



Gobierno de Reconciliación  
y Unidad Nacional

*El Pueblo, Presidente!*

40  
2019

**Aquí nos ilumina,  
un Sol que no declina  
El Sol que alumbra  
las nuevas victorias**  
RUBÉN DARÍO

**INTERVENTION BY MINISTER DENIS MONCADA  
COLINDRES AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION  
OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
OF THE OAS  
WASHINGTON JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

1. The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua expresses its strongest rejection and condemnation of the new destabilizing maneuver of the Government of the United States, using this time its political agent, the OAS Secretary General, Luis Almagro, who pretends to inversely apply of the Inter-American Democratic Charter by trying to carry out an illegal and illegitimate action to promote the application of article 20 against the sovereign people of Nicaragua.



CONSEJO DE COMUNICACIÓN Y CIUDADANÍA

**CRISTIANA, SOCIALISTA, SOLIDARIA!**

2. The Secretary General does not defend the democratically elected Constitutional Governments, he chooses wrong routes and supports terrorist groups that acted criminally against the Nicaraguan people and the State Institutions.
  
3. The mechanisms established in the Democratic Charter were adopted within the framework of respect for the Principle of Non Intervention, respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of the peoples, which is evidenced by the need of having the prior consent of the Government concerned to activate the Democratic Charter.

4. These requirements have been deliberately ignored by the Secretary General who is acting in an illegal and ill-intentioned manner against the people of Nicaragua and their democratic, legal and legitimate government, by convening this meeting without a consultation or authorization from the Government of Nicaragua, as prescribed by this instrument, with the objective of using the OAS and giving continuity to the coup plan designed for Nicaragua.
  
5. This action is carried out in collusion with the interventionist, biased and double standards actions of the Human Rights Organizations, the IACHR and the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI), whom have taken the task

of distorting the Nicaraguan reality, inverting the facts and lying about the reality of the country in terms of Human Rights, using "fake news" or false news as source of information, a strategy deployed to consummate soft coups in other regions of the globe.

6. The overstepping of the Secretary General functions, now transformed into an agent at the service of the Government of the United States, has no limits, has violated the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of States, regardless of the motive.

7. Neither is it allowed to call for the asphyxiation and overthrowing of a legitimately elected Government such as Nicaragua. The Secretary General of the OAS has become a coup agent against the Nicaraguan people, against the governments and brotherly peoples of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Cuba, actions that are incompatible with International Law.
  
8. Why we speak of an attempted coup d'état and coup perpetrators? Simply, the actions came from the sectors that have been engaged in boycotting the electoral processes, and that in each electoral process call for abstention and violence, who in spite of the existing spaces for freedom and the exercise of

political rights; choose not to participate in the elections.

9. Mr. Secretary General of the OAS knows this because he and his delegation have met on several occasions with them in Managua, Washington, New York and Miami.
  
10. Until April 18<sup>th</sup>, Nicaraguans had made important progress in economic growth, health, education, job creation, gender equity, citizen security and the fight against poverty. Regional organizations such as ECLAC recognize Nicaragua as an exemplary country, obtaining great achievements in economic and social aspects, such as the reduction of general poverty at the national level from

42.5% in 2009 to 24.9% in 2016, and extreme poverty was reduced from 14.6% in 2009, to 6.9% in 2016, while having an 4.7% average annual economic growth for over 10 years, having doubled its gross domestic product to become the third fastest growing economy in Latin America. In terms of citizen security, Nicaragua has been rated as the second safest country in Latin America and the safest in the Central American region.

11. These advances were not liked by some opposition groups, because they saw in these advances, also an increase in the acceptance and positive rating of the Government by the population.

12. Therefore, violence, terror and the attempt to break the Constitutional and Democratic order, was the chosen option of these groups to end the era of economic growth and social prosperity. From April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 they undertook an escalation of violence using firearms, planting terror and chaos, disguised as peaceful and civic protesters, which was financed by North American agencies and sectors of the extreme right of the United States. They attempted a coup that has failed, in which 198 people were killed including 22 officers of the National Police; torturing and kidnapping Nicaraguan citizens, attacking the constitutional right, the free movement of people, goods and merchandise



throughout the national territory and in the Central American region.

13. Before April 18<sup>th</sup>, in Nicaragua violence was not considered an option, there was no terrorism, kidnappings, torture, torching of public buildings, and no hate crimes. These political groups, many of them covered under the umbrella of the so-called nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), used violence to destroy roads, burn public buildings and private property, promote hate crimes, kidnapping, extortion, preventing free movement and the right of Nicaraguans to attend health care centers, education and places of work, all with the aim of bringing the country to economic ruin, generating anxiety and terror in

the population to force the overthrowing of the Government, democratically elected with the favorable vote of 72.44% of Nicaraguan voters, through free universal suffrage and international accompaniment.

14. Acting in good faith, the Government of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra convened a National Dialogue inviting the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua as mediator and witness, with the aim of advancing in the search for solutions that would allow Nicaraguans to return to tranquility.

15. The first session was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and what was called dialogue was no more than a stage for media purposes in which the position of the attempted

coup perpetrators was that "This is not a session to dialogue; it is session to negotiate your resignation... Surrender!" That is to say, an assault on the democratically elected government, through illegal actions. This is what Almagro supports and this is why he asked to convene this Permanent Council.

16. The government of Nicaragua ordered the National Police forces to remain in their delegations, and what was the result? Police delegations in León, Jinotepe, Diriamba, Masaya, Matagalpa, Granada, Nagarote, Morrito, among others, were besieged and attacked with firearms. The Diriamba Police Delegation was set on fire.

17. As an example, I will cite one of the many cases of siege against the National Police, which we duly inform the IACHR, but they preferred to omit. They did not see, hear nor gave importance to it. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Police Delegation of Nagarote continued to be attacked by coup groups; since there were many wounded policemen, the police authorities communicated with Reverend Juan José López Franco, the local priest, for Police Inspector Víctor Quiroz could be taken to a hospital. The Priest, instead of interceding for the transfer of the wounded to the hospital, went to the police delegation accompanied by Mr. Marcos Carmona and Pablo Cuevas, both representatives of the NGO Permanent Commission for Human

Rights, journalists of the 100% Noticias and Channel 10, and the first thing he did was ask the police authorities to surrender and to hand over their weapons, otherwise they would be killed by more than 2000 people surrounding the police delegation.

18. Trying to compel the public force to surrender constitutes a crime and is part of the illegal actions to perpetrate a coup d'état. However, events like this are fallaciously presented as civic and peaceful, and were not considered by the IACHR and the GIEI for the simple reason that these organizations are part of the organizational, media and destabilizing platform of the coup groups.

19. This is what the IACHR and the GIEI called peaceful protests. One could not expect something different if this was the qualification that the Government of the United States gave to these acts of violence.
  
20. They could not give another qualification since all these actions were financed through the NGOs with the money of the people of the United States, under different programs, among them, the Institutional Strengthening Program executed by the North American contractor Dexis COUNSULTING Group and Chemonics in the period 2013-2018 with a total amount of \$8.8 million dollars that was intended to strengthen the mobilization capacity of Nicaraguan opposition organizations in

order to accompany media campaigns. Another program is the strengthening of the media, which is executed by the Violeta Barrios Foundation under cooperation agreement No. 524-A-14-00001 for the initial sum of \$1.6 million dollars with a total of \$2.5 million of dollars. This program was aimed to undermine the image of the Government of Nicaragua during the 2016 presidential election process, by training and financing independent media.

21. In 2017, USAID Office in Nicaragua extended this program until 2020 by adding \$3.7 million dollars for the 2021 electoral process.

22. We could continue mentioning the list of programs aimed at financing the attempted coup d'état through various NGOs who, in the name of democracy, destroy the stability, peace and progress of the Nicaraguan people. These are the truths that the IACHR has hidden, the GIEI, and that Secretary General Almagro intends to ignore.

23. Ladies and gentlemen members of the Permanent Council, it is good to remember that the Democratic Charter in its preambular part takes up the Commitment to Democracy and the Renewal of the Inter-American System in which the Ministers of Foreign Affairs expressed their determination to adopt a set of effective, timely and expeditious procedures



to ensure the promotion and defense of democracy respecting the principle of non-intervention; establishing for it a mechanism of collective action in the event of an abrupt or irregular interruption of the democratic institutional political process, or of the legitimate exercise of power by a democratically elected Government in any of the Member States of the Organization.

24. In the case of Nicaragua, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity presided by Comandante Daniel Ortega was elected through free and universal suffrage with the favorable vote of 72.44% of the electorate for the period 2017-2021. This is the reality that the coup sectors do not want to

recognize. Is it democracy to disrespect the decisive vote of this 72.44% and to say that the solution lies in advancing elections, because it occurs to this minority sector of the opposition? This is an attempt to perpetrate a coup d'état, an attempt against democracy and the Constitutional Order.

25. The role of the OAS and of this Permanent Council should be to respect the institutional framework, respect the terms and electoral periods established in the Political Constitution and the Electoral Law. This Permanent Council cannot and should not encourage and promote the de facto exercise of power, but rather

through democratic electoral processes.

26. We cannot allow to establish a precedent by which the change of government happens through de facto means, because of the unconformity of a minority group, as it is being intended in Nicaragua, with the support of Secretary General Luis Almagro.
  
27. Opposition to governments exists anywhere in the world, but that opposition must respect the period of government established in the law, this is part of the rules of any democratic system.

28. Who is behind this new maneuver of the General Secretariat? The Government of the United States, which tries through the General Secretariat, with the support of some interventionist member countries of this Organization, to revive the failed coup d'état in Nicaragua, falsely claiming that there has been an alteration of the constitutional order. Breaking the constitutional order was the target of the coup perpetrators, but they could not and will not, because the people of Nicaragua love peace, co-existence among brothers, progress and security.

29. The objective of the Inter-American Democratic Charter is the restitu-

tion and strengthening of democratically elected governments and it is an instrument against the military coups that the National Security Doctrine of the United States promoted in past decades, plaguing the region with dictatorships.

30. The Inter-American Democratic Charter is against replacing by force Heads of State and Government elected through universal suffrage, and Secretary General Almagro acts against the spirit and objective of the Democratic Charter by supporting coup leaders and trying to delegitimize the legal government of President Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

31. In Nicaragua, we have been confronted with destabilizing actions and coup-led tactics designed, directed and financed by the Government of the United States, which insists on resorting to threats, the use of force and engages in coercive actions against the territorial integrity and political independence of the Nicaraguan State, the Sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Sister Republic of Cuba in contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, this practice being a real threat to international peace and security.

32. The essential objective and spirit of the Inter-American Democratic Charter has been to avoid coups d'état against

legitimately elected governments. But now, from the General Secretariat, they want to misconstrue its nature and mandate, in order to support the perpetrators of the coup, financed by the United States Government, with the brazen purpose of deposing the Constitutional Government of the State of Nicaragua, and thus legitimizing their illegal and unjust pretensions.

33. This is the old practice of the Monroe Doctrine that the United States Government has used to subdue countries that do not agree with the Washington consensus. It has been applied in Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Libya, Syria, African countries, among others, with the clear purpose of overthrowing the govern-

ments of these countries, committing crimes and terrorist acts, deaths, destruction of the infrastructure and economy of these countries, and causes severe interethnic and security problems, all carried out with the purpose of seizing political power and controlling the natural resources of these nations.

34. We recall how as of April 2018, opposition sectors, sponsored and financed from abroad, orchestrated a series of acts of terror and scenes of horror never before seen in Nicaragua, through kidnappings, assassinations, torture, damages and burning of public and private property, the obstruction and destruction of roads and highways and a



media campaign of terror and disinformation aimed at instilling fear in the civilian population, all with the purpose of causing a rupture of the constitutional order of the country, destroying the democratic order and forcing a change of Government, through an attempted coup d'etat that affected the peace, security and economic development of the country and the stability of the Nicaraguan people, and which has been neutralized by the State and Government of Nicaragua that continues to function normally.

35. The people of the countries represented here have recognized and condemned the aggression deployed against the people of Nicaragua, in virtue of the coupled

agenda sponsored by the Government of the United States and its agents, such as Secretary General Luis Almagro. The Manifesto of the "Forums of Peace and Solidarity with Nicaragua" of October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, signed by the Latin American Ecumenical Committee for Peace in Nicaragua, the San Pablo Christian Community of Managua, the Gaspar García Laviana Center, and political, religious and intellectual leaders of **Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela**, have expressed: "The first thing that this seditious opposition has done is promote street violence as never seen before in the

cities of the country, with a perverse symbol "the roadblocks", which the people painfully renamed, "roadblocks of death". Secondly, they spread terror, pure and hard terror, committed by mercenary and organized gangs not in order to "dialogue", but to sow violence and terror in the midst of the citizenry with a single strategic objective as they shouted -defiant- in the Cathedral of Managua again and again; "He Must Go". Once again, the elites and the most extreme political right, has gambled in favor of violence and terror to snatch from the People, with hateful contempt, their great Presidential victory in the free, informed and constitutional elections of 2016."

36. Mr. President: The Government of Nicaragua considers the initiative of Secretary General Almagro illegal and non-existent, as it lacks legal basis and is in violation of the principles of the OAS Charter, the UN Charter and International Law. If such manipulation of the instruments of the Inter-American System and in particular of the Inter-American Democratic Charter were admitted, a dangerous and negative precedent would be established, since the OAS would once again become a violator of the world legal order and an instrument to promote coups d'état and overthrow the sovereign and legitimately constituted Governments of the Americas, as it was in past decades, which even served to legalize armed interventions

in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, let's remember the overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala, the overthrow of Salvador Allende in Chile, the invasion of the Bay of Pigs in Cuba, the invasions in Dominican Republic, Grenada and Panama and threats of aggression against Venezuela. The OAS cannot return to that past of ignominy or it will be delegitimized as a Regional Organization subject to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the OAS.

37. We alert the Member States to these actions against the sovereignty of the State of Nicaragua and request support, so that these unfounded actions that affect peace, stability and friendly

relations and cooperation between our peoples and governments, are not allowed.

38. Let us remember that the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua was elected in 2016, for the period of 2017-2021, with the favorable vote of 72.44% of Nicaraguan voters, through a process of universal free and transparent suffrage with international observation, and that enjoys the recognition of the international community.

39. Why is it so annoying to the Government of the United States and its allied agents that the People of Nicaragua have improved their quality of life with the Government of Reconciliation and

National Unity that Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra presides over?

Because it bothers them that our Government has:

- Reduced hunger, poverty and inequality
- Ensured the defense of labor rights
- Protected children, women and family, through norms and sustained public policies
- Implemented a comprehensive health model, in which families and communities participate
- Applied an inclusive educational model
- Implemented a State policy to strengthen the family, prevent violence and protect older adults.

40. Do they resent the fact that women in Nicaragua have a leading role and

their rights are respected? Does it bother them that Nicaragua is among the five countries that rank the best in the world in terms of gender equality?

41. In Nicaragua, "democracy" is not an ethereal concept, in Nicaragua, democracy is daily participation, the leadership of youth, farmers, producers, workers and families. Democracy is the active participation of all sectors for the greater good, for the Common Good.

42. If any alteration to democracy and the constitutional order has taken place, it has been caused by the Government of the United States, its allies and the



Secretary General, by violating the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the OAS and the guiding principles of international law, including respect for the sovereignty of States, their legal equality and their right to self-determination and the Inter-American Democratic Charter itself. The time has come to eradicate once and for all the pernicious interventionist practices of this Organization that have caused its deterioration, its weakening and lack of credibility.

43. Nicaragua, Mr. President, is a hard-working and welcoming people, a lover of peace, respectful of International Law and with the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity at the

head, it has been adding to the efforts at the regional and international levels, to preserve international peace and security and promote relationships of friendship and cooperation between the peoples and governments of the world. Nicaragua will continue to defend with dignity and determination its national sovereignty and its inalienable right to self-determination.

44. Nicaragua firmly believes that the support of the Member States of this Organization for the preservation of democracy and constitutional order must start from the principle of respect of nonintervention in accordance with Article 1 of the OAS Char-

ter and the Preamble of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

45. In this regard, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Secretary General and the Permanent Council must cease and desist from any actions that encourages terrorist groups that carryout the failed coup in Nicaragua and demand from them respect for the Rule of Law and respect for the will of the electorate whom elected a Government for the period 2017-2021.

46. On behalf of the Government of Nicaragua, we request the support of the distinguished Delegations so that the pretensions of the Secretary General, Luis

Almagro, to approve the application of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter against Nicaragua, be rejected at the Organization of American States.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman