the next day, shooting down a plane and taking its pilot prisoner, who was returned to India days later.

In the Line of Control, the number of Indian Divisions continues to increase with about 20,000 troops installed in Jammu and Kashmir, which is actively monitored by Pakistani radars, while Islamabad ordered the activation of the Sakardu air base.

These days, how could it be otherwise, the United States has also made its contribution to the convulsive situation, demanding clear actions from Pakistan regarding the taking of measures against the terrorists who are stationed in their country, some of them in collusion with Pakistani intelligence, particularly Masood Azhar founder of the Jaish -e-

Mohammed or JeM (The Army of Muhammad), which operates particularly in Indian Kashmir, responsible for the attack on the police bus in Pulwama , in which forty Indian jawans (soldiers) were killed in February of 2019 and who would be the leader of the attack on Bombay in 2008, Sajid Mir, who are believed to move freely in Pakistan. Imran Khan seems to have no other destiny than to strengthen his alliance with China, today the great objective of the United States, which intends to surround the communist giant on its borders.

All the maneuvers carried out by Trump have a single objective: China, seeking to show its electorate something more than deaths from Covid-19 next November, and for this, destabilizing Pakistan is a priority.

Image Source:
https://es.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Balochistan.svg

Guadi Calvo

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



fuerzasmilitares.org
el portal militar colombiano

The new COVID-19 and hidden terrorism

By Marco Aurelio Terroni (Brazil)



On June 5, 2019, the governments of Brazil and Belgium strengthened the police and legal association in joint actions to combat drug trafficking and terrorism. In a visit to the Minister of Justice and Public Security, Sérgio Moro, the general commissioner of the Federal Police of the Kingdom of Belgium, Marc de Herselfeker, reiterated the importance of bilateral relations to solve criminal cases, mostly related to drug trafficking, and expressed his need for Belgian technical cooperation to train Brazilian agents in the fight against terrorism, taking advantage of the recognized experience of the authorities of that country in relation to the subject.

They highlighted the work developed by Brazil included in the container scanner project, which is also used in Belgium, with the help

of artificial intelligence. In May, the Federal Police seized 329 kilos of cocaine hidden in a container in the Port of Santos, São Paulo. The drug that would go to the Port of Antwerp, in Belgium, was located through the container scanner system and that same week the Customs team of the Federal Treasury in the port intercepted 325 kg of this drug hidden in the middle of a load of coffee, which would also go to the port of Antwerp.

However, the Belgian delegation highlighted the cooperation between the two countries, reflecting the recent documents signed between the Belgian body, the Brazilian Federal Police and the Federal Public Ministry. The most recent process was signed with the IRS during the commissioner general's visit. The director of the Department of Asset

Recovery and International Legal Cooperation of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Erica Marena, emphasized the Belgian intermediation in the department's visit to the European Union Police Agency, strengthening ties, the mission contributed to the exchange of information and good practices.

There is a demand for the Federal Police to designate a contact point to act in this European instance. Sergio Moro agrees to help in the process, due to the great relevance of the topic for Brazil.

The head of international cooperation for the Belgian police made a technical visit to the Federal Police and, in due time, met with the Director General Mauricio Valeixo, emphasizing the strong work between the two institutions and invited a representative - a member of the Federal Police of Brazil to learn

about the Belgian work to combat cocaine trafficking in Antwerp.

The representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security thanked the Belgian police attache in Brazil, Kurt Boudry , for the work carried out in recent years.

The Belgian delegation also had the Director of International Cooperation for the Belgian Federal Police, Peter De Buysscher ; the superintendent of the Federal Police in Antwerp, Stanny De Vliieger ; the general manager of customs, Kristian Vanderwaeren ; and the director of the Customs Investigation Division in Antwerp, Norbertus Somers, as well as members of the embassy. The Ministry of Justice and Public Security also assisted the executive secretary, Luiz Pontel ; the director general of the Federal Police, Mauricio Valeixo ; and the international special adviser, Georgia Diogo.

On March 17, 2020, São Paulo and the state of Rio de Janeiro declared a state of emergency due to the fight against the coronavirus, and the first death was confirmed in the city of São Paulo.

School classes, vehicle rotation, commercial activities have been suspended, public transport fleets and company staff have been reduced. The state of São Paulo is the most affected.

The Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros adhanom Ghebreyesus said: We have seen a rapid escalation in social distancing measures, such as school closures, cancellation of sporting events and other gatherings, but we have not seen enough urgency in intensifying testing, isolation and home contact, which is the backbone of the response to Covid-19.

The federal government continues to focus on the Unified Health System so that it can attend to all the infected people who must reach the health centers.

President Jair Bolsonaro sanctioned an ordinance that determined that suspected cases receive isolation, preferably at home.

The Ministry of Health offers test kits, but requests that they only be used in serious cases, since there are no supplies for greater demand. The Ministry of Economy invested R\$147 million to contain the disease. The distance measures between people, imposed by governments, aim to increase the social isolation of the population, and are attributed as the main form of disease prevention. The directors of the Ministry of Health want to reduce the spread so as not to overload hospitals and emergency rooms.

The isolation measure is not new, since it has already been used during other serious epidemics and pandemics, such as the Spanish flu in 1918, SARS in 2003 and the H1N1 virus in 2009. This preventive measure is recommended by the World Health Organization. Health in cases of outbreaks, endemics, epidemics and various pandemics.

The organization pointed out that the countries that took the toughest measures at the beginning of the contagion, such as Taiwan and Singapore, had the best results, for example: there are 50 confirmed cases since the outbreak began! He expanded border control, conducts tests and interviews to confirm suspected cases, prohibits face-to-face work when it is expendable, and imposes a very high fine on those who do not comply with the quarantine.

The Ministry of Health is also working to combat false news about the new coronavirus pandemic, including some claiming that the virus was created in the laboratory and that it would be a Chinese action.

Another very important recommendation is that of the doctor in infectious diseases Roberta Schiavon Nogueira so that hand washing is carried out as a main prevention measure combined with distance, explaining that the virus spreads a lot through the air and reaches up to two meters of distance, plus it can be transferred through objects.

Italy was late in taking these important measures and is being criticized, paying the price for the evolution and spread of the disease.

According to Assistant Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, number two in the health department hierarchy, since the coronavirus appears to meet the legal definition of a 'biological agent'...these acts may implicate the nation's terrorism-related statutes, he wrote: "Threats or attempts to use Covid-19 as a weapon against American citizens will not be tolerated."

Attorney General Bill Barr told a White House meeting that the department can prosecute anyone who stockpiles essential supplies, such as face masks, as well as price gouging on items necessary for the survival of the population. or to combat the disease, however, the organization has so far not drawn up a list of supplies that are considered essential.

The following table shows the evolution of COVID-19 in Brazil. March 2020 data:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Confirmed cases..... | 1,188,631 |
| Deceased..... | 53,830 |
| Lethality..... | 4.53% |

Statistics by Regions

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Amazon (AM) | Acre (AC) | Alagoas (AL) | Amapa (AP) | Bahia (BA) |
| 66,764 | 12,022 | 31,230 | 26,919 | 51,931 |
| Ceará (CE) | Federal District (DF) | Spirit (EN) | Goi ace (GO) | Maranhão (MA) |
| 99,578 | 37,254 | 38,481 | 18,622 | 73,314 |
| Minas Gerais (MG) | Mato Grosso (MT) | Mato Grosso do Sul (MS) | Pará (PA) | To go (PB) |
| 31,343 | 11,443 | 6,201 | 91,708 | 39,912 |
| Pernambuco (PE) | Paraná (PR) | Piauí (PI) | Rio de Janeiro (RJ) | Rio Grande do Norte (RN) |
| 54,022 | 16,963 | 16,227 | 103,493 | 21,774 |
| Rondônia (RO) | Roraima (RR) | Rio Grande do Sul (RS) | Santa Catarina (SC) | Sergipe (SE) |
| 17424 | 10,803 | 22,009 | 20,921 | 20,393 |
| São Paulo (SP) | Tocantins (TO) | | | |
| 238,822 | 9,098 | | | |

The Financial Action Task Force against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing issued a statement on April 2 inviting countries to face the challenges posed by the new coronavirus without forgetting to protect themselves against the risks of financial crimes.

As the team is responsible for establishing international standards to prevent and combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, it points out that the insertion of these standards "facilitates the integrity and security of the payment system global during and after the pandemic period."

In addition, it establishes that "criminals are taking advantage of the pandemic to apply financial fraud and exploitation scams and that fraudulent or malicious cybercrime, in addition to the spread of false information, is likely to increase", and that the authorities are alerting citizens and economic sectors to such scams, including highlights that supervisory and inspection agencies, financial intelligence units, and criminal investigation and prosecution authorities should continue to share information with the private sector, to in order to prioritize and reduce

the main risks of money laundering and financing of terrorism.

It also makes considerations about the application of its standards within the scope of charitable and non-profit non-governmental organizations, whose vital work in the midst of the pandemic has been highlighted. Gafi members are using all available resources to combat the pandemic. In addition to establishing international standards to prevent and combat money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, it encourages countries to work in partnership with financial institutions and other lines of business to take advantage of the flexibility of the approach based on facing the challenges imposed by covid-19.

The continued implementation of the standards ensures the security of the global payment system during and after the pandemic period, through legitimate and transparent channels.

Criminals are taking advantage of the pandemic through the application of financial fraud, exploitation scams, counterfeit drug trafficking, fraudulent offers, participation in *phishing scams based on fear of the virus*,

fraudulent or malicious cybercrime, fundraising for fictitious NGOs and through the exploitation of people in their urgent needs for basic care and the dissemination of false information.

National authorities and international organizations are alerting citizens and economic sectors about these scams, as well as about insider trading related to covid-19. Like criminals, terrorists can also exploit these possibilities to raise funds, moreover, they can exploit gaps and weaknesses in national systems by assuming that attention is directed to other issues, making the monitoring and investigation based on the risk are more important than ever.

Therefore, financial institutions and other related sectors must remain vigilant to ensure that they avoid such risks and are able to detect and report suspicious activity.

This global emergency emphasized the work of charitable and non-profit non-governmental organizations in the fight against covid-19 and its effects.

Authorities in some countries have already taken swift action and provided this kind of guidance.

According to the American research center *Pew Research Center* that published a story today,

Americans consider the Covid-19 pandemic reaching more than 1.8 million people worldwide as the main international threat to the United States, the current epicenter of the crisis. On April 13, where 79% of Americans consider "the spread of infectious diseases" a concern six percentage points higher than in a previous survey.

Not even terrorism or the proliferation of nuclear weapons, considered serious threats by 73% of Americans, were considered as serious.

98% of Americans say that the spread of infectious diseases is a threat, no matter how small.

The United States has the highest death toll due to Covid-19, with more than 555,000 people infected, including some 22,000, *The New York Times* reported.

Only 63% of the US population considers the condition of the world economy to be of such concern as a serious threat to the United States. The US government approved a \$2 trillion package in late March to contain the economic impacts of the Covid-19 outbreak.

However, a percentage of 86% of Americans say that cooperation with other countries is very important to contain the spread of the pandemic. Compared to global warming, 67% have the same opinion on cooperation.

Already Israel has a population of 9 million people and recorded 16,712 coronavirus cases and 279 deaths, so the Israeli office has limited the use of anti-terror technology for cell phone tracking and the involvement of the *Shin security service*. *Bet* of people infected with coronavirus, claiming to be the last measure to be taken in the epidemiological investigation.

Parliament, when the coronavirus effectively began the proliferation, the cabinet approved emergency regulations that allowed the use of the technology deployed to combat terrorism, but they are controversial for *Privacy Watch Groups*.

Given the argument that the contagion rates in Israel are declining, the cabinet has changed the regulations to ensure telephone monitoring, only in specific cases, where the location cannot be completed with an epidemiological investigation using other resources and also from according to a statement in its scope, reduces the participation of *Shin Bet*, but that may be reviewed if there is an increase in covid-19 cases.

Schools and businesses are cautiously reopening in the face of health policies.

In June, a new *strain* of the influenza virus appears, identified in China with the potential to cause another pandemic.

A study of such a strain of the influenza virus, which causes influenza, has recently emerged and shows that pigs are hosts, but the virus can infect humans. According to the BBC, scientists are concerned that the strain could mutate further and spread from person to person, triggering another global outbreak. They claimed that the virus has all the characteristics to be highly adaptable and infect humans.

Classified as G4 EA H1N1, it can grow and multiply in cells lining the human airways, as evidence of infection has been found in people working in slaughterhouses and in the pig industry in China.

Current vaccines, like the 2009 pandemic flu in Mexico called

A/H1N1pdm09, don't seem to protect against this.

Experts from the University of Cambridge in England, made up of 25 wildlife experts and veterinarians, identified seven routes by which a new pandemic could occur and 161 ways to avoid the risk.

The relationship with the animals would be the main point of attention, demanding a ban on the exotic animal trade and repressing crowded farms, according to the Cambridge study that supports the requests for a ban on this type of market.

The first infections of the new coronavirus (Covid-19) appeared in a seafood market in Wuhan, China, where live animals were traded for slaughter on demand, and after the start of the pandemic, China banned this type of trade in wild animals.

Various campaigns have focused on ending the wildlife trade, but it is only one of many possible routes of infection. We should not think that the next pandemic will be the same as Covid-19, "if we don't act on a broader scale to reduce risk," said Professor William Sutherland in the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge.

If these drastic changes are not urgently adopted, it will only be a matter of time before another pandemic hits the world.

Some of the ways to reduce the risk of another pandemic are relatively simple: how to encourage small farmers to keep chickens or ducks away from people, improve biosecurity, and introduce appropriate veterinary and hygiene standards for animals. farm all over the world.

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Image Source:

<https://veja.abril.com.br/mundo/covid-19-e-ameaca-internacional-pior-que-o-terrorismo-dizem-americanos-people/>

Marco Aurelius Terroni ,

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Ethiopia, the resonance of a silenced voice

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Hachalu Hundessa , Ethiopian singer killed allegedly for political reasons.

Thousands of young people walk the streets of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with black t-shirts that say "I am Hachalu too", in memory of the musical star Hachalu Hundessa, 35, who in an unclarified incident, after being shot several times in his car on the night of June 29, in the Gelan area, a capital suburb, died hours later at the Tirunesh General Hospital. Beijing.

The news caused thousands of his followers to gather in front of the hospital, and a series of protests began, which became widespread in different neighborhoods of the city, such as Addisu . Gebeya , Lam Beret , CMC, Kara and Ayat Real State and particularly in the sought-after neighborhood of Cumbre, where residents said they were armed throughout the night to defend their properties.

The clashes that were generated between the protesters

and Ambo, the hometown of the murdered idol, a hundred kilometers west of the capital over the days reached 170 dead. In addition, that about 300 cars and buses assaulted and set on fire in Addis Ababa. Given the shock that the first protests had taken, the police reported the detection of several suspects in the murder, without specifying anything else.

In a television interview the previous week, the singer denounced having received death threats, since Hundessa, in addition to being a well-known popular artist, was intensely active as a political activist, who, during the harshest years of repression, when many artists and political references were escaping the country, Hundessa chose to continue denouncing the government, for which his voice embodied the claim of the great

majority of the entire country for: freedom, justice and well-being.

Despite the fact that his preaching was focused in favor of the ethnic group to which he belonged, the Oromos, the most numerous of the nine that make up Ethiopia, with about 25 million members, of the total of the 105 million inhabitants that the country has from the Horn of Africa. This ethnic group has historically been the most neglected by successive central governments since the creation of modern Ethiopia, during the government of Emperor Menelik II (1889-1909), who unified the country and whose singer, mounted on the wave of black lives Matter, who is demolishing statues of controversial figures from history in practically every country in the world, called for the old emperor's statue, located in the Piasa neighborhood of the country's capital, to be demolished.

Hachalu Hundessa, beyond the fact that his compositions focused on his ethnic group, was followed by thousands of young people belonging to others, to the point that his songs that denounced the economic and political marginalization of the Oromos, during the 2018 anti-government demonstrations, which ended with Hailemariam's government Desalegn, became the music that fueled those protests.

After the resignation of Desalegn, involved in charges of corruption and accusations of authoritarianism and spurred by intense demonstrations, he would be replaced by Abiy Ahmed, who would then become not only the first Oromo to reach that position, but also to get the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, in recognition of achieving the end of the war between his country and Eritrea, which since 1981 had left a number that according to different observers estimates between 60 and 300 thousand dead.

Hundessa's crime, purely political, has shattered the fragile balance maintained by the current Prime Minister, with a complicated electoral agenda, given that the presidential elections will be held on August 29, although on June 10, the Upper House of the Parliament, decided to postpone them between nine months and a year, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, for which Abiy's mandate was extended until then. Too long for a Prime Minister, who was suffering significant wear and tear in his management of government, since he has not responded to the expectations of the Oromos, who hoped to be vindicated with the arrival of one of their own. To which must be added the increasingly tense relationship with Egypt due to the filling of the Great Renaissance Dam (ERGE),

which will produce a serious decrease in the course of the Nile (See: Egypt-Ethiopia: The waters go down cloudy.) which could precipitate a war, with its neighbors to the north.

After hearing the news of the singer's death, his fans have not only stunned the streets of Addis Ababa, but also those of Ambo, his hometown a hundred kilometers west of the capital and even many of the almost 100 thousand Ethiopians or descendants, who live in the United Kingdom, last day three in front of the doors of Downing Street, the residence of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in London to demand the clarification of the murder.

The dispute over the symbol

Undoubtedly, the circumstances of Hachalu's death Hundessa, catapults him to the stature of legend and symbol for his ethnic group and also for many of the young people of other ethnic groups who, without a future, are torn between staying or looking for a life outside the country, (See: Ethiopia: The long caravan of the invisible.) for which the fate of his remains has already brought controversies.

A few hours after learning of his death, the government, obeying the "will" of his family, decided to move the body to Ambo, in Oromia, the largest state in Ethiopia that surrounds the capital, and is similar in size to Germany.

When the funeral procession had traveled just 15 kilometers, of the hundred to travel, in Burayu, where during the 2018 protests, about seventy Oromos had been killed by the government, thousands of people, arriving in trucks, buses and even on foot, from the capital and other parts of the country they waited for the caravan that

transported the body of the new martyr. Many were in a state of shock, pain and indignation, that they intended to take their idol back to Addis Ababa, to be buried there. Among them was the former media tycoon, Jawar Mohammed, who has clear political desires, and who was finally arrested along with an important Oromo politician, Bekele Gerba and 35 other people, which caused a brawl in which he died. a policeman.

Since all the routes were blocked by the fans, the authorities decided to move the body to Ambo, by helicopter, where it would be buried on Thursday. As of the dispute in Burayu, the protests increased, with the consequent police repression, which triggered the number of deaths, which according to the latest data is close to 170, to which hundreds of wounded and thousands of detainees.

During the week that the demonstrations practically lasted, a crowd tried to tear down the statue of Emperor Menelik II, to fulfill one of Hachalu's last wishes, which were dispersed by the police, who also must have set up a fort security cord around it, which is still maintained.

are many interested in discrediting the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who, if he were responsible for Hachalu's death, would practically have to be considered political suicide, so perhaps the focus would have to be opened from his local political enemies, to reach the Egyptian rais himself, General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi.

Beyond any presumption, Hachalu's death means a deep blow for the Ethiopian people and perhaps the herald of times when silence will be thunderous.

Image Source.

<https://www.fanabc.com/english/prominent-oromo-singer-hachalu-hundessa-shot-dead/>



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Plague soldiers

By Alberto Carracedo (Argentina)



Soldiers of the Argentine Republic. Illustrative image.

I understand that the title may cause confusion.

I want to express myself about actions that have been seen, and I estimate that they will continue to be seen, during the pandemic that has hit us violently and abruptly. And yes, I will mention the presence of the Armed Forces in control and aid activities in Latin American societies, but it is not about them that I am going to refer.

That is why the title is not wrong, it should not say "soldiers in the plague" to refer to the necessary and timely military presence in assistance activities in the face of misfortune, occupying the space in which the administrative structures of the States failed.

I will not focus on those soldiers and much less on the plague that generated a virus that we still do not even know for sure where it came from.

I will refer to another plague and the soldiers who impose it.

A different plague, silently attacking society as a whole and, to make matters worse, with an incredible ability to adapt to any defense that can be used against it.

And for, above all, an enormous potential to damage the very foundations of a harmonious and organized society, as much as its unique ability to mask itself in each process in which some people seek to renew themselves and predispose themselves to a different future.

Thus, the pestilence remains hidden in the collective drowsiness that it has already caused in previous attacks, shamelessly suckling the effort of a social corpus incapable of understanding its own suffering.

Inoculating in each suction of the well-being of the honest, their most harmful and degenerative saliva. Sweet nectar for those who, born from previously injected confusions, cannot defend themselves against the seductive

words and perverse ideologies that adorn the dose of undermining the sacred, the noble feeling towards others.

Intelligent plague that, without problems and without shame, can flag itself with the highest principles to culminate in dragging them through the mud of the mass summoned to fight without knowing why they fight. And much less for whom the virtue and honor of the country is offered.

There are these soldiers, macabre knights of the plague. Brilliant stunned drivers toward a fuzzy, brass-glossed target, for which sleepy society is supposed to give up what little dignity it has left.

Any hint of citizens determined to disinfect causes a new outbreak to flourish because those who are free from the plague cannot admit that the environment that contains them falls into the hands of honest people. They always go out to fight, always shouting the slogan of generating a more equitable

country, always with the ability to confuse the most educated brains . When, paradoxically, they have been the lords of inequity, those who have enjoyed the victories achieved at the expense of the sacrifice of others whose only reward for their service is left with their minds reverberating with lying ideologization and resentment on the surface.

Well-trained these soldiers, polished their manners in the most refined science that, in the heat of combat, not only ignore but misrepresent to accuse the just for wielding the truths that must be silenced to twist the arm of the just. Builders of the most credible characters, before whom any unsuspecting person disarms and adheres, but bearers of the most sinister cynicism and the comfortable hypocrisy that allows them to shamelessly invoke the collective effort without giving up on the lifestyle that is not their own because nothing for their merit have earned.

The same hypocrisy with which they convince their own hosts of being worthy of what is foreign just by shooting bursts of meaningless words, empty of foundation, but that sound strident and even biblical in speeches that should be heard and applauded so as not to be accused of being an enemy. Not an enemy of them, but of the Homeland, of the people, of freedom, of the founding principles of the Republic, everything for which the unarmed and sleepy mass can applaud furiously when they take the accused to the gallows. infamy and cunning exposure.

Discourses that, however, are not enough when reality makes its appearance and hits society in the face, when fear becomes flesh in the experience of misfortune, as in this pandemic.

There is usually seen the skill with which these soldiers of the lie

confidently hoist their own exculpation pointing, inquisitor -res, to distant or unintelligible evils ; and if this is not the case, the first one who appears in his line of fire with at least a pinch of truth, criteria or conscience to face desolation with dignity.

As well as the immorality of putting at the forefront of the disaster the same institutions that were once insistently lashed out, lacking or obsolescent means, walking around in front of any camera that wants to portray them as military leaders when they are not and when they should. explain the reasons for the need for military force in activities that should be carried out by civil protection.

Noble are the soldiers of the forces, the true soldiers, so as not to vomit in their faces the past mistreatment and the " actin " for the tribune. No one can ignore past tragedies in which the Armed Forces in Latin America in general participated, cruel tragedies that required reeducation and professional service as a healing for society and its Armed Forces; instead of ignoring and pillorying to remove from the people the opportunity to learn from the past and dirty with the permanent and sustained witch hunt, the firm values that sustain the militia.

Because it seems that the crises of each time do not matter to this army of accommodating, but to close ranks and prevent society from discovering the maneuvers in pursuit of the perpetuity of the plague. These soldiers are experts at it and in crisis after crisis they adhere to the power achieved and promised with the simplicity and integrity of a moss.

Experts in exculpating themselves, fanatical about being right even if the discussion destroys the truth or transforms it into just an infamous argument, skillful in directing the combats from afar and

assured comfort even though the pile of living dead rises in poor neighborhoods. Those that they like to call "popular" as to give its inhabitants the feeling of living in the fashionable place, because that means popular: what is chosen by the majority, and no one with clear reasoning can assume that the majority likes to live in homelessness and segregation.

Exculpations with the gall to accept the failure of their own staff, almost family trees and certainly numerous, without any of its members being displaced for not having done their job correctly. Work for which he should have prepared himself in his professional life before putting the people at risk and taking cover in unworthy terms such as "we could not foresee it" or "it took us by surprise" and even some "someone is generating this".

A true affront to the population that, honestly, day by day, must support their families despite everything these soldiers wield. The difference is that these excuses do not fill the stomach of the children nor do they prop up the future of the great ones.

With luck, the pestilent hosts will be able to dazzle with magic and hopeful phrases so that the emptiness of the plates seems to be filled with provisions given by the love of the plague. And the abysmal future runs to the future of the next generation, in a kind of inherited frustration, the generation of an aristocracy of insipid and suffering life.

Interested love from which the mistaken vision is born that excessive adoration, obsequiousness and even complicity can change destiny and hence the session of the values and dignity of those who support false generals, those who fight the battles for himself and his troops. Perpetual pages who even have the nerve to get confused when such baseness

is foisted on them, in any case, they will never be soldiers of the plague, in some cases they will be tools, in others just meat to grind to feed the putrid troops.

It must be recognized, the soldiers of the plague, that they are wise strategists when it comes to clinging to everything that represents the good State in combats without beginning or end, so that the pillar institutions dedicate themselves to the eternal fight that has no victory, but that distracts from the true functions for which they were created. And the maneuver discovered by society, once again the ability to confront it with past atrocities to assign it the

role of accomplice and lull it into guilt. The guilt for which he must pay the penalty for what the plague has done before but which he frees himself by the management of his soldiers.

If the pandemic has shown something, with different powers in different parts of the world and especially in this southern corner of the planet, it is that the plague has an extraordinary capacity to react, on all fronts and with all its weapons, since it has soldiers in each transcendental area of management, at each level, in each activity.

And if it is not his own troops, Coptic wills disguised as good

intentions carry out their dirty work, raising the level of their activities to the mediocre stratum, in order not to think, to endure without complaints, to be dazzled by the passing gift, and what it is more serious, not to teach, not to alert, not to react.

The plague caused by a virus can threaten our physical life, but the plague that assumes to control our lives and confine them to the subjection of its pestilence can put an end to the dignity with which a society lives its future.

His soldiers will always be ready to fight.

And you who read this article in a distant place from where I write it, do you know some?

Image Source:

https://argentina.as.com/argentina/2020/03/26/tikitakas/1585216405_613167.html

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Turkey: The Sultan in the Cathedral

By Guadi Calvo (Argentina)



Hagia Sophia , in Istanbul

Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Libya, the Mediterranean and now in Istanbul itself, are the places where in recent years the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has flexed his muscles to show himself to the world as a new sultan, to achieve the resurgence of a new Ottoman Empire, which collapsed at the end of World War I, and which had virtually ruled the Muslim world since 1300.

The Turkish autocrat has just placed a new pearl on his crown, in this case none other than the Hagia Sophia (Holy Mother Sophia) which, through a decree of last Friday the 10th, turns it once again into a mosque. Transferring its control to the Directorate of Religious Affairs, and removing its status as a museum.

The Hagia Sophia or Ayasofya , in Turkish, since its construction in

the 6th century, as a Byzantine cathedral, accompanied the political and military changes that shook Istanbul, becoming a symbol of Christian-Muslim rivalry, going from being a cathedral to a mosque, during the Ottoman Empire, until secularization imposed from 1923 by President Kemal Atatürk was declared a museum, which brings together travelers from all over the world, becoming the most attractive tourist point in the country, receiving almost four million visitors per year. The cathedral, built by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I, was the focus of Christianity for nearly a thousand years, until Emperor Mehmed II, the Conqueror, conquered Constantinople and converted Hagia Sophia into a mosque, so for the next 500 years it was one of the main centers of devotion of the Ottoman Empire.

With this decision, Erdogan once again attracts not only his local supporters, but also millions of Muslims from all corners of Islam, who with this act will feel vindicated after eighty years of ostracism and will undoubtedly make a pilgrimage to the old cathedral with vindictive devotion.

With the change of status of the monument, Erdogan knew that it was going to provoke opposite reactions, which were not long in coming, and obviously the first ones that were known left from Greece, a country with which Turkey has a long and bloody interdict, in addition to Christians from all over the world, including Pope Francis, who has just declared that he is "very hurt by the conversion", to which must be added the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Those who did not believe him capable of such a decision and as soon as it became known that the decision was being studied at the highest level in Ankara, incredulous came out to say that: " Erdogan has raised the issue of restoring Hagia Sophia , whenever she is faced with a political crisis, trying to rouse supporters in the religious, nationalist and conservative sectors " .

It is true that the Turkish president is experiencing moments of anxiety, pressed by the electoral defeat in the Istanbul Metropolitan City Council , the country's largest mayor's office, in last year's municipal elections, in which the most conservative sector lost the old capital of the country after 25 years of control at the hands of the social democratic party, in the electoral repetition of the elections held in March and then annulled. The then candidate of the Republican People's Party (CHP), Ekrem Imamoglu got 54 percent of the 8.8 million votes. The new fifty-year-old mayor of Istanbul, who until just over a year ago was practically unknown in the political world of the country, today stands as a serious threat to the Sultan, who has ruled Turkey for 18 years with his very "particular concepts of democracy", while his political space Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi or AKP (Justice and Development Party) falls in the polls for its mismanagement in the face of the Pandemic, which with almost 122 thousand infected and 5 thousand dead, is destroying important sectors of the economy.

On July 2, an administrative court had ruled to give the Hagia Sophia its status as a mosque, revoking an eighty-year-old decree that had declared it: "a museum under the secular state of Turkey."

With this ruling, Erdogan also very personally, and beyond political gestures, will feel vindicated since since he became

mayor of Istanbul in 1984, he tried to leave his mark on his hometown, for which he has been working. to leave his stamp on his beloved hometown. He cleaned the waters of the Golden Horn, the estuary of the Bosphorus Strait, which divides the city; he built a system of bridges and tunnels, speeding up traffic between the western and eastern parts of Istanbul, while building mosques in the most strategic places. But he could not, what now, Islamize the Hagia Sophia, which occupies a central place, not only in the urban area, but in the history of the country.

I the caliph

The conversion of the Hagia Sophia in mosque, is part of Erdogan 's strategy , so that it becomes the third holiest place in Islam, after the Masjid al - Haram (Great Mosque) of Mecca and the Masjid al- Aqsa (mosque of al - Aqsa) in al- Quus , the Arabic name for Jerusalem, displacing even Masjid al- Nabawi from the city of Medina, which made it a reference beyond the political, also in the religious, more when the house reigning in Saudi Arabia, the Saud , seem to have already reached their zenith and rush towards decadence by dint of corruption , despotism, the war in Yemen and the financing of countless Wahhabi-style terrorist gangs, which strike from Nigeria to the Philippines, a path that began encouraging the dismantling of the secular norms established by Atatürk , in an attempt to restore the Ottoman era. Therefore, for the new caliph, listening to it must have sounded like a heavenly song, that for the first time in 80 years, an imam read the forty-eight sura (chapter) of the Koran entitled al- Fattah (Victory) that celebrates nothing less than the Hudaibiyah the treaty between the people of Mecca and Medina, in 628, by

which the prophet Mohammed was allowed to enter that last city. Which, without a doubt, in the ears of Erdogan and his people, is full of symbolism.

That act irritated many, mainly the Greek government, which considers itself the natural heir to the Greek-speaking Byzantine Empire, after which it classified the act as a violation of the state of Hagia. Sophia, UNESCO world heritage.

Lina Mendoni, the Hellenic culture minister, condemned Turkey's decision as a "direct challenge to the entire civilized world", adding that " Erdogan 's nationalism had set the country back six centuries".

For his part, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew, spiritual leader of the Eastern Orthodox Church whose headquarters are in Istanbul, upon learning of Erdogan 's intentions to change the fate of the Cathedral once again, said that: "the conversion would disappoint to millions of Christians around the world and would divide Muslims and Christians when it did."

While art experts and historians fear what might happen to the medieval mosaics inside the Hagia Sophia, representing the Holy Family and the portraits of the Christian emperors, which could be destroyed by the most orthodox, given the prohibition of reproducing the human figure in Islamic laws. At the same time, tourist companies fear that entry will be closed to non-Muslims, cutting off one of their largest sources of income.

Hagia Sophia is the fourth museum of the Byzantine church to be converted into a mosque so far during Erdogan 's government, although this is clearly the most important, the last of the counterclaims had occurred last November with the Chora monastery in Istanbul.

After the promulgation of the decree was publicly known, more than a thousand fundamentalists arrived at the gates of the Hagia Sophia, at the cry of Allah akbar " (God is great) while the police placed barriers at the entrance of the monument. It is believed that the official inauguration could take place next July 15 in commemoration of the fourth anniversary of the failed coup against Erdogan. The Turkish president on Twitter, in which he announced the counterclaim decree, ended it by adding Hayirli olsun (Congratulations), without explaining to whom.

Image Source:

<https://www.viator.com/es-CO/tours/Istanbul/Istanbul-Hagia-Sophia-Museum-Electronic-Entrance-Ticket/d585-72931P125>

Terrorist groups in Mali

By Daniel Martinez (Uruguay)



I. Introduction

Between 1990 and 1996, the Tuareg fought against Mali and Niger in a revolt instigated by a serious famine in the region, the harsh repression against the political rights of this population and the refugee crisis derived from the political weakness of both countries during the decade from the 80's.

The Tuareg took up arms again between 2007 and 2009 due to the slow and unsatisfactory demobilization and integration of the rebels into civilian life and the Armed Forces. In the process, several Tuareg politicians were removed from office and some went to jail.

Favored by the Coup d'état (MAR2012) and institutional chaos, the Tuareg rebels achieved total control of the provinces of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu in a few days, proclaiming the independence of the State of Azawad, (06APR2012) although this movement did not was recognized by the international community. However, the MNLA (Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad) was soon overtaken by other Salafi armed groups such as Ansar al Din, MUJAO or Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI), which expelled them from the main cities of the region and began to impose the "sharia" and advance towards the south of the country. In response, France responded to Mali's request to intervene in the country to deal with the threat of these groups and managed to recover most of the territory.

In ABR2012, the MNLA seized the entire north of Mali, with a Tuareg majority, from state troops in a rebellion whose goal was independence, but the revolt was immediately seized by three Islamist groups: MUYAO, Ansar Dine and Al Qaeda Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Since then, the Islamists have introduced “ sharia ” (Islamic law) in the cities of Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao and destroyed historic temples where, in their opinion, idolatry was practiced. Despite the declaration of independence formulated at the time by the MNLA, neither Mali nor the international community recognized the step taken by the Tuareg, who have staged several uprisings to achieve recognition of the autonomy of said people or the creation of their own country in the region.

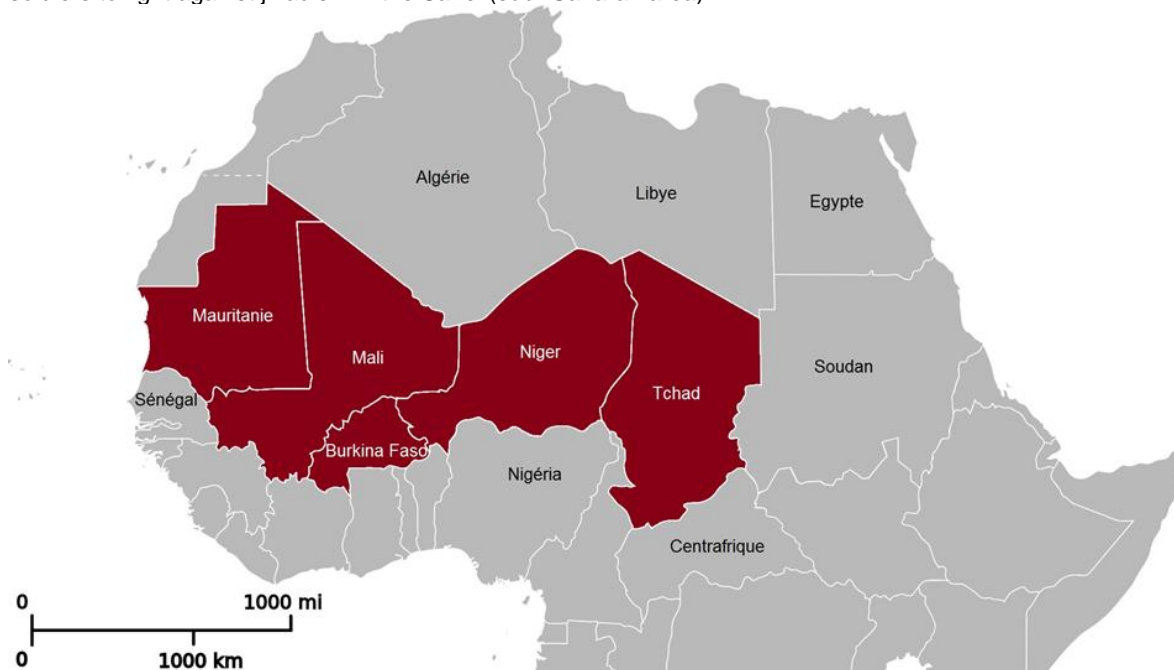
The Ouagadougou Agreements (JUN2012) between the rebels and the Government of Bamako, in addition to marking the end of the confrontations and laying the foundations for dialogue, allowed the presidential elections of 28JUL2013 and 11AUG2013 and the general elections of 24NOV2013 and 15DEC2013 to be held Throughout the national territory.

In the agreements, both parties undertook to favor the return of the central administration to Bamako, as well as to determine the administrative status of Azawad and the development strategies for the area. However, extremist groups continue to carry out some attacks and attacks against the MNLA and the security forces.

01JUL2013: MINUSMA relieved the French troops that expelled the jihadist groups that had taken control of the desert region of northern Mali (from the summer of 2012 to JAN2013).

The jihadists had taken advantage of a Tuareg rebellion against government forces to take over the entire north of the country. Instability has spread to the central zone of the country.

The UN supports the G5 international force (Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad), with 10,000 soldiers to fight against jihadism in the Sahel (sub- Saharan area).



MINUSMA (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Mali) holds the record for being the active UN mission with the lowest casualties

06MAR2020 The Government admits for the first time that it is in dialogue with jihadist groups. Objective: Isolate the group with the greatest operational capacity and growth, the Islamic State of the Greater Sahara (EIGS, Salafist Jihadist Ideology, founded 15MAY2015, split from Al Murabitun) led by Lehbib Ould Abdi Ould Said, Alias Adnane Abu Walid Al Saharawi, born El Aaiun (74) when Western Sahara was Spanish.

Saharawi Liberation Army (armed branch of the Polisario Front) grew up in El Aaiún and went to the Tindouf refugee camps, along with other Saharawis and Mauritians. 2003 joined the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC). 2013: Founder of the Movement for the Oneness of Jihad in West Africa (Muyao). 2015: Marries a woman from the Peul ethnic group Tolebbé of Niger and created the Islamic State of the Greater Sahara (EIGS). His lieutenant, Abdel Hakim, is Saharawi, while at a third level of command there are Nigerian chiefs.

EIGS terrorist group with the greatest growth and operational capacity in the Sahel is expanding to the east and south of Burkina Faso. Responsible for 700,000 internally displaced persons. Sources of financing: collection of taxes in exchange for protection, sale of livestock, robbery, kidnapping and trafficking such as arms, drugs, tobacco, fuel, vehicles and kidnapping

II.- Order of Battle.

A.- CMA (Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad). Alliance of rebel groups founded in 2014.
Objective : Fight for independence

- 1.- **MNLA** (Mouvement national pour la libération de l'Azawad)
 - 2.- **HCUA (Haut Conseil pour l'unité de l'Azawad)**
 - 3.- **MAA (Arab Movement of l'Azawad)**
 - 4.- **CPA (Coalition du peuple pour l'Azawad)**
 - 5.- **FPA (Front populaire of l'Azawad)**
 - 6.- **CM – FPR2 Coordination des Mouvements et Front patriotique de résistance**
 - 7.- **GATIA** (Imghad Tuareg surveillance group and allies) pro-government of Mali and allied with AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Fulani. Start 14AUG2014 Leader: El Hadj Ag Gamou (Kidal and Gao)
 - 8.- **MAA (Arab Movement of l'Azawad.** North of Timbuktu. Leader: Sisi Mohamed
- Note: Since JUN2017: Battles between CMA and GATIA. Control of illicit areas and traffic

B.- Split Tuareg groups

- 1.- **MSA** - Movement for the Salvation of Azawad (Founded: 2016). Allied with CMA and Gathia .
- 2.- **CJA** - Congress for Justice in Azawad (2016)

C.- Jihadists

- 1.- **Islamic State of the Greater Sahara (ISIS).** Area: Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. Salafist jihadist ideology , Founded 15MAY2015. Split from Al Murabitun and led by Adnane Abou Walid Al - Sahraoui , alias Lehbib Ould Ali Ould Said ould Joumani . Born 1971 El Ayoun (Western Sahara)
- 2.- **Ansarul Islam.** Leader Ibrahim Dicko . Mali – Burkina Faso border



D. - Support Group for Islam and Muslims.

The largest jihadist force in the Sahara. Emerged in MAR2017 by the union under the aegis of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQMI) with Ansar groups Dine , Front of Macina and Al Murabitún .

- 1.- **Goose Dine** (Salafist). Leader Iyad Ag Ghaly or Abu al - Fadl , Malian Tuareg terrorist from Kidal (Mali). 1988, founded the Popular Movement for the Liberation Ghaly of Azawad. 1990: Participated in the Tuareg rebellion against the Malian government since 1980. Ansar Islamist leader Dine since 2012 and since 02MAR2017 the "Front of Support for Islam and Muslims",
- 2.- **FLM** (Front for the Liberation of Macina), Leader Amadou Kouffa , ally of the group "Al Murabitún "
- 3.- **"Al Murabitún "**. Leader Mojtar Bel Mojtar (Algerian) It was born in AGO2013, as a merger of the terrorist group the "Brigade of the Masked Men", led by the Algerian Mojtar Belmojtar , and the "Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa" (MUJAO)
- 4.- **Al Murabitún World Movement (MMM)** They are 3 separate groups with one goal: the fight against the infidel who has deviated from the path of Islam.
 - a) The Murabitún of Al- Andalus ("men of the Ribat "), Almoravids of the Berber dynasty, the most feared warriors, in present-day *Morocco, Mauritania, Western Algeria and Spain* between 1056/1060 and 1147 AD. c.
 - b) Founded by Ibrahim Qulaylaten (1972), militia in West Beirut from the start of the Lebanon War (1975) to the Arab -Israeli War (1982). This movement maintained an alliance with al-Fatah (Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, PLO), arming itself through the Lebanese government. The dispersal of the PLO and Israel's disarming of the Murabitun in 1982 weakened the movement.
 - c) Current Murabitún World Movement (MMM). It is led by Ian Dallas (Shaykh Abdalqadir Al -Murabit"as - Sufi " ad- Darqawy), converted to Islam in 1963 or 1965 and self-proclaimed successor of the Tariqah in 1968 Southern Darqawi Morocco, after receiving "spiritual authority" from Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Al-Habib, an authority he also received in 1976 in Benghazi (Libya) from Shaykh al -Fayturi .
- 5.- **Al Furgan Emirate of the Sahara:** Leader: Abu Talha al Libi , (Timbuktu).

III.- Most notable terrorist and social actions

10JUL2020: 1 dead and 20 injured. Thousands of Protesters occupy government buildings (National Television) in Bamako and loot the National Assembly. Protests against President Ibrahim Keita . They demand his resignation.

01JUL2020: 32 civilians killed. Jihadi terrorists (semi-nomadic Fulani herdsmen) on motorcycles attacked four farming villages of the Dogon ethnic group in the Mopti region of the Bankass area near the border with Burkina Faso.

15JUN2020: 24 soldiers dead, 8 wounded and 12 soldiers missing. Ambush a military convoy. Diabaly

JUN 13, 2020: 2 MINUSMA soldiers killed UN logistics convoy attacked in Tarkint by jihadists between Tessalit and Gao (NW of Gao)

05JUN2020: Dead Abdelmalek Droukdal , leader of Al Qaeda in North Africa, by French troops

06APR2020: 23 dead soldiers. Ansar al - Sharia terrorist attack on a military base in Bamba, Gao region

26FEB2020: UN designates IS-West Africa Province (ISWAP) – Islamic State in West Africa and IS- Greater Sahara (ISGS) – Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, the second and third global affiliates of the Islamic State it has designated following its first IS- Khorasan designation in MAY2019.

14FEB2020: 21 dead Fulani ethnic group and 28 missing. Night attack, Ogossagou village - Mopti (23MAR2019, 160 Fulani killed by ethnic Dogon hunters). Huts and crops were burned, cattle were taken. Fulani united with jihadists and grouped by Islamic preacher Amadou Koufa in the Katiba militia Macina

09 JAN 2020: 24 wounded (18 soldiers from Chad, 6 seriously wounded - MINUSMA). Rocket attack on Tessalit - Kidal

01JAN2020: 2 wounded Belgian soldiers from MINUSMA. Armored Dingo II (MPPV) ran over an improvised explosive device (IED)

29NOV2019: Boko Haram , who calls himself the Islamic State in (the province of) West Africa (ISWAP) claimed to be involved in the crash of two helicopters that left 13 French soldiers dead in Mali (25NOV2019)

18NOV2019: 43 dead and 29 injured. A convoy of Malian soldiers was ambushed by Islamic State terrorists in the Tabankort area of Gao.

01NOV2019: 53 soldiers and one civilian killed in Indelimane , Ménaka . Islamic State attack

08OCT2019: Moroccan Abu Abderahman al Maghrebi , alias Ali Maychu , religious leader and No. 2 of the GSIM (Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims, Al Qaeda) killed by French forces in the Sahel, in coordination with Malian forces and US support

30SET2019: 25 soldiers dead, 4 wounded and 60 missing. 15 Islamist terrorists killed. Ansarul Islam attack on military posts in Boulekessi and Mondoro , near Burkina Faso

03SET2019: 20 civilians killed. Explosion of a mine when passing a bus 32 km from Douentza (Mopti)

02SET2019: Final ceremony. Training of members of the MOC Operational Coordination Mechanism, Gao - Timbuktu
 MSA Movement for the Salvation of Azawad (Tuareg) has 60 ex-combatants. FAMA is part of the Malian Armed Forces



22JUL2019: Suicide attack. Car bomb against main checkpoint, headquarters of the French forces "Operation Barkhane " in Gao. 6 wounded French and Estonian soldiers.

JUN 18, 2019: 41 dead and 3 injured. Fulani terrorist attacks in Yoro and Dangfani II. They stole cattle and burned houses .

JUN 10, 2019: 95 dead and 19 missing. Attack of 50 armed Muslim shepherds of the Peul or Fulani ethnic group, against Dogon hunters

23MAR2019 134 Islamist shepherds killed and 55 injured Peul or Fulani ethnic group Attack by Donzo hunters (Bambara ethnic group) 18 km SW of Bankass in retaliation for the JNIM attack *Jama'at Nasr al-Islam Wal Muslimn* Front for the Support of Islam and Muslims - Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, executed

17MAR2019. 23 Malian soldiers killed in Dioura

24FEB2019: 2 Malian wounded. Suicide car bombing and attack on the Spanish military detachment in Koulikoro



24FEB2019: 8 dead from MINUSMA (Peacekeeping). Killed at the Aguelhok base , 200 kilometers north of Kidal and towards the Algerian border

22FEB2019: 3 UN peacekeepers (Guinea) killed by bandits, on the Bamako to Guinea route

21FEB2019: The French army announces the death of Yahya Abu Hammam leader AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) in Timbuktu - Tombouctou

25 JAN 2019: 2 Sri Lankan soldiers killed and 3 others injured, when a MINUSMA vehicle hit an improvised explosive device in Douentza .



20 JAN 2019: 10 dead, 25 wounded and one missing, Chadian contingent – UN in Aguelhok . 3 terrorists killed and one captured. Responsible for the attack in Aguelhok (Kidal):

Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb - Jamaat Nasr al Islam wa al Mouslimin "Front of Support for Islam and Muslims". Deadliest terrorist attack against MINUSMA since it began its mission in 2013

02JAN2019: 37 civilians killed. Armed terrorist attack on the Peul ethnic village of Koulogon , in Bankass , Mopti region .

12NOV2018: 3 civilians killed and 4 UN mine clearance personnel injured. An AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) suicide bomber attacked the UN demining building in Gao with a car bomb

30OCT2018: Jama Nusrat UL-Islam wa al - Muslim (#JNIM) Releases Video Statement Claiming Attack on Foreign Forces in Timbuktu

27OCT2018: Terrorist attack (trucks with rocket launchers, machine guns and explosives) against the Ber base (Timbuktu). Hours later, Blue Helmets (MINUSMA) attacked with improvised explosive devices in Konna (Mopti). Low. Ber Base: 2 Burkina Faso Blue Helmets killed and 11 wounded. Konna Base: Wounded 4 Blue Helmets of Togo.



28SET2018: 5 dead (including a French citizen) and 9 injured. Explosive attack by AQIM Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb against a restaurant in Bamako

12AUG2018: Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, incumbent president of Mali, re-elected for a new 5-year term (67.17% of the vote, second round of elections). His only rival, Soumaila Cisse, of the opposition Union for the Republic and Democracy, obtained 32.83%. Turnout at the polls 34.54%. The 18 million Malians aspire to an end to the conflict between government forces and radicals, a solution to humanitarian and economic problems

31JUL2018: 14 dead (6 soldiers, 8 terrorists) Katiba Ambush Macina with explosives and firearms in Ségou, when they were transporting the ballot boxes after the elections.

JUN 29, 2018: 6 dead and 10 wounded in Sévaré (Mopti). Al Qaeda attack against a G5 Sahel joint force headquarters

28FEB2018: 4 UN Blue Helmets (Bangladesh) killed and 4 seriously injured. Vehicle hits explosive device on the Boni- Douentza route in the Mopti region.

21FEB2018: 2 French soldiers killed in Gao, when an explosive device placed in an armored vehicle exploded

JAN 31, 2018: Jamaat Nasr al Islam wa al Mouslimin. "Front of Support for Islam and Muslims" (Al Qaeda) releases video and confirms proof of life of hostage Gloria Cecilia Narvaez, Colombian and appeals to Pope Francis for release

11 JAN 2018: 5th Anniversary Operation Serval. 3 French soldiers wounded (1 serious). Suicide bombing by the Islamic State against a French armored vehicle near Ménaka

24NOV2017: 3 Blue Cases (MINUSMA) and a Malian army soldier killed in Menaka , border with Niger.

24SET2017: 3 dead (Bangladesh Blue Helmets), 5 injured. Terrorist attack in Gao. MINUSMA the deadliest of the 16 UN Missions (125 dead in 4 and a half years)

14AUG2017: 9 dead and 8 injured. Double terrorist attack on the UN headquarters in Timbuktu and Douentza , Mopti region .

20AUG2017: 9 UN peacekeepers injured by a bomb explosion on the road between Aguelhok and Tessalit

03AUG2017: Freed by Al Qaeda Stephen McGown, a South African kidnapped in Tomboctou, since 25NOV2011

JUN 01, 2017: Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (Al Qaeda Islamic Maghreb), attacks the MINUSMA base in Timbuktu with mortars. 7 French soldiers wounded (Operation Barkhane , France in the Sahel since AUG2014).

08JUN2017: 3 soldiers dead and 3 wounded (MINUSMA, Kidal)

18 JAN 2017: 77 dead. Al Qaeda car bomb exploded in a military camp in Gao

29NOV2016: 4 deaths. UN MOVCON (Movement Control) car bomb at GAO airport

06NOV2016: 3 dead (1 blue helmet from Togo and 2 civilians) and 7 wounded soldiers from Togo. Explosive attack by the Murabitoun Battalion, from AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb).

JUN 01, 2016: China's Blue Helmet killed and 12 wounded, in a terrorist attack with an improvised explosive car, at the MINUSMA base in Gao. Uruguayan personnel present at the base.

MAY 29, 2016: 5 Blue Helmets from Togo killed and 1 seriously injured, in a terrorist attack on the UN convoy (MINUSMA), 30 km west of Sevare - Mopti Region

18 MAY 2016: 5 Chadian Blue Helmets killed and 3 seriously injured in an ambush 25 km north of Aguelhok - Kidal. Both attacks claimed responsibility for ANSAR DINE "Defenders of the Faith" Islamic terrorists related to Al Qaeda

15APR2016: 3 French soldiers died in Mali, due to the explosion of a mine, in the armored vehicle

21MAR2016: Shooting and at least one explosion occurred near the Azalai group's Nord Sud hotel in Bamako, where military instructors from EUTM (EU Training Mission in Mali) live. One of the attackers was eliminated

28NOV2015: 3 dead in an attack against a UN military base in Kidal

20NOV2015: Al- Murabitun (Al Qaeda) assassinates 20 hostages of the 170 held at the Radisson Blu hotel in Bamako. 13 terrorists killed. 6 Uruguayans went to the hotel that night

SET2015: Abu Turab, accused of war crimes for the destruction of world heritage monuments in Timbuktu. He was the first person to appear before the ICC (International Criminal Court, The Hague) for actions in Mali

07AUG2015: 9 dead (5 Malian soldiers, 1 MINUSMA soldier and 2 terrorists), in the jihadist attack on soldiers, near the Sevaré air base. In the attack, 4 terrorists barricaded themselves in the Byblos hotel, taking 10 hostages, including 3 South Africans (1 died), 1 Russian and a Ukrainian who fled

07JUL2015: Mohamed Ali ag Wadoussène Head of Al Qaeda in the North of Mali, died in a Special Operation of the French Special Forces

02JUL2015: 6 Blue Helmets from Burkina Faso (MINUSMA. UN Mission) were killed and 9 wounded, by AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) after their convoy was attacked, in Goundam (45 km southwest of Timbuktu)

28 MAY 2015: AQIM killed 3 UN soldiers from Burkina Faso traveling in a convoy near Timbuktu

MAY 20, 2015: The terrorists Amada Ag Hama, alias "Abdelkrim el Tuareg", and Ibrahim Ag Inawalen , alias "Bana", two of the heads of AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) and Ansar Dine ", were shot down by French special forces.

08MAR2015: AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb) terrorists fired more than 30 mortar rockets at the UN base (MINUSMA) in Kidal (3 dead: 1 Chadian peacekeeper, 2 children from Mali and 12 wounded)

02SET2014: 4 soldiers dead and 15 wounded (6 serious), from the Chadian contingent in MINUSMA, due to the explosion of a mine in the path of the convoy, in which they were traveling in Aguelhock , when the blue helmets were heading towards Kidal.

03AUG2014: 9 Nigerien soldiers from the UN mission in northern Mali (MINUSMA) died in an ambush by jihadists in Ansongo-Ménaka in the Gao region, on their way to Indelimane.

AUG2014: In Ber, east of Timbuktu, a suicide bomber killed 2 Burkina Faso peacekeepers.

IV.- Conclusions

Mali was plunged into chaos, when the insurgency of the Tuareg rebels led to the Coup d'etat (2012) in Bamako and the jihadists related to Al-Qaeda dominated the Tuareg. After the coup d'état and until JAN2013, the north of the country was in the hands of Tuareg independence fighters, first, and Salafist groups later. Although the terrorists were expelled by French troops, they have continued to carry out attacks and attacks, many of them directed against UN forces.

Operation Serval launched by the French Army in its former colony (JAN2013), forced Salafi and terrorist groups to flee and allowed the MNLA to regain lost control over much of the Kidal province, including its capital. The "Serval" operation (JAN2013 – AUG2014, France and the government of Mali), was replaced by Operation Barkhane , France's mission to fight against jihadist terrorism in the Sahel

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Here could be the advertising of your company.
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OPV-80 vs. Tamandaré. Presence or Deterrence

By Douglas Hernandez (Colombia)



The third OPV-80 of the Colombian Navy was launched in December 2016 in Cartagena de Indias. These ships are based on Fassmer's design, however they have been improved, to the point that none of the three ships produced is exactly the same as the others, each one improving on the previous one. The ARC "Victoria" (initially ARC "Santander"), includes significant improvements, such as a more powerful gun in the bow, the OTO Melara 76 mm. instead of the 40mm. of previous versions; In addition, on the hangar deck it mounts a 25-millimeter M242-ATK Bushmaster automatic cannon, thereby increasing its power and rate of fire. In the ARC "Victoria" the propulsion is improved, being able to reach higher speeds. Additionally, the stern structure was strengthened so that the flight deck can support medium-sized helicopters, weighing around 10 tons. As a complement, the hangar is slightly larger to accommodate larger aircraft.

The construction of this unit took just two years, and had a cost of 63 million dollars. The quality of the ships built in Colombia and their competitive prices make them a viable alternative for navies around the world.

Some specialized media have even made comparisons between the Colombian OPV project and the projects being developed in their countries. Such is the case of Brazil, where the OPV-80 produced by COTECMAR has been compared with the CV03 project, a Corvette model developed in Brazil and called "Tamandaré", whose cost per unit reaches 450 million dollars.

It is obvious that the "Tamandaré" corvettes and the OPV-80 were designed for different missions and therefore have different capabilities. The Brazilian ship displaces about 2,750 tons,

while the Colombian only 1,723 tons. The corvette's armament is much more powerful and of course more expensive, as are its sensors and electronics.

Without ignoring the above, the analysis deepens when considering that the presence in the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone would be greater -in space and time- with seven units like the OPV-80 than with a single "Tamandaré". By the way, Brazil plans to manufacture 5 "Tamandaré" corvettes, which would have the cost equivalent to 35 OPV-80 patrol boats produced by COTECMAR.

In the last seven years, COTECMAR has manufactured 3 OPV 80, 4 landing craft of 600 tons, a CPV-46 and at least ten LPR-40 artillery river boats, of which Brazil acquired some units. Recently, a "Logistical and Coastal Support Ship" (BAL-C) was delivered to the Honduran Navy. The technical successes of the Colombian company are beginning to translate into commercial successes.

Douglas Hernandez

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Fuerzas Antiterroristas del Mundo

Audentes Fortuna Invat



IRAQ Iraqi Army

The Iraqi Army in its modern form was first created by the United Kingdom during the interwar period, when the British were in de facto control of Iraq. After the invasion of Iraq by US forces in 2003, the Iraqi military was rebuilt with US military assistance at all levels. Due to the Iraqi insurgency that began shortly after the invasion, the Iraqi Army was initially designed to be a counter-insurgency force. With the withdrawal of US troops in 2010, Iraqi forces took full responsibility for their own security. A New York Times article suggested that, between 2004 and 2014, the United States had provided the Iraqi military with \$25 billion in training and equipment, in addition to an even larger sum from the Iraqi treasury.



The invasion of Kuwait and the Persian Gulf War

On the eve of the invasion of Kuwait that led to the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the army was estimated at one million men. Just before the Persian Gulf War began, the force comprised 47 infantry divisions plus 9 armored and mechanized divisions, grouped into 7 corps. This gave a total of approximately 56 army divisions, with the total ground force divisions reaching 68 when the 12 Iraqi Republican Guard divisions were included. Although Iraqi troops were said at the time in the Western media to number approximately 545,000 (even 600,000), Friedman (1992) writes that quantitative descriptions of the Iraqi military at the time were exaggerated, for a variety of reasons. Many of the Iraqi troops were also young, under-resourced and poorly trained recruits. Saddam did not trust the army; Among the counterbalancing security forces was the Iraqi People's Army.



The wide range of Iraqi equipment providers resulted in a lack of standardization in this large, heterogeneous force. In addition, he suffered from poor training and low motivation. Old Chinese Type 59s and 69s, Soviet-made T-55s and T-62s from the 1950s and 1960s, and some T-72s from the 1970s were still used by most Iraqi armored forces in 1991. These machines were not they were equipped with upgraded items such as thermal sights or laser rangefinders, and their combat effectiveness was severely limited. The Iraqis failed to find an effective countermeasure to the thermal sights and Sabot rounds used by the M1 Abrams, Challenger 1, and the other Coalition tanks. This equipment allowed the Coalition to effectively attack and destroy Iraqi tanks from far away, without receiving effective response from the enemy.

Iraqi tank crews used cheap old steel penetrators against the advanced Chobham armor of these American and British tanks, with disastrous results. Iraqi forces also failed to take advantage of the advantage that could be gained by using urban warfare, fighting inside Kuwait City, which could have inflicted significant casualties on the attacking forces. Urban combat reduces the range at which engagements occur and can negate some of the technological advantages enjoyed by well-equipped forces. The Iraqis also attempted to use Soviet military doctrine, but implementation failed due to the lack of skill of their commanders and pre-emptive USAF and RAF airstrikes on communication centers and bunkers.

While the exact number of Iraqi combat casualties has yet to be determined with certainty, sources agree that the losses were substantial. Immediate estimates say that up to 100,000 Iraqis were killed. More recent estimates indicate that Iraq probably suffered between 20,000 and 35,000 deaths, although other figures still hold that deaths could have been as high as 200,000. A report commissioned by the US Air Force estimated between 10,000 and 12,000 Iraqi combat deaths in the air campaign and up to 10,000 casualties in the ground war. This analysis is based on reports from Iraqi prisoners of war. Between 20,000 and 200,000 Iraqi soldiers

are known to have been killed. According to the Defense Alternatives Project study, 3,664 Iraqi civilians and between 20,000 and 26,000 military personnel were killed in the conflict. 75,000 Iraqi soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

During the 1990s

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) estimated the composition of the army immediately after the 1991 War as 6 'armoured'/'mechanized' divisions, 23 infantry divisions, 8 Republican Guard divisions and 4 internal security divisions of the Republican Guard. Jane's Defense Weekly for July 18, 1992 stated that 10,000 soldiers from 5 divisions were fighting Shia Muslims in the southern marshes.

The IISS awarded the force structure of the Iraqi Army on July 1, 1997 as seven Corps HQs, six armored or mechanized divisions, 12 infantry divisions, 6 RGF divisions, four Republican Guard Special Brigades, 10 commandos and two Special Forces Brigades. There were an estimated 350,000 people, including 100,000 recently retired reservists.

Army Reform

Based on the Bush administration's expectations that coalition forces would be welcomed as liberators after the overthrow of the Hussein regime, prewar planners expected little or no resistance from the Iraqi people. Thus, the new army initially focused on external defense operations. Originally, the new Army was intended to comprise 27 battalions in three divisions, totaling 40,000 soldiers in three years. Vinnell Corporation undertook to train the first nine battalions.



The Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT), headed by Major General Paul Eaton, was the organization created by the Department of Defense with responsibility for training and developing the new military. On August 2, 2003, the Iraqi Army's first battalion of new recruits began a nine-week training course at a training base in Qaraqosh. They graduated on October 4, 2003.

Meanwhile, the new army had been formally established by Coalition Provisional Authority Order 22 of August 7, 2003.

In April 2004, several Iraqi battalions refused to fight as part of the force committed to the First Battle of Fallujah. The Fifth Battalion was among the new Iraqi units that fought in Fallujah. In June 2004, the CMATT was disbanded and its responsibilities passed to the Multinational Security Transition Command - Iraq (MNSTC-

l) (initially led by Lieutenant General David Petraeus) with the new focus on providing security for the Iraqi people of the emerging threat posed by the Iraqi insurgency.



While the regular army was being formed, US commanders across the country needed additional troops more quickly, and thus the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (which became the Iraqi National Guard in July 2004) was formed. Coalition commanders formed these militia-type units separately in each area; only later did they gradually come together as a single force. There were several cases where they refused to take military action against other Iraqis, such as in Fallujah, they abandoned or allegedly aided the resistance. Most of the guards are alleged to have come from the majority Shi'ites in southern Iraq or the majority Kurds in northern Iraq, rather than the Sunni area they were ordered to attack. In September 2004, a high-ranking member of the National Guard, General Talib al -Lahibi , was arrested on suspicion of links to insurgent groups. In December 2004, it was announced that the Iraqi National Guard would be disbanded. At this time his strength was officially over 40,000 men. His units became part of the army. The absorption of the ING into the regular army appears to have taken place on January 6, 2005, Iraqi Army Day.

On August 14, 2004, the NATO Training Mission - Iraq was established to assist the Iraqi Army. On September 20, the Fallujah Provisional Brigade was disbanded after being sent to secure the city. The Fallujah Brigade's experiment in using former insurgents to secure a city was not repeated.

Army training was transferred from the Vinnell Corporation to the United States military supported by American allies, and is now conducted by three Iraqi training battalions. Training was hampered by domestic instability, insurgent infiltration, and high desertion rates. In June 2005, the partnership between Coalition forces and Iraqi forces increased due to the increasing number of battalions in the Iraqi Army, which later stood at around 115. Of this number, 80 of them were considered to be able to carry conducted operations in the field with Coalition support limited to logistics and strategic planning, while another 20-30 battalions still required significant Coalition support to conduct their operations. As of October 5, 2005, the Iraqi Army had 90 battalions trained well enough to "deploy independently", that is, without the help of others, such as the United States.

A major command and control development took place on May 3, 2006. The Iraqi Army command and control center was inaugurated in a ceremony at the Iraqi Ground Forces Command (IFGC) headquarters at Camp Victory . The IGFC was established to exercise command and control of assigned Iraqi Army forces and, upon assuming operational control, to plan and direct operations to defeat the Iraqi insurgency. At the time, the IFGC was commanded by Lieutenant General Abdul- Qadar . In 2006, the ten planned divisions began to certify and assume battlespace responsibility: the 6th and 8th before June 26, 2006, the 9th on June 26, 2006, the 5th on

July 3, 2006, the 4 on August 8, 2006 and 2 on December 21, 2006. After the divisions were certified, they began transferring from American operational control to Iraqi control of the IGFC. The 8th Division was transferred on September 7, 2006, and the 3rd Division on December 1, 2006. Another unspecified division was also transferred to IGFC control. Also transferred into the Iraqi chain of command were smaller logistics units: as of November 1, 2006, the 5th Motor Transport Regiment (MTR) was the fifth of nine MTRs to be transferred to Iraqi Army divisions. The 2007 plans included major efforts for the Iraqi Army to be able to sustain itself logistically.



As of June 26, 2006, three Iraqi divisions, 18 brigades, and 69 battalions were in control of the battlespace (including two police commando battalions).

Structure

The Iraqi army began the Anglo-Iraqi war with a force of four divisions. A fifth was formed in 1959. By the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War, the force had grown to nine divisions. By 1990, with wartime expansion, the force had grown vastly to at least 56 divisions, making the Iraqi Army the fourth largest army in the world and one of the strongest in the Middle East. After defeat in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the size of the force was reduced to around 23 divisions, as were the Republican Guard formations. Initially, the new army formed after 2003 was three divisions strong, but this was later raised to ten divisions, and the strength is now expected to grow to 20 divisions.

The United States House Armed Services Committee commented in 2007 that "It is important to note that, in the initial placement plan, five divisions of the army would be tied to the regions from which they were recruited and the other five would be deployed throughout Iraq. This was partially due to the legacy of some army divisions being formed from National Guard units and has caused some complications in terms of making these forces available for operations in all areas of Iraq, and for the army to become a truly national force, not a sectarian one."

According to the US Department of Defense which measures security in Iraq, in an August 2006 report, it reveals that plans at the time called for the Iraqi Army to be built with a force of approximately 300,000 people. This was based on an army with 10 infantry divisions and 6 mechanized infantry divisions consisting of 36

brigades and 113 battalions (91 infantry, 12 special forces, 24 mechanized infantry, 60 armored battalions, 1 security). Nine motorized transport regiments, 5 logistics battalions, 2 support battalions, 5 regional support units (RSUs) and 91 garrison support units (GSUs) are assigned to provide logistics and support for each division, with Taji National Depot providing depot and resupply level maintenance. Each battalion, brigade and division headquarters will be supported by a Headquarters and Service Company (HSC) that will provide logistical and maintenance support to its parent organization.



The Iraqi Army consists of nine regional joint commands. The Joint Operational Commands fall under the command of the National Operations Center. The Iraqi Ground Forces Command does not directly command army divisions.

As of July 2009, the Iraqi Army had 14 divisions (1st through 12th, 14th and 17th, the designation 13 was not used), containing 56 brigades or 185 combat battalions. The 6th Division and the 17th Division are still missing their maneuver brigades. As of April 2010, the total had risen to 197 combat battalions. Each division has four line brigades, an engineering regiment, and a support regiment.

Three of the 56 brigades are not Iraqi Ground Forces Command combatant brigades and are not assigned to a division. They are the Baghdad Brigade formed in the fall of 2008, the first presidential brigade formed in January 2008, and the second presidential brigade formed in the spring of 2009.

Actual team

Virtually all of the equipment used by the former Iraqi army was either destroyed by US and British forces during the invasion, or looted during the chaotic aftermath shortly after the fall of Hussein's regime. However, four T-55 tanks have been recovered from a former army base in al - Muqdadiyah and are now in service with the 1st Division.

In February 2004, the United States government announced that Nour USA was awarded a \$327,485,798 contract to procure equipment for both the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi National Guard; however, this contract was canceled in March 2004 when an internal Army investigation (initiated due to complaints from unsuccessful bidders) revealed that Army procurement officers in Iraq were violating procedures with careless contract language and incomplete paperwork. . In May of that same year, the US Army Tank, Vehicle, and Armament

Command (TACOM) declared that they would award a contract worth \$259,321,656 to the ANHAM Joint Venture in exchange for acquiring the necessary equipment (and provide the required training) for a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 35 battalions. The minimum supply would begin delivery immediately and further orders could be placed up to the maximum of 35 battalion groups or September 2006 after the first order was fully delivered.



In May 2005, Hungary agreed to donate 77 T-72s to the Iraqi Army, with the renewal contract going to Defense Solutions to bring the tanks to operational status for approximately US\$4.5 million. After a delay in the payment of funds from the Iraqi government, the 9th Mechanized Division received the tanks at its headquarters in Taji for a period of three days beginning on November 8, 2005.

On July 29, 2005, the United Arab Emirates obtained approval to purchase 180 M113A1 APCs in good condition from Switzerland, with the intention of transferring them to Iraq as a gift. Domestic political opposition in Switzerland successfully froze the sale, fearing that the export would violate the country's long tradition of neutrality and perhaps make Switzerland a target for terrorism.

173 M113s, 44 Talhas APCs, and 100 FV103 Spartans were donated by Jordan, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates. 600 AMZ Dzik- 3 (Ain Jaria) APCs were delivered in Poland (option for 1,200) for delivery in January 2007. 573 Otokar APCs Akrep for January 2007 delivery. 756 Iraqi Light Armored Vehicles (option for 1,050) for November 2008 delivery. Greece donated 100 BMP-1s to the Iraqi Army. 713 M1114 and 400 M1151 HMMWV tactical vehicles purchased for IA with complete delivery by the end of July 2006.

Serbia has signed a \$230 million deal with Iraq to sell weapons and military equipment, the defense ministry said in March 2008. It did not specify the weapons, but Serbian military experts believe they include Serbian-made CZ-99 pistols, Zastava M21 5.56 mm assault rifles, Zastava M84 machine guns, anti-tank weapons (M79 "Osa", Bumbar and M90 "Strsljen"), ammunition and explosives and around 20 Lasta 95 basic training aircraft. Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul- Qadir al -Obaidi visited Belgrade in September and November to discuss furthering military ties with Serbia.

Stryker armored vehicles, modern radios, all worth an estimated \$2.16 billion.

In December 2008, the United States approved a \$6 billion arms deal with Iraq that included 140 M1A1 Abrams tanks and 400 Stryker fighting vehicles for elite Iraqi Army units.

In December 2009, Ukraine signed an agreement to deliver \$550 million worth of weapons to Iraq, the agreement with the Iraqi defense ministry calls for Ukraine to produce and deliver 420 BTR-4 armored personnel carriers, six AN -32B and other military hardware to Iraq.



In February 2009, the US military announced that it had reached agreements with Iraq that will see Baghdad spend \$5 billion on US-made weapons, equipment, and training.

In 2016, Iraq finalized an order with Uralvagonzavod for 73 T-90S and SK tanks. The T-90SK is a command variant equipped with additional radios and navigation equipment. As of 2018, 36 had been delivered and assigned to the 35th Brigade of the 9th Armored Division.



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