

# THE UNITED STATES

# AN IMMORAL REGIME



**I**ntervention for the purpose of dominating sovereign territories has always been a principle of the foreign policy of the United States. It has repeatedly destroyed nations, assassinated and destabilized with the participation of its national allies and NGOs in order to bring about the overthrow of governments that do not comply with the policies or interests of the USA. Today we are amazed to see a new style, an improved version of this concept, that combines these methods in a more sophisticated form.

The new technique basically uses mercenaries who carry out atrocities, later to blame those atrocities on the government targeted for overthrow. These subjects rely on the support of the big communications transnationals that work hand in hand with national entities and non-governmental organizations to devise situations that will enable them to create a bad image of the government they want to indict. This policy has been applied recently by

the United States in Libya, Syria and Ukraine. It has enabled them to cover up their role as protagonists using covert action and thereby avoiding the political cost inside and outside the United States like the one generated by the direct invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The most salient violations of sovereign countries by the United States include China (1945-49); Greece (1947-49); Philippines (1945-53); South Korea (1945-53); Albania (1949-53); Germany (1950); Iran (1953); Guatemala (1953-1990); Syria-Egypt (1956-58); Indonesia (1957-58); British Guiana/Guyana (1953-64); Viet Nam (1950-73); Cambodia (1955-73); Congo/Zaire (1960-65); Brazil (1961-64); Dominican Republic (1963-66); Cuba (1959 to now); Indonesia (1965); Chile (1964-73); Greece (1964-74); East Timor (1975 to now); Nicaragua (1978-79); Grenada (1979-84); Libya (1981-89); Panama (1989); Iraq (1990); Afghanistan (1979-92); El Salvador (1980-92); Haiti (1987-94); Yugoslavia (1999); Afghanistan (2001 to now); Venezuela

(2002); Iraq (2003 to now); Honduras (2009); Libya (2012 to now); Ukraine (2014).

In all of those countries, the United States justified its action on “humanitarian grounds,” when in reality it was after the intervention that the destruction and deaths were incurred, illustrating the immorality and lack of credibility of the country to which we refer.

In the case of Venezuela, the country with the largest oil reserves in the world, the US destabilization effort has been constant since the beginning of the revolutionary process led by Commander Hugo Chávez, who nationalized the oil industry and blocked the theft of this asset in order to orient its earnings to social investment, a policy that continues to be applied by his successor, the worker and Chavista president Nicolás Maduro. Our President has been given no respite by this northern country since he assumed office as chief of state, and the USA is maintaining an interventionist policy with the goal of overthrowing the government he leads.

*"If there is a country that has committed unspeakable atrocities in the world, it is the United States of America. They don't care for human beings.*

Nelson Mandela

## VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE USA

The US crimes against humanity are known world-wide. That country used the atomic bomb against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing more than 300,000 persons; used Agent Orange and banned biological weapons against the Vietnamese people; used cluster bombs, also prohibited, in Afghanistan and Iraq; tortured in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and in secret jails in which they keep kidnapped humans with no right to counsel or family visits, still less legal status.

Those who for years have falsely hoisted the flag of freedom and democracy use novel methods of harassment, discrimination and mistreatment of their own citizens and have exported this gory treatment to the countries they have invaded, committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and systematically violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights conventions they have ratified.

## RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES

US ethnic and racial minorities continue to be subject to extensive limitations. More than one third of the Afro-American population has suffered some type of discrimination, while the Black population's poverty level is as high as 20% according to some estimates.

Racial crimes are frequent and Afro-American arrest tally is four times greater than that of whites. Afro-Americans represent 13% of the US population but they make up 41% of the inmates in state prisons and 44% of those in federal prisons.

## VIOLATION OF FREEDOMS

In recent years control over the activities of its citizens has intensified. The revelations by the former NSA employee Edward Snowden reveal the techniques used by the US government to spy on its citizens and other governments through illegal recordings of telephone calls and infiltration of agencies, in addition to the restrictions applied to the Internet and the violation of the privacy of the users in social networks such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, among others, as well as operating technology systems that are subject to espionage, with the



trivial excuse of security, systematically violating the right to privacy of its inhabitants and the citizens of other countries using those services.

## THE USA OPPRESSES THE POOR

As a result of the economic crisis created by the collapse of the capitalist system many US citizens have lost their jobs and their savings, and the banks and finance companies have seized their properties, evicting them or hiking their interest rates, bankrupting them or throwing them into the street. In states like Arkansas, tenants who fall behind with the rent payments may face serious criminal proceedings. In other states, the destitute or those made homeless and forced to sleep in the streets are jailed solely because they are wandering the streets without having committed any offence.

On the other hand, the justice system ensures that those persons with scarce resources who have committed offences, including common offences, and who are unable to pay the fine must remain in prison, while those with high purchasing power are granted bail. At present some 60% of those prosecuted remain incarcerated while awaiting trial, violating their right to be at liberty until proven guilty.

## CHILD SLAVERY

At present in the United States there are about 100,000 children (many of them Hispanics and Afro-Americans) working at field labour, in conditions of extreme poverty, under the harsh sun, for more than 10 hours of work a day and without legislative protection. Many of them perish or suffer serious illnesses as well as permanent injuries from working in the fields.

According to a report by the Chinese government in 2012, one in every four children in the United States suffers from hunger. On the other hand, the organization Love Our Children USA reports that each year more than three million

children in that country are victims of violence and abandonment. And many teen-agers who end up in the criminal justice system are tried and sentenced in adult courts and serve sentences in excess of the limit provided by law for their age, in adult prisons, and in some cases they are being given life sentences.

## EXCLUSION OF WOMEN

In 2012 alone, some 20 million women in the United States were sexually assaulted as were about one in every five female university students, without the US government taking notice of the issue. The number of assaults may have increased of late. In 2013 less than 20% of sexual abuses committed against women were reported out of fear that the cases be thrown out or shelved.

## HEALTH CARE, A PRIVILEGE

More than 40 million US citizens are currently without medical insurance and another 30 million rely on insufficient coverage for their needs. Sixteen states have refused to extend medical services under the Attainable Care Act, obstructing the right to health for the poor, Afro-Americans and other minority racial and ethnic groups.

The percentage of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases in the United States continues to be disproportionate without the government covering the cost of this expensive treatment, leaving adrift those dying from it.

## ILLEGAL DETENTIONS AND TORTURE

The United States has the highest number of persons deprived of liberty in the world, exposing them to situations of summary violence, mistreatment and torture. It is one of the few countries in the world that still imposes the death penalty, which is applicable in 32 of its 50 states.

The number of senior citizens who are imprisoned continues to rise at an alarming rate owing to the long sentences imposed on them. This is a serious violation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, which define this type of inmates as a vulnerable population and calls on member countries to find alternatives to their imprisonment.

The United States also has illegally installed prisons in its naval base in the Province of Guantánamo, Cuba and in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, in which they unjustly detain their prisoners of war without the right to trial, visits, or inspection by international agencies. These illegal detention centres have been denounced as centres for torture and physical and psychological mistreatment of prisoners.

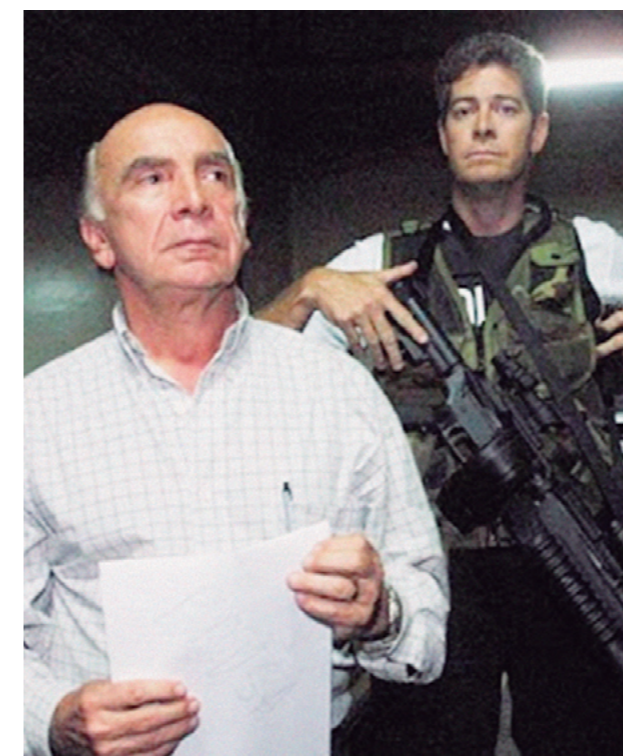
## US INTERFERENCE IN VENEZUELA

The US interest in Venezuela reflects its need to control the nation's wealth and neutralize a political process that promotes the genuine independence of the region.

Washington's subversive plans to overthrow President Chávez were determined in 2001, as admitted by the former US Navy Secret Service agent Wayne Madsen, who has reported that since June 2001 the US government has considered the possibility of a coup to depose Chávez, and that the first he heard of it was when Col. James Roger, a military advisor in the US Embassy in Caracas, was sent in July to prepare the terrain for a coup.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE COUP D'ÉTAT

In April 2002 the constitutional government of Commander Hugo Chávez Frias was ousted in a coup in which the United States was involved through financing and logistical support. It was clear that the financing was carried out through political and non-governmental organizations. The participation was through the CIA and the State Department itself. Two US officials in the Council of Hemispheric Affairs, headquartered in Washington, Alex Volberding and Larry Birns, have admitted the participation of the CIA in the events of April 11; also involved were US officials James Roger and Col. Ronal Maccameron, who were also at the side of the coup generals in the Tiuna Fort on April 11 and 12, as was the US ambassador to Venezuela, Charles Shapiro. The logistical support involved the sending of ships to the Venezuela coast to interfere with Venezuelan government communications and serve as a base for helicopters.



## PARTICIPATION IN THE PETROLEUM COUP

Later, at the end of 2002 and beginning of 2003, the United States participated actively in the petroleum coup when the top management in the oil industry stopped production in the El Palito and Parguaná refineries as well as the vessel Pilín León. The machinery was altered to prevent the entire system from functioning. These actions were directed from the United States.

## SUPPORT TO TERRORISTS AGAINST VENEZUELA

The United States has also supported terrorist actions in Venezuela. In March 2003 there were two explosions in Venezuela at the Embassy of Spain and the Consulate of Colombia, and it was found that those responsible were a retired lieutenant of the National Guard, José Antonio Colina Pulido, and Germán Rodolfo Varela. Both are living today in the United States, protected by that government.

Also protected by the US government is Robert Alonso, responsible for organizing a subversive action in Venezuela in 2004, in which the plan was that 153 Colombian paramilitaries that were training at his estate would assassinate President Chávez.

To this point there are 58 foreigners who have been detained for terrorist acts committed in this country and who have been proved to have direct links with the United States.

## WAR THREATS AGAINST VENEZUELA

In 2006 US and NATO military exercises were held in the Caribbean Sea. Similarly, the United States has established a permanent military presence in the Dominican Republic and increased its military capability in Curaçao and Aruba.

In 2007 the United States began publishing an annual report of threats in which Venezuela was singled out as one of the principal threats in the region.

In 2008 the US Fourth Fleet, better known as the Southern Command, was reactivated, with a huge war arsenal. Then, in 2009, the United States signed a military agreement with Colombia to open seven new military bases in the neighboring country. These bases are a threat to the American continent but not to drug trafficking and terrorism, as alleged in their justification.

## INTERVENTIONIST DIPLOMACY

The Wikileaks revelations on the intervening and destabilizing role of US diplomatic personnel confirm the major denunciations made by the Venezuelan government in recent years.

Like the ambassador Charles Shapiro, his successor William Brownfield meets constantly with the right wing and NGO activists to promote secessionist activities in Zulia state. He has criticized integration with the countries in the region and the creation of a regional security mechanism without the participation of the United States.

It was also found that the ambassador Patrick Duddy and the chargé d'affaires James Derham, both of the United States, were financing the country's opposition organizations, journalists and communications media in the hope they would deepen the anti-government content.

To other, lower ranking officials in Venezuela, the involvement of soldiers in the US embassy in acts of espionage has been confirmed, as a result of which the Embassy's military attaché John Correa was expelled in 2006. Later, in 2013, the government ordered the expulsion of two other US attachés, David Delmonaco and David Kostal, for promoting destabilizing projects.

Likewise, in September 2013, when the country was being seriously destabilized, the direct participation of the US embassy in these actions through its officials was confirmed. Accordingly, the Venezuelan government decided to expel three more US officials: Kelly Keid-erlang, Elizabeth Hussmann and David Mout, for having met with the far right, financing them and encouraging them to carry out actions to sabotage the electrical system and the Venezuelan economy.

Similarly, in February of this year US representatives Breeann Marie McCusker, Elsen Jeffrey Gordon and Clark Krisstofor Lee were expelled for having actively participated in the organization and promotion of the destabilizing groups that have initiated the recent acts of violence in our country.

## FUNDING OF SUBVERSIVE GROUPS

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are some of the many US agencies that have served to support the undemocratic activities of opposition groups in Venezuela, to destabilize the country and overthrow the Revolutionary Government. These organizations fund not only NGOs but also opposition political parties and other organizations that operate as small armies for implementing US foreign policy against Venezuela.

The funding plan for NED grants to opposition groups in Venezuela in 2002, the year of the coup d'état, was entitled "Democratization of Semi-Authoritarian Countries." More than 2 million dollars were channelled through it. Today it is hard to determine how much money is paid out for destabilizing activities in Venezuela, since this support has now been extended to include mercenary paramilitary organizations.

## INTERVENTIONIST STATEMENTS ISSUED AGAINST VENEZUELA

From the outset of the acts of violence in our country, sponsored by the United States through Venezuelan rightists, there have been some fifty statements by various officials of the US government calling openly and shamelessly for intervention by that country in Venezuela and the imposition of economic and political sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

## MEDDLING STATEMENTS ISSUED AGAINST VENEZUELA

Since violent acts sponsored by the United States through the Venezuelan right-wing started in our country, 50 different statements made by U.S. officials have openly and shamelessly called for the U.S. intervention in Venezuela and the imposition of economic and political sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

**February 19th, 2014**

**Democratic Senator. Robert Menendez** "Venezuelans are giving voice to their frustrations, likening President Maduro to a puppet of the Cuban government (...)"

**February 21st, 2014**

**Republican congressmen Mario Diaz Balart and Ileana Roslehtinen** "We will promote in Congress sanctions to the perpetrators of the violence and human rights violations in Venezuela."

**February 23rd, 2014**

**Congressmen Mario Diaz Balart and Luis Gutierrez** "Unfortunately Maduro's regime is massacring innocent students and has seized freedom of the press. We have to increase the pressure."

**February 27th, 2014**

**Secretary of State John Kerry:** We will continue to "support voiceless in Venezuela."

**March 4th, 2014**

Congress passes resolution 488 against Venezuela, deploring violence perpetrated against opposition leaders and demonstrators.

**March 9th, 2014**

**U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden:** "Confronting peaceful protesters with force and in some cases armed militia, limiting freedom of the press and assembly [...] is not in line with the solid standards of democracy that we have in most of our hemisphere."



**March 12th, 2014**

**The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee** approves to present before the Upper Chamber a draft resolution requesting Barack Obama to impose sanctions on Venezuela.

**Secretary of State John Kerry:** "We are prepared, if necessary, to invoke the Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) and get involved in various ways, through sanctions or otherwise (...)"

**March 13th, 2014**

**Commander of the United States Southern Command, General John Kelly:** "The Venezuelan military is watching and waiting. I would say that the more we can restrict their freedom of movement or bank accounts in other parts of the country, we will have a bigger effect on how they think about the future."

**March 14th, 2014**

**State Department spokesman Marie Harf:** "Nothing's off the table. I don't have anything to preview in terms of what steps we might take, but right now we're reviewing a wide variety of options."

**March 20th, 2014**

**Assistant Secretary for Latin America Roberta Jacobson:** "The OAS resolution on protests in Venezuela has not the language the U.S. expected, but there are several points defended by Washington."

**March 25th, 2014**

**Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL):** "The U.S. government should provide immediate support to opposition leaders who are persecuted and those who are facing a terrible crisis."

**April 27th, 2014**

In a personal letter to a resident of Miami **President Obama** also said "that he was concerned for the Venezuelan people and is working behind the scenes to do what he can to support the people oppressed."

**May 7th, 2014**

**Secretary of State John Kerry:** "We are deeply concerned about the deteriorating situation in Venezuela."

*"If you look at those matters, you will come to the conclusion that the attitude of the United States of America is a threat to world peace."*

Nelson Mandela