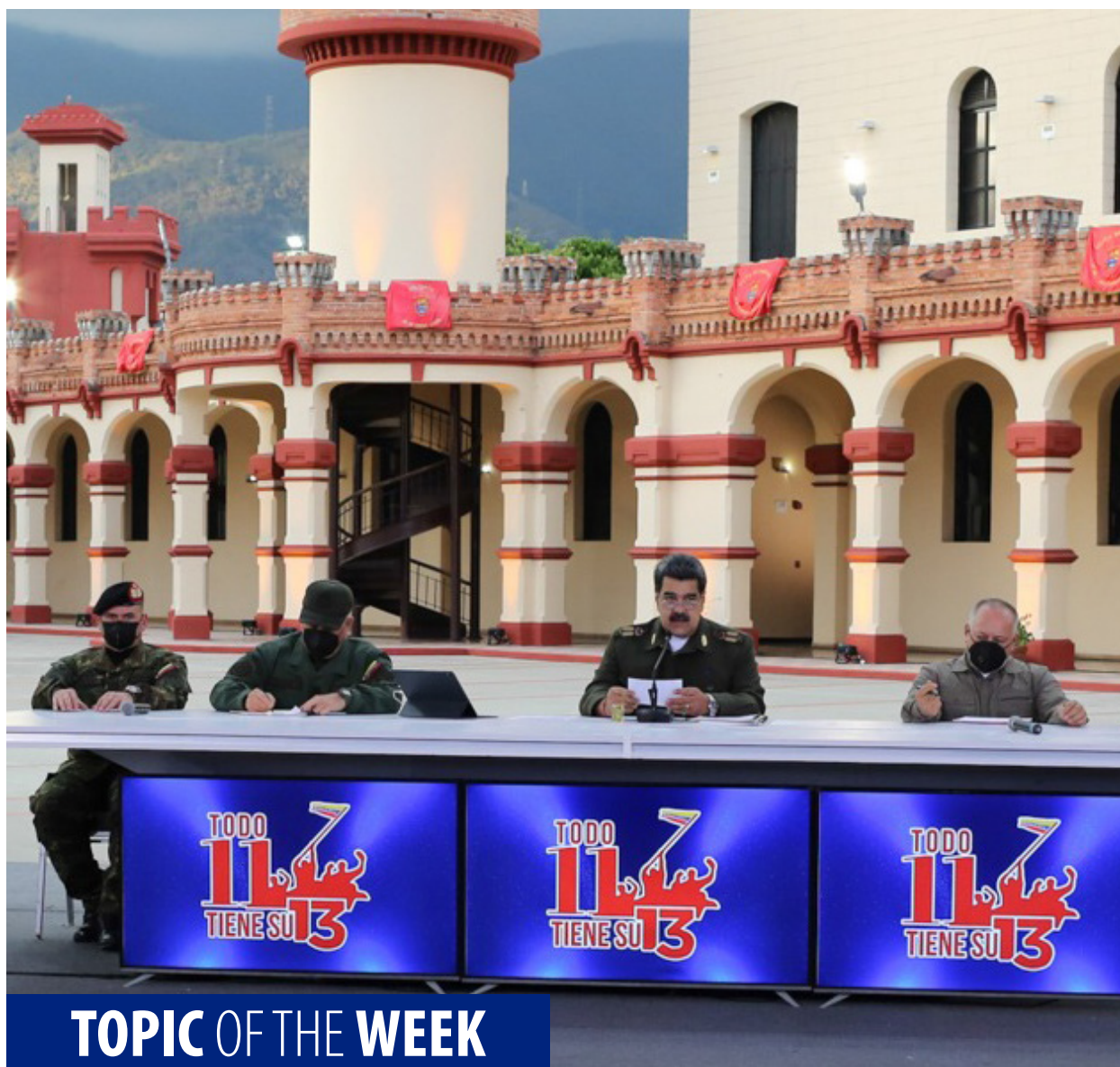




Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs

Weekly Newsletter / April 16th 2021



TOPIC OF THE WEEK

The Bolivarian Revolution is alive and kicking

On April 13, 2002, the Venezuelan people achieved a historic feat. In less than two days, it defeated the coup d'état carried out by the US-supervised national right-wing against Comandante Hugo Chávez, in what constitutes "the most monumental example of a perfect civic-military union," said the President of the Republic, Nicolás Maduro, 19 years after that heroic action.

"The people and the Armed Forces were united in a single direction, a single leadership, a single project, a single feeling that swept away the fascist coup in 47 hours," said the President, during the ceremony for the 12th anniversary of the Bolivarian Militia and National Dignity Day, celebrated at the Cuartel de la Montaña (Mountain Barracks), in Caracas, where the Solemn Mausoleum of Commander Chávez is located.

After almost 20 years, "the Bolivarian Revolution is on its feet, alive and well, advancing, growing, deploying its civic-military force," said the head of state, who asked to "sow memory" for the new generations on those days "markers of history".

The President said that those days of "counterrevolution and coup, and revolution and resurrection" summarize the historical struggle of the people of Simón Bolívar against imperialism. "What our country has fought over the last 200 years: the anti-motherland, defeat neocolonialism, pro-imperialism, peddlers."

Data:

Venezuela, before and now, fights for respect for its sovereignty and independence against the same



Loyalty and courage

Shouting "Chávez, I swear, I vote for Maduro!", the Venezuelan people elected Nicolás Maduro as President of the Republic on April 14th, 2013, with more than 50% of the vote.

"My firm opinion, full as the full moon, irrevocable, absolute, total, is that (...) you elect Nicolás Maduro as President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. I ask you from my heart", was the request of Commander Hugo Chavez

The people responded with loyalty and courage, to even face the violence unleashed by the opposition that refused to recognize the will expressed in the democratic vote that Sunday 14th.

"Eight years ago I was elected as President, by the will of the sovereign people, to continue with the project that Commander Chavez left us. We have had to face great difficulties to advance on the path that we have assumed for the happiness of the Homeland," said President Maduro on the anniversary of his first electoral victory.

Commander Chavez had warned that new difficulties would come and that in the face of the aspiration of some to end the homeland, "the response of all and all patriots, the revolutionaries (...) is unity, struggle, battle and victory."

PHOTO: FILE / COURTESY

oligarchy that is subordinated to the United States, which massacred the people in 1989 during a popular anti-neoliberal rebellion, which promoted terrorist actions and coups in 2007, 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2019, promotes the economic blockade and mercenary incursions and irregular groups into the national territory, such as the one that recently thwarted the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB) on the border with Colombia, in the state of Apure.

PHOTO: PRESS PRESIDENTIAL

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DIPLOMACY

Venezuela demands fair and differentiated treatment for developing countries

Venezuela defends the right of developing countries to a fair, special and differentiated treatment in the financial sphere, and rejects actions that limit it, especially in light of the effects of COVID-19, expressed the People's Power Minister for Foreign Relations, Jorge Arreaza.

At the Forum on Financing for Development of the UN Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc), he warned that great powers use the international financial system "to promote changes of government and extermination policies, denying countries access to their legitimate resources and imposing colonial relations in the 21st century".

He denounced the intensification of unilateral coercive measures against Venezuela, with losses of tens of billions of dollars, limited access to vaccines and restrictions on foreign investment, in addition to the fact that more than 5,470 million dollars belonging to the Venezuelan people are illegally blocked in US and European banks.

He also ratified Venezuela's commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for the Financing of Sustainable Development and pointed out that the only way to overcome the current crisis is through dialogue among equals, respect for self-determination and solidarity.

PHOTO: MPPRE



Solidarity with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received from Venezuela 20 tons of humanitarian aid and the support of experts from the "Simón Bolívar" Humanitarian Task Force, to face the emergency after the eruption of the La Soufrière volcano.

The shipment arrived in a Venezuelan Navy vessel, which will facilitate a maritime bridge for the supply of water, non-perishable food and other supplies to the sisterly nation, said the Vice Minister for the Caribbean, Raul Li Causi.

In this regard, the People's Power Minister for Foreign Relations, Jorge Arreaza, ratified that the Alba-TCP countries are alert to provide the necessary support.

PHOTO: MPPRE



VENEZUELA IN IMAGES

Seniors receive protection against Covid-19

This month Venezuela began vaccinating seniors against Covid-19 with several operatives being held around the country. Grandparents are progressively being called taking into account their

health conditions, giving priority to the most vulnerable population.

PHOTO: COURTESY

NEWS BRIEF



National Assembly strengthens ties with Inter-Parliamentary Union

In order to learn about the operation of the National Assembly, elected in 2020, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will send a mission to Venezuela. The president of the Venezuelan Parliament, Jorge Rodríguez, extended the invitation after meeting with the president of the IPU, Duarte Pacheco, and its secretary general, Martín Chungong, at the organization's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

PHOTO: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Alba-TCP against the media siege

Communication authorities of the Alba-TCP countries agreed, during an online meeting, to develop a communication strategy that allows the organization to be seen as an alliance for life, an alliance that strives to overcome censorship, to stand up to digital totalitarianism and strengthen public and community based media which reflect the realities and interests of the people.

Venezuela, a country free of drug cultivation

Venezuela categorically rejects unilateral certifications, which politically prejudge the actions of countries in the fight against drugs, said the Anti-Drug Superintendent, Richard López Vargas, at the 64th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs. He stressed that Venezuela maintains the status of a country free of illicit crops granted by the UN, does not have problems of endemic trafficking or high prevalence in consumption.



HUMANITY ON THE MOVE



Migration as a political and economic weapon

The Venezuelan migration of recent years, in part due to the effects of the economic blockade, is used by the US government and by subordinated countries as an instrument to obtain economic and political privileges.

Researchers warn about practices such as “hyper-visibility” of Venezuelan migrants, that serve the governance of countries like Colombia, Ecuador and Peru to ask for economic resources covered under the “humanitarian crisis” version.

That discourse is also linked to the US, the main promoter of Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCM) that facilitated the seizure of Venezuela’s state assets overseas and allows for gaining political support from Venezuelans living in Florida.

Under this setting, events such as the Donors International Conference in solidarity with refugees and migrants from Venezuela, organized by the European Union, another promoter of UCM, raised 2.79 billion in its first edition in 2020.

This framework also hides plans like the Return to the Homeland Plan (Plan Vuelta a la Patria), which was designed for the voluntary return of Venezuelans to their country. “The real requirements of funds are for the repatriation and reinsertion of Venezuelans that return by the thousands”, Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza said.

PHOTO: ARCHIVE / MPPRE

UNBLOCK



Venezuela rescues hijacked resources to acquire vaccines

President Nicolás Maduro reported that Venezuela covered more than half of the payment to the UN Covax mechanism to get 11.3 million Covid-19 vaccines, which will allow 20% of the population to be immunized.

Venezuela paid 59.2 million Swiss francs, equivalent to US\$64 million. The money represents more than 50% of the total amount outstanding, nearly \$120 million, and was released from the appropriation by U.S. government in cohorts with the former MP Juan Guaidó, linked to the theft of assets abroad.

“These are the recovered resources from the seizure of the Federal Reserve and we have already obtained the rest to reach 100% of the deposit of the Covax system,” said Venezuelan President, who indicated that the payment was made in Swiss francs to avoid the blockade.

The Head of State also held a virtual meeting with the directors of the World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Carissa Etienne, to expedite the arrival of doses in Venezuela, which has already started vaccinating health personnel, teachers and the elderly with Sputnik V and Sinopharm.

New ploy to appropriate assets abroad

The President of the National Assembly, Jorge Rodríguez, denounced that agents of former MP Juan Guaidó intend to obtain more than \$53 million from OFAC, an agency of the US government that sequestered Venezuelan resources, money with which five million Venezuelans could be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Apart from the Covax quota and the acquisitions already made to China and Russia, various mechanisms are used to obtain the rest of the doses that the nation requires. On the list is the Cuban vaccine Abdala, which will also be produced in Venezuela. Thus, paths are opened in the face of inequity in access to vaccines. The WHO denounced that 85% of antigens are being hoarded in rich countries.

PHOTO: PRESS PRESIDENTIAL

CAPSULES OF IDEAS

“They will not be able to delete these pages because every day that passes, every year that passes, the importance of April 13th will grow like the sun when it rises. Because April 13th has to do not only with the revolution in Venezuela, the popular victory of April 13th in Venezuela allowed us to continue to pave the way for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.”

Hugo Chávez, April 13, 2010.



BEATS OF OUR PEOPLE



Knowledge for life

Faced with the criminal blockade that Venezuela is under, scientists, technicians and innovators revived an indigenous tradition called "Cayapa", through which a community works cooperatively on a task. In this case, to recover equipment whose spare parts cannot be purchased due to the blockade.

Hand in hand with the Ministry of the People's Power for Science, Technology and Innovation, the Cayapa Heroic Plan began in 2018 with the repair of neonatal incubators and later extended to areas such as telecommunications, electrical equipment and agricultural production.

Up until last March, the Cayapa Heroic Plan had repaired more than 1,600 medical devices, many essential to successfully tackling Covid-19, such

as nebulizers, respirators and infusion pumps. CT, ultrasound, mammography, electrocardiographs and multiparameter monitors have also been recovered.

The program has saved the State about 14 million euros, estimates the National Centre for Development and Research in Telecommunications Foundation (Cendit).

Power plants for health centres and router modems necessary for telecommunications have been rehabilitated. Currently, Cendit promotes training workshops so that more and more young people become part of this initiative.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

HEROIC ROOTS



April, time of revolution and victory

Since 1810, Venezuela has lived each April as a time of victory and national dignity. April 19th of that year marked a milestone in the struggle for independence, when the rebellious people of Caracas removed the Spanish authorities and gave way to the first form of autonomous government. Thus, began a long process for self-determination.

As an expression of this same emancipatory struggle, against new forms of colonialism, on April 13th, 2002, the people reversed the coup that the right wing had carried out two days before, under the tutelage of the United States, against President Hugo Chávez.

Despite the fierce repression of the coup plotters, the people took to the streets to demand the restoration of the constitutional order. At dawn on the 14th, the action of loyal military personnel and popular mobilization recovered democracy by rescuing President Chávez and reinstating him to power.

Also in April, 11 years later, Venezuelans confronted fascist violence. On April 14th, 2013, after the electoral victory that brought Nicolás Maduro to the presidency, the opposition refused to accept the results and called for violence in which 11 people were killed. But the vocation of peace of the people and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces triumphed again.

In honor of the deed of 19 years ago, every April 13th, the Day of National Dignity and Day of the Bolivarian Militia is celebrated, whose character emulates the militias that accompanied the struggle for the independence of Venezuela.

PHOTO: ARCHIVE / COURTESY

UNCOVERING FAKE NEWS

April 11th: first media coup

The media played a key role in the coup d'état of April 11th, 2002. Although the visible face was the business leadership, those who pulled the strings were factors located in the United States, who constructed a discourse to justify the breakdown of the constitutional order.

The press announced and promoted the coup, even with extra editions. That day, the television stations divided the screen in two in the middle of the presidential broadcast - violating Venezuelan laws -, censored the attorney general of the Republic while he unveiled the ongoing coup, and encouraged the persecution of Chavismo.

The coup leaders closed the state channel VTV and went into informative silence: on the 13th they broadcast cartoons while the people, in a civic-military union, restored the democratic order.

In the two days that the dictatorship lasted, the information had to be word of mouth, in flyers, pamphlets and through community media. Thus, lies and manipulations of the big corpo-



rations were brought down, which perpetrated the first known media coup. For this reason, every April 12th the Popular Communication Day is celebrated in Venezuela.

Today, 19 years later, the Bolivarian Revolution faces a media war even more ferocious than that of 2002. As then, thanks to the people's conscience and international solidarity, Venezuela will win.

PHOTO: ARCHIVE / COURTESY