



EMBASSY OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA IN AUSTRALIA

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16th Anniversary of the Declaration of then Comandante Hugo Rafael Chavez Frías 4th February 1992 “Por Ahora”

Watch the archived video of the President’s announcement at
<http://www.aporrea.org/actualidad/n90147.html>



Venezuela-Colombia Humanitarian Negotiations Update: FARC announces Release of Three Hostages to Chávez

The hostages to be released were named as former lawmakers Luis Eladio Pérez, Gloria Polanco and Orlando Beltrán

The FARC demanded President Chávez and Colombian Senator Piedad Córdoba to organize the unilateral release of these three congress members “due to medical reasons.” This release will be carried out “as an acknowledgment for their constant efforts to reach a Humanitarian Agreement,” the FARC’s official communiqué states.

The FARC, aware of problems and traps set by the Colombian President Álvaro Uribe, demand Chávez and Piedad Córdoba “to organize the necessary mechanisms on time.”

“We will work without hurrying up but without stopping,” the FARC said in the communiqué which states as follows:

Release of three congress members Gloria Polanco de Losada, Luis Eladio Pérez and Orlando Beltrán Cuellar.

Communiqué

1. As an acknowledgment for their constant efforts to reach a Humanitarian Agreement, we want to ask President Chávez and Senator Piedad Córdoba to receive personally or by their delegates in Colombia, the congress

members Gloria Polanco de Losada, Luis Eladio Pérez and Orlando Beltrán Cuellar, who we free due to their health condition.

2. In order to guarantee the success of this mission and warning about any danger, we must organize the necessary mechanisms with enough time. We will work without hurrying but without stopping.

3. This release represents a direct consequence of the realistic, integral and transparent effort of President Chávez and other friend countries, in the search of deep political solutions to the humanitarian crisis and to the conflict that hurts Colombia and the whole continent.

4. Our decision to reach an Integral Humanitarian Agreement, as the only way to get all hostages freed, is preserved, reinforced, and today more than ever, is imposed over the American and Uribe's offensive against the FARC.

5. Nothing and no one can deny the criminal impunity through which the Colombian leading class has committed crimes and they are intended to keep on doing it. Nothing and no one can deny the dreadful and humiliating interference of the US in our internal affairs. While these actions remain, our decision of fighting will continue strengthening every day, against corrupted political leaders and in favor of our national sovereignty.

6. Simón Bolívar's mission is not finished yet!

The Central High Command FARC-EP
Colombian Mountains, January 31, 2008

Bolivarian News Agency / January 03, 2008



Ingrid Betancourt Committees Urge President Sarkozy to Oppose military Intervention in Colombia:

In a press release, they stressed they are concerned about an alleged order given by President Uribe to his troops in order to besiege places where captives are held...

The International Federation of Ingrid Betancourt Committees (FICIB in French) urged France's President Nicolas Sarkozy to publicly oppose military operations to rescue captives in Colombian. The FICIB claims it is concerned about an alleged order given by President Uribe to his troops in order to besiege places where captives are held.

The Federation stressed its opposition to military actions, which they think might jeopardize the lives of captives. On Sunday, the relatives of the FARC captives rejected an order given by Uribe to his troops in order to besiege the zones where the guerrilla holds its captives, as a way to push for their release.

Yolanda Pulecio, Ingrid Betancourt's mother, said that such a statement shows that Uribe does not care about the captives and does not hesitate to compromise the captives' lives.

Venezuela's National Radio / January 28, 2008

President Chávez Urges Creation of ALBA Defense Council:



President Hugo Chávez urges the creation of a Defense Council of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of our America (ALBA).

On Sunday February 3, during his TV and radio show *¡Aló, Presidente!*, the Venezuelan president, together with his Nicaraguan counterpart, Daniel Ortega, invited the ALBA member countries to boost cooperation among their security and defense bodies. “Because our enemy is one, the U.S. empire,” he added.

Chávez called for the integration of “our Navy, our National Guard, our cooperation forces, our intelligence bodies, because our enemy is one, the U.S. empire.”

“And if they pick on one of us; they’ll pick on all of us because we will respond as one,” said Chávez, supported by Nicaragua’s President Daniel Ortega.

The Venezuelan president mentioned that he will entrust his Defense and Foreign Affairs Ministers with the drafting of a work paper on this issue.

“We have proposed this to South America; Lula mentioned it not long ago. In December, Lula said here in Caracas that we will create the South American Defense Council. Well, let’s create the ALBA Defense Council, the ALBA military forces,” he assured.

ALBA Member Countries Subjected to External Pressures

During *Aló Presidente*, Chávez recalled that “many countries want to join initiatives such as the ALBA, but Imperialism does not allow them.”

“We have to understand these countries. Many of them disagree with mechanisms such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), but that’s life or death to them. That’s why we have to understand,” President Chávez explained.

Likewise, the Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega recalled his experience during his first tenure as President of Nicaragua (1985-1990), when the Latin American presidents told him in private about their dissatisfaction “with the U.S. neoliberal policies, but they did not dare say so because they were economically condemned.”

Last Saturday, the presidents of Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela met during the VI ALBA Summit in Caracas.

At this event, Dominica became the first Anglo-Saxon country to join the ALBA. Dominica’s Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, also denounced that his country has to face a “very serious regional and international pressure.”

The Final Declaration of this Summit includes a formal complaint against the “U.S. government’s war attitude and its attacks against the Latin American governments.”

TeleSUR / Bolivarian News Agency (ABN) / January 28, 2008

International Media Campaign Against Venezuela : US Official

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Thomas Shannon, made clear that the United States "has nothing to indicate that" the transferring or selling of arms to Colombian insurgent groups "is the result of a policy by the Venezuelan Government."

He stressed that the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia's (FARC) and the National Liberation Army's (ELN) acquisition of weapons "seems to be contraband that moves either with the knowledge of officials in the region" or "in some instances done by weapons trafficking organizations."

As part of a new dirty war against Venezuela, the mass media again spread false information accusing the government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez of supplying ammunition to the FARC and the ELN.

El Nuevo Herald, a Miami daily newspaper in Spanish, published last Monday information based on "Colombian intelligence sources" and statements delivered by an alleged Spanish professor in order to accuse Venezuela of providing both groups with ammunition.

Bolivarian News Agency (ABN) / Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Bolivarian Embassy Activities:

On the occasion of Australia's National Day His Excellency Mr Nelson Dávila attended the official reception for the diplomatic corps hosted by The Honourable Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd. His Excellency Mr Nelson Dávila will also represent the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the opening ceremony of the Parliament on February 12th. His Excellency Mr Nelson Dávila will also meet with a delegation of Australian Indigenous Leaders on this occasion.

The Australia Venezuela Solidarity Network is beginning the year with a series of activities hosting Charge d'Affaires Nelson Davila to speak on the topic of the Bolivarian Revolution, such as Sydney AVSN committee's 2008 Annual General Meeting on Saturday April 5th. For information on activities in your city please contact the Ambassador's Office at the Embassy directly on 02 62902968.

The Venezuela Aotearoa Solidarity Team has also invited Charge d'Affaires Nelson Davila on a national speaking tour in New Zealand from mid to late March. As well as formally launching the national VAST network, Davila will be able to inform as to the latest news from the Bolivarian process and the pending visit of President Chavez to this region. Again for information about this visit please contact the Ambassador's Office on 02 62902968.

The Embassy is always delighted to hear from you, please use the contact details here to be in touch directly.



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