

How a Coalition of Communist, Leftist and Terrorist Movements is Threatening Freedom in the Americas

This is the transcript of an interview with **Alejandro Peña Esclusa**, president of UnoAmerica and the author of *The Foro de São Paulo: A Threat to Freedom in Latin America*. Peña Esclusa, a former Venezuelan presidential candidate and a prominent critic of the Hugo Chavez regime in Venezuela, has been spearheading opposition to the Sao Paulo Forum, a coalition of communist, leftist, and terrorist movements in Latin America. With the end of the Cold War in 1989, it was believed by many that communism was on the wane. However, with Fidel Castro isolated in Cuba, he reached out to Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva of the Worker's Party of Brazil, who would later become President of Brazil. An event was hosted in São Paulo, Brazil in 1990, the seat of Lula's power, bringing together what came to be known as the São Paulo Forum. *The Foro de São Paulo: A Threat to Freedom in Latin America* is available at www.usasurvival.org

UnoAmerica recognized the new Honduran government. Who and what does UnoAmerica represent?

UnoAmerica is an Alliance of Latin-American Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), created to defend democracy and freedom, both currently in danger in our continent. We decided to recognize the new Honduran government because the ousting of President Manuel Zelaya was actually an impeachment. Zelaya wanted to change the Constitution, without the approval of the Supreme Court and the Congress, in order to stay illegally in power. As in all democratic governments, there are three branches of power in Honduras.



Alejandro Peña Esclusa

In this case, the Executive wanted to stage a coup against the Constitution, and the other two powers (Legislative and Judiciary) did not let that happen. It is very simple.

Why is the world allied against the new government?

In part, because of disinformation, and in part, because Hugo Chavez and his allies have been conducting a black propaganda operation against the new government, in order to defend their friend Zelaya. Unfortunately, some authorities in the U.S. have fallen for that version, without really knowing what went on.

Why is Obama siding with Chavez and Castro on this matter?

I believe that, on the one hand, Obama is beginning to show his socialist tendencies, which were denounced during the American Presidential campaign. On the other hand, Obama is letting himself be influenced by several Presidents of Latin America, particularly Lula of Brazil, who is the real power behind the Sao Paulo Forum.

Can Honduras be saved from Chavez?

I think it can, but it requires the participation of all citizens, not only of Latin America, but of the U.S. as well. Honduras is facing tremendous pressures, and will not be able to bear them without the help of the world public opinion. Every article and every interview in favor of the Honduran democracy helps to defend their institutions against Chavez's assault.

What has happened to the Organization of American States?

Unfortunately, fifteen Presidents of Latin America belong to the Sao Paulo Forum, and seven other governments (especially from the Caribbean islands, who are dependent on Chavez's oil shipments) do as well. We could say, then, that 22 of 34 of the votes in the OAS are controlled by Chavez. José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS, himself belongs to the Chilean Socialist Party, which is a member of the Sao Paulo Forum.

Some of the pro-Zelaya protesters in Honduras have been seen with symbols of Che Guevara. What does that tell you? Why the fascination with Che?

The Sao Paulo Forum has done a lot of propaganda in favor of Che and Fidel Castro. It is now trying to change the history books in order to modify our traditional conservative values and create instead a new set of principles based on Socialism. Many youngsters are victims of that campaign.

What is your opinion about the negotiations that have been announced between the Honduran government and Zelaya?

I welcome any negotiations that will serve to prevent violent confrontations. And I think it's the best way to find a durable solution to the Honduran crisis. But it's fair to say that there are not two factions in Hondurans, but just one, because the overwhelming majority of the Honduran population supports the new government. The other "faction" is composed of paid agitators financed by Chavez and led by foreigners, most of them Nicaraguans linked to the government of Ortega.

What center-right or pro-American governments exist in Latin America today?

I would say only four: Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Panama. Don't be fooled by Lula; he is with Fidel Castro and with Chavez, but he is so hypocritical that he will claim to be a

friend of the U.S.

How much freedom is left in Venezuela?

There is very little room left for freedom and democracy in Venezuela. This is a “third generation” dictatorship; not so cruel and obvious as Fidel Castro’s, but just as evil. There are elections, but rigged. There is certain freedom of press, but the media is threatened with closure if it “crosses the line.” Not all Chavez’s adversaries are persecuted, just some, but enough to spread fear among the rest. All three branches of power are controlled by Chavez. The Constitution has been rewritten to allow Chavez to stay in power indefinitely. Venezuelan petrodollars are used to export his Marxist revolution throughout Latin America. And the government is closely related with Colombian narco-terrorists and Islamic fundamentalists.

Can freedom be saved in Venezuela?

Yes, but not through elections, because, as I mentioned before, they are rigged. Only a process similar to that of Honduras can rescue democracy and freedom in Venezuela. That is why Chavez is so interested in crushing the new Honduran government. He does not want such an example spread to his own country.

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of freedom in Latin America?

I am very optimistic, but it will be a very complicated and traumatic outcome, which many won’t understand. Exactly as what is happening in Honduras. I think it would be useful for the American population to read again their own Declaration of Independence, especially the part about the rights of the people to be free from tyrants. This is exactly what Hondurans are doing today, and most probably what Venezuelans will do in the near future.

It is a shame that President Obama is aligning himself with the allies of Chavez and Ahmadinejad to crush a democratic process in Honduras. I ask myself: will he really be conscious of the tremendous damage he is inflicting to democracy and freedom in our continent? Does he really know the danger he is posing to the national security of the United States?

***The Foro de São Paulo* by Alejandro Peña Esclusa**

Summary of Main Points (posted May 27, 2009).

By Clifford Kincaid*

Prologue

With the end of the Cold War in 1989 and the adoption of some private enterprise principles in China, it was believed by many that communism was on the wane.

However, with Castro isolated and surrounded in Cuba, he reached out to Luiz Inácio Lula de Silva of the Worker's Party of Brazil. (Lula de Silva would later become President of Brazil).

An event was hosted in São Paulo, Brazil in 1990, the seat of Lula's power, bringing together the communist and leftist parties and guerilla movements of the continent, which came to be known as the São Paulo Forum (FSP).

One of those guerrilla movements, the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia), had contacts with Brazilian government officials.

Introduction

On the first of March 2008, Operation Phoenix was launched by Colombian special security forces just inside the Ecuadorian border. Raúl Reyes, second in command of the FARC, was killed.

Far from the Colombian government being congratulated, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Nicaragua all severed diplomatic relations with Colombia, claiming the reason as the breaching of the territorial integrity of Ecuador. In reality, this showed the ideological affinity between the FARC and these three governments.

“What is the São Paulo Forum?”

Having no known headquarters, it is held approximately once every year in different cities, including such locations as Mañagua, Nicaragua (1992), San Salvador, El Salvador (1996), and Havana, Cuba (2001).

It brings together many different leftist groups and individuals including but nowhere near limited to: the FARC, the Socialist Party of Chile, the Sandinista National Liberation Front in Nicaragua, the Worker's Party of Brazil, Raul Castro, Hugo Chávez, Rafael Correa (president of Ecuador), and all of the communist parties in the region.

The FSP officially opposes terrorism, violence, and drug trafficking. However, active members of the group, like FARC, engage in all of these practices.

“Expansion of the São Paulo Forum”

Venezuela under Hugo Chávez has been instrumental in not only propping up communist governments but also in bringing them to power.

This meddling of Chávez in the affairs of other Latin American countries includes accusations made by the National Action Party of Mexico that Chávez provided support to presidential candidate Obrador, Chavez’s financial support to Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua, who tried to buy votes in the 2006 presidential election, and Chavez’s role in destabilizing Peru in 2007.

The petrodollars of Venezuela, which rightfully belong to the people of Venezuela, are instead being used to illegally support leftist political candidates all over Latin America.

“Methods Used to Seize Power”

Although the members of the São Paulo Forum do not believe in democracy, they disguise themselves as Democratic forces in order to further their goals, as armed struggle has not been successful.

Petrodollars, border “conflicts,” and strategic partnerships between so-called moderate and radical leftist governments have all encouraged the spread of leftist governments in Latin America.

“Demolishing Democracy from Within”

Working through the system, Chávez has been able to slowly dismantle democratic institutions. Using oil revenues, he “buys consciences and loyalties in Venezuela and abroad.”

When political options were closed to the Venezuelans opposed to Chávez, they took to the streets, but with pro-government paramilitary groups created for intimidation, even this avenue is now somewhat restricted.

Others in Latin America, most prominently Chávez’s three closest allies, Evo Morales (president of Bolivia), Rafael Correa (president of Ecuador), and Daniel Ortega (president of Nicaragua) are in the process of trying to do the same in their respective countries.

“Destroying Iberian America’s Identity”

Esclusa states that the São Paulo Forum is dedicated to changing Iberian values “based on the dignity of human life, freedom, justice, tolerance and the search for the common good. These are all Christian-Western values that restrain totalitarianism.”

The defamation of the Catholic Church is also a tool utilized by the São Paulo Forum, as “a materialistic and atheistic culture” is more consistent with communism than is a religious one.

“Replacing Multilateral Organizations”

The members of The Foro de São Paulo have been successful in pretending to represent and exploiting “the will of the people” to destroy the system from within.

With the recent gains of leftists, they have been able to take control of powerful organizations like the Organization of American States. Through this, they were able to have President Uribe of Colombia denounced for his government’s attack on FARC senior members.

“The Sao Paulo Forum and Transverse Empires”

The concept of a transverse empire is an empire which is not confined to a certain country, but rather is continental, even international in nature. This is the international communist movement today, as represented by the FSP.

To survive, it uses the communicative resources of the globalized world to spread its political, ideological, and economic message.

The Foro de São Paulo is an excellent example of a transverse empire, with its FARC members traveling as far away as Europe to spread its message.

“Lula: The Power Behind the Throne”

Lula, president of Brazil, is generally viewed as a moderate, while Chávez has been viewed as a radical socialist. In looking at recent history, however, their views are very much aligned, with the political situation in Brazil preventing more extreme measures on the part of Lula.

Numerous examples show the close political ties the two have, including the push by Lula to have Venezuela join Mercosur, an alternative trade organization, and numerous public displays of support for Chavez by Lula.

“Free America and the Purloined Letter”

“Everything the [São Paulo Forum] does is out in the open; therefore, no one seems to notice the criminal organization behind it.”

Members of the editorial board of the Forum’s magazine *America Libre*, include and have included commanders of FARC, and a secretary of the ELN. Articles in the magazine have attempted to justify the crimes of the Cuban regime and even terrorism.

This use of free speech in this manner is another example of how opponents of democracy use democratic means to destroy it.

“The Revolution is a Farce”

Many outside Venezuela believe Chávez has the support of the Venezuelans and is a champion of the poor. In reality, he has committed electoral fraud, uses repression to intimidate people, and uses petrodollars to buy loyalty.

During his presidency, the Bolivar, the national currency, has devalued exponentially, oil production has declined, imports have quadrupled, and poverty levels have remained constant.

In trying to explain the failures of his government, he points to the North American “Empire” as the agent to blame.

“An attempt to Prevent Tragedy”

Esclusa, the author, is a Venezuelan who now lives in Colombia for fear of retribution from Chávez, and has traveled across Central and South America giving speeches and making appearances to warn against the dangers arrayed against Latin America.

Founding Fuerza Solidaria with friends, Esclusa has led the organization to put together demonstrations in Venezuela and a website in order to warn people of the dangers that face them.

“Why is Chávez Still in Power?”

In the 1950's and 1960's, military dictatorships were in power in Latin America. Therefore, many see a military government as a historical enemy, even though the chances of a military dictatorship taking over any country in Latin America are virtually non-existent.

Because many still fear the “ghost” of the Right, they are more likely not to object to Chávez for fear of something worse, despite the fact that this alternative is nothing more than a “ghost.”

What Can Be Expected of the Sao Paulo Forum?

The FSP has many methods which can be utilized to exert pressure, including punitive economic sanctions against democratic countries, fabricated border disputes, and strategic terror attacks.

The immediate attention of the FSP revolves around overthrowing Colombian President Uribe or forcing him to back down in his defense of Colombia and campaign against the FARC.

“It is Urgent to Create a Counterpart to the São Paulo Forum”

The danger of the FSP lies in the fact that it is a coalition, and so an attack against one member means the other members will rush to its aid.

It is necessary to create a counterpart to the FSP, first by holding a “founding” summit to bring together the democratic leaders and groups of the region, and second by creating an intelligence archive of the many radical and violent efforts of the FSP. UnoAmerica is the federation that opposes the FSP. Its website is <http://www.unoamerica.org/unoPAG/principal.php>

Also, it is necessary to put together a team of professionals, including professors, lawyers, and journalists, to refute the tenets of the FSP.

“Conclusion: Crisis as an Opportunity”

Marxism was allowed to enter Latin America by way of people’s weariness with the poverty and social ills that plague those societies. However, it is clear that the policies promoted by the FPS do nothing to alleviate those problems and in fact worsen them.

There now arises an historic opportunity to defeat this Marxism through a rediscovery of the values of the Christian-Western civilization of which the people of Latin America are a part, and to initiate a new quest for development and growth in Latin America.

*Clifford Kincaid is an intern with America’s Survival, Inc.