

Now They are Coming to Hunt Venezuela

The last week of January saw an unprecedented move in the Latin American country, Venezuela. The leader of (Suspended) Parliament Mr. Juan Guido proclaimed himself as the President of that country. As expected immediately US imperialism recognised him as the interim President. So as nineteen members of European Union (EU) and other US allies quickly lined up to back Trump's position. Trump warned the legitimate president of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro for any act of violence against the self proclaimed president Guido and the anti-Maduro protesters. People in support of elected president Maduro brought out huge rallies throughout the country. Some Pro-Guido rallies though small in numbers are held since the self-declaration.

This was followed by the US imposing sanctions on the Venezuela's state owned oil company PDVSA and seizing its assets in the US worth 7 billion dollar. An additional 1.2 billion dollar in gold belonging to Venezuela is being withheld by the Bank of England on instruction from US. US also threatened other countries not to import petrol from Venezuela. The objective is to strangle the Venezuelan economy into submission.

So far, the coup attempt has not managed to get any support from the armed forces and Venezuela military stood firm behind Maduro.

Meanwhile nineteen of thirty five members of United Nations Security Council rejected foreign interference in Venezuela while UN General Council reiterated that Nicolas Maduro is the constitutional president of Venezuela. Russia, China, Turkey, Iran and Venezuela's allies in Latin America such as Cuba, Bolivia spoke against US move and condemned US interference.

South African Development Community (SADC), a group consisting of 15 African nations, issued a statement condemning the violation of international law in US-backed coup actions against Venezuela.

Maduro has repeatedly called for the resumption of talks between the Govt. and the opposition in order to restore peace and avoid US-backed coup or military intervention.

On the other side US president Donald Trump has made several threatening statements against elected President Maduro, saying that he won't rule out military intervention. US special envoy to oversee the matter of Venezuela notorious war convicted criminal Eliot Abrams claimed that time had passed to hold a dialogue with the govt. of President Maduro.

The whole crisis is setting the stage for serious economic and political crisis leading to internal civil war. Blockade & sanctions have been going on for a long time that really brings havoc to the Venezuela oil export economy. Speculators & food super market owners make the crisis more worsen by short supply the food items hence making those expensive. Taking the plea of food shortage, US is propagating to provide humanitarian aid for Venezuelan people. Tons of US aid is piling up in Colombia close to the border with Venezuela. Guido the self proclaimed president vowed to defy Maduro's efforts to block the supplies from entering the country. Maduro meanwhile blames Venezuela's woes on US sanctions. Maduro referring to US food aid said that it is a booby trap, they are putting a show with rotten and contaminated food. They have stolen 30 billion dollar and are offering four crumbs of rotten food". "If they want to help Venezuela put an end to the blockade, ask them to release our bank accounts".

In reality the so called humanitarian aid will be used as a political instrument against Maduro and his Govt.

Meanwhile Trump's top adviser, National Security Adviser John Bolton openly admitted that Washington is heavily invested in political outcomes in Venezuela because this country has vast untapped oil reserves. Venezuela has the largest proven oil reserves in the world along with Natural gas (4th in the world), Gold and other natural resources. This is the real reason why US imperialism has a lot of stake in Venezuela's political crisis. But in the name of humanitarian crisis, restore democracy, end authoritarian rule, uphold human rights, end food riots and end refugee crisis only are some the pleas to intervene in the internal affair of Venezuela.

Washington's intensifying effort at regime change in Venezuela are part of a pivot Latin America policy aimed at eliminating Chinese and Russian influence and transforming the whole Latin America into the exclusive cheap labour and primary resources peripheral nations for US imperialism.

In this light, we can see the Guido- the US stooge's economic programme (though he is not yet official president). Guido has already announced his pro-programme, the privatization of nationalized companies (such as electricity, steel, telecommunications, cement etc) and also the privatization of expropriated landed property; the opening up the oil industry to foreign Multinational corporations at very

favourable terms. Mass lay off of public sector workers; privatization of health and education sectors. Perhaps this is an open programme of reaction on the social and economic field. Guido has the support of a sizable number of multinational corporations, landed estate holders, oligarchs and pro-US elites mainly white racist sections of Venezuela society.

The U.S intervention is a clear and flagrant violation of international law and an act unacceptable interference into the affairs of a sovereign nation. This is an extremely serious development of US long standing strategy of aggression towards Venezuela since 1998. The US imperialism has tried to oust the democratically elected Govt. of Venezuela ever since Hugo Chavez was elected president in 1998.

Although American Presidents used to claim to defend democracy, their (US) intervention usually led to military dictatorship, massive loss of life, chaos and anarchy, and also subjugation of economy to U.S imperialism's interest. So the truth is nothing about democracy but it is about US trying to control and make vast profit from the natural resources of these economies. Those countries which have not subjugated and defended their sovereignty are hunted.

Here it is stated that with the dawn of 21st century US imperialism emerged as the sole hegemonic power. Countries like Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, North Korea, Cuba & Venezuela were declared as rouge states and evil players in the contemporary global politics by the US imperialism. These countries are mostly oil rich nations and didn't come into terms with US dictation. It must be mentioned that with slowing down of American economy, dollar lost its credibility as an international currency of exchange in the 70s of last century. The then president of USA Nixon came to an agreement with Saudi Arabia Rulers in 1973 to rescue American economy. This agreement was popularly known as petrodollar agreement. The basis of which was that Saudi Arab to export petrol to rest of the world only in dollar currency and in exchange US exports arms and provide security to the Saudi Arabian Crown. Later most of the oil rich nations became part of the agreement under pressure from US imperialism and thus fell prey to US game plan. Whichever country tried to undermine this deal was faced the wrath of US imperialism. Once it was Iraq, then it was Libya, Yemen, Syria, now it is Venezuela and Iran. To save its economic hegemonies, US imperialism had used its military supremacy many a times over the defying nations. People of world saw many of such devastating civil wars in past 20 years.

After Chavez coming to power, his Govt. nationalized all the oil fields which were previously under the Oil multinational corporations: exporting petrol to subsidise education, health and food for all programme. Today Venezuela state-owned oil company PDVSA keeps a controlling stake in any joint venture with Energy Company. Venezuela also gradually strengthened its economic, military and diplomatic ties with Russia & China undermining the US interest. In the last 20 years US tries its best to topple the Venezuela's legitimate Govt. first Chavez, now Maduro. US imperialism doesn't want to see the growing presence of other economic and military powers on its backyard.

The GW Bush administration triggered a coup in 2002 against Chavez which failed miserably due to the overwhelming support of working masses and Indigenous population of Venezuelan society.

The Obama Administration tightened the screws with economic sanctions on Venezuela's vital oil industry which precipitated the country's current social crisis and discontent. These economic and financial blockades are prelude to military intervention. According to Latin America Geopolitical strategy center (CELAG) the financial and economic blockade and boycott that was mainly promoted by United States and enforced by its allies would have cost Venezuela around 22 billion dollar annually between 2013 to 2017. Since Venezuela is highly dependent on imports which are normally paid with the income of petrol oil export, these boycotts and blockade have a grave impact on its economy and are mainly responsible for economic and humanitarian crisis including today's refugee crisis. Apart from it the steady decline of world oil price has also its negative impact on the Venezuela economy.

On the other side greater part of Venezuela's domestic economy basically food chain (from local production to import from outside to supermarket stores) are depended on multinational corporations such as Empresas Polar (a Venezuelan subsidiary of Pepsi Co) which controls 50 to 60 percent of pre cooked corn flour. Along with this white inheritors of old plantation system which controls a substantial part of country's food system are also responsible for the present food crisis and high prices of food items.

Considering all these, an US induced civil war in Venezuela is overdue. But what triggered the latest move of Washington is the last December visit of Maduro to Moscow when two countries signed multi-billion dollar business ties. Russia has very lucrative contracts in oil exploration, mining and weapon sales. The strategic alliance between the two countries with two Russian Topolev TV-160 nuclear capable bombers flew to Venezuela just after the

business agreement which has pushed Washington to take sudden decision to topple the Maduro regime.

Both Russia and China have extended their support to Maduro Govt. But their support is not bereft of their economic and political interest. While Russia lend 17 billion dollar, China lend 50 billion dollar over the last few years along with Chinese corporations invested about 20 billion dollar in Venezuelan economy. Apart from it both powers eager to tie up with a client state in the backyard continent of US imperialism and enhance their presence in the continent to have a check on the US.

Meanwhile Russia has not only proposed a peaceful solution to the present crisis to United Nations security Council (UNSC), but demanding also an end to list of ultimatums against Venezuela by foreign powers. A peace process is also going on to promote dialogue mechanism between the Government and the opposition by Mexico, Uruguay, Bolivia & community for Caribbean states.

The internal and international situation facing Venezuela is rapidly deteriorating. Inter – imperialist contradiction and contention is sharpening day by day. In this fragile situation, there is very little option left for Venezuelan Govt. to follow. It has to submit itself to the dictation of US imperialism and let them to exploit and plunder their nation. The other option is to stand firmly against the US dictation by mobilizing workers, peasants and democratic/progressive sections of the society. Relying on the revolutionary masses of workers and peasants who have on every occasion in past risen to challenge and saved from US imperialism is the only way to defeat the coup.

Of course there is no compromise formula for the people of Venezuela. Giving some concessions to US imperialism to play with the future of Venezuela or to fall prey to other imperialist countries like Russia, either of these options is amount to subjugation and humiliation of people of Venezuela. Whether it is US imperialism or Russian imperialism exploitation, plunder, hegemonies and war is their sole motive. People of Venezuela have every right to choose their reprehensive without any inter-ferece of outside forces. People of Venezuela have every right to free themselves from the imperialist clutches, move ahead with their own path of progress. Venezuela people have a glorious history of anti-imperialist struggle. In this hour of great turmoil of Venezuela, anti- imperialist peace-loving people of the world are with them.
