

Beyond Attack on Venezuela: Global Assault on the BRICS

by Cynthia R. Rush

March 16—In an act of absolute insanity, which has been roundly denounced and ridiculed throughout Ibero-America, on March 9, President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order (EO) declaring Venezuela to be a “an extraordinary threat to the national security of the United States,” and thus subject to sanctions. The Administration imposed penalties on seven Venezuelan military and law-enforcement officials, freezing their assets in U.S. banks and revoking their visas.

The ostensible reason for Obama’s astounding action is that the Venezuelan government, and the seven officials in question, have violated the human rights of “pro-democracy” activists who have been mobilized for over a year against President Nicolás Maduro, accusing him of corruption and authoritarian practices aimed at squelching all dissent. Protests have turned increasingly violent, resulting in deaths and mass arrests, including of the protest movement’s top leaders, leading to a dangerous standoff between the two sides.

But Obama’s response was utterly disproportionate. As Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa put it on March 11, “Who in their right mind would think that Venezuela constitutes a threat?”

Obama, of course, is not in his right mind, and his EO has nothing to do with human rights. It rather signals the intent to submit Venezuela, which is still a major oil supplier to the United States, to a full-scale coup—a “color revolution,” such as those which have destroyed North African, Southwest Asian, and Eastern European nations, most recently in Ukraine. The same networks and NGOs that brought about the 2014 neo-Nazi coup in Ukraine, financed by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the National Democratic Institute (NDI), USAID, and mega-speculator George Soros’s Open Society Foundation, among others, were long ago activated to spark a color revolution in Venezuela.

South America/BRICS Targeted

The stench of the global Project Democracy apparatus is overwhelming in the Venezuelan case; but this is not just a local, Venezuelan issue. The British Empire, of which Obama is a dutiful asset, is deployed *globally* against the BRICS nations, whose exciting global development paradigm—China’s New Silk Road and Lyndon and Helga LaRouche’s World Land-Bridge are key components—has been embraced by nations around the world. Developing countries, in particular, have had their fill of the destructive, austerity-based economic policies and British geopolitical machinations long imposed on them by the now-bankrupt trans-Atlantic financial system and representative institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Recent attacks on President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, one of the five BRICS members, including the suspicious death of one of his cabinet ministers and security threats to his family, are only one reflection of the global anti-BRICS deployment.

Obama, however, is especially desperate about developments in the United States’ own “backyard,” where the nations of the Caribbean, and Central and South America have increasingly moved to align themselves with the BRICS, leaving an isolated U.S. in the dust. Brazil is a BRICS member. Argentine President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner has aggressively forged strategic alliances with BRICS leaders China and Russia; and Bolivia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and others have firmly placed themselves in the BRICS camp as well, eager to participate in the stunning array of infrastructure projects and financing opportunities offered as part of the BRICS optimistic development perspective.

For the London- and Wall Street-controlled U.S. President, this motion toward the BRICS, which he refuses to join, is unacceptable. Hence, the targeting of Brazil and Argentina for color revolutions, already well underway in both countries, and threats to any other

government that dares to contemplate breaking away from the trans-Atlantic system's death grip. The Obama Administration's bludgeoning of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto for even his tentative efforts to reach out to the BRICS, and China in particular, is a case in point.

Brazil, Argentina Under the Gun

Through its geopolitical and financier assets, the British Empire has targeted Argentina for years, incensed at the Kirchner governments' (both that of the late former President Néstor Kirchner and that of his wife, the current President) staunch defense of sovereignty and refusal to bend to the Empire's nation-wrecking dictates. More recently, as President Fernández has consolidated her alliance with the BRICS grouping, London and Wall Street have escalated their attacks, orchestrating a scandal around the suspicious mid-January death of federal prosecutor Alberto Nisman, in an attempt to either overthrow or kill her.

In Brazil, imperial financier factions and their local allies are seeking to bring down the government of President Dilma Rousseff and pull Brazil out of the BRICS, using as a pretext corruption uncovered within the giant state oil company, Petrobras, a corruption those very same financial interests engineered. Over the weekend of March 14-15, largely middle-class protesters took to the streets in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo carrying signs demanding Rousseff's impeachment, privatization of Petrobras, and even military intervention to "end corruption." International media dutifully played this up as a sign that Rousseff won't last long in office.

Brazilian patriots understand what's at stake here. On Feb. 25, political, scientific, engineering, trade union, legal, academic, and media leaders held the first of many planned meetings of a newly established "Alliance for Brazil in Defense of National Sovereignty" at Rio de Janeiro's Engineering Club, to map out a strategy to defend the nation from dismemberment by foreign financial interests.

Speaking at the gathering, former Science and Technology Minister Roberto Amaral explicitly warned that the country doesn't run the risk of suffering a coup in the future because "the coup is already underway." The only way to stop this, he said, is with the unity of the Brazilian people.

In his fierce remarks, Roberto Saturnino Braga, director-president of the Centro Celso Furtado, pointed to the "daring measures" Brazil "had the courage to take," including its active role in the BRICS and the establishment of its New Development Bank, as an alternative to the IMF, as the reason why its sovereignty is under attack.

A Defense of Sovereignty

Under the old paradigm dominated by the trans-Atlantic financial system, U.S. bludgeoning of a South American nation might have cowed the region. Now, in the new geometry defined by the BRICS alternative for economic development and cooperative strategic alliances, Obama's Executive Order galvanized not only firm regional support for Venezuela, but a broader defense of the basic principles of respect for sovereignty and international law, which, in a sane world, should be the guiding principles of all international relations.

An extraordinary meeting on March 14 in Quito, Ecuador of the foreign ministers of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) concluded with a communiqué denouncing President Obama's March 9 EO as a gross violation of international law, and demanding it be revoked.

Obama's Order, the communiqué read, is an "interventionist threat to the sovereignty and principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other States," adding, "the Member States of UNASUR reaffirm their commitment to the full force of International Law, the peaceful solution of disputes, and the principle of non-intervention, and reiterate their call that governments abstain from applying unilateral coercive measures which violate International Law."

The foreign ministers also reiterated that UNASUR will continue its efforts to help find a peaceful resolution to the political standoff between government and opposition in Venezuela. A UNASUR delegation made up of the foreign ministers of Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador had been in Venezuela as recently as March 6, meeting with government and opposition figures, and offering help in both supplying and distributing basic foods and medicines whose scarcity in Venezuela is reaching serious proportions. The communiqué stated that the three ministers will continue their diplomatic efforts to mediate a solution to the crisis.